

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2008, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., Friday, December 19, 2008.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Patrick Shay gave the Invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was given.

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

Present:           Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
                  Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight  
                  Dean Kicklighter, Chairman Pro Tem, District Seven  
                  Helen L. Stone, District One  
                  James J. Holmes, District Two  
                  Patrick Shay, District Three  
                  Patrick K. Farrell, District Four  
                  Harris Odell, Jr., District Five  
                  David M. Gellatly, District Six

Also present:     Russell Abolt, County Manager  
                  Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
                  Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

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**CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSIONERS**

Chairman Liakakis introduced the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Samone Hagins, a Senior at Jenkins High School, Keyuanna Green, a Senior at Jenkins High School, and Desmond Griffith, a Junior at Bethesda Home for Boys. Chairman Liakakis said, we're had to have the three of you here today. We had a big annual meeting last night with a lot of graduates, and you know what's so great about this Youth Commission, every one of those that came up last night before the microphone and spoke, there was some 20 of the graduates there, each one of them are either going to college or university or just graduating, and a number of those graduates before now some of them are instructors or professors in universities. A number of them have their own business and many of them are successful, and we're really proud. This is another great thing that Priscilla Thomas has come up with her vision a number of years ago, and it's just unbelievable the success that the Youth Commissioners have had, and what's so great — I want to repeat this again — is that many cities and counties around the State and around the country have duplicated the Chatham County Youth Commission, and we thank Priscilla Thomas and Van Johnson for working on this program.

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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS****1. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO CLASS 10 OF THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE PROGRAM.**

Chairman Liakakis said, I'm really happy today too. I'm going to be calling on Daniel Dodd in just a moment and some of his staff people because this is a great program that the Chatham County Commission started in 2005. When we came on board in January of 2005, I talked to the Commissioners and we worked it out between ourselves to join up with the Savannah Poverty Initiative Program, and what we did was we were looking at a program that we could help people in the poverty area in our community and other areas so that we could get them trained and put them through Savannah Technical College so that when they complete and they graduate, we have been able to get many of them high-paying jobs and the Homebuilders of Chatham County and Savannah they hired many of them for several years, but then the building and the home areas have slowed down somewhat. So a number of the graduates through our Step-Up Program, apprentice program, have been able to get jobs and they will continue to push to make sure that we get good jobs for all of the graduates for this apprentice program, and this Commission really cares about the people in our community and want to see them successful, and the opportunities avail themselves to us. So right now we'll have Daniel Dodd, who heads up the program for us, the Step-Up Program for the City and the County, to come forth and to start our graduation for this new class that is graduating today.

Mr. Daniel Dodd said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Chatham County Commission. I'm the Director for Step-Up Savannah. I would like to really congratulate you all for having the vision to come up with this program. I'd like to acknowledge that this really is a public-private partnership between the City, the County, businesses, the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Authority. We've got some board members here from Goodwill, from Union Mission, Savannah Tech has been integral for this whole process, and Homebuilders Association have also, you know, played their part, and I'm sure when things turn around we'll get even more involvement from them again. Luckily, here in Savannah we still have a lot of commercial building downtown and so we're still able to place a lot of the folks that you will see in front of you in jobs. However, we are starting to feel the pinch, as everyone is, and I'll talk about that in a moment.

Just to talk about how to — how we are setting the bar, and I know Commissioner Farrell especially kept on saying from the beginning, you know, really focus on quality, you know, the numbers will come. You know, really set the bar high, and I just wanted to give you an illustration of that. Of this year, I've got some total numbers: 340 people actually applied for the program, 280 were interviewed, 190 were accepted, 140 enrolled in the life skills portion, 103 actually completed that life skills portion, 86 of that 340 actually enrolled at Savannah Tech, 64 actually graduated to 50 that are currently employed. So you can see the work that Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Williams engage in. You know, it's very intensive from going to 350 people that applied to actually 50 that are employed. It's really outstanding. This program, as you all know, has received national accolades, you know, for its participation for the results for programs like this. One thing that I wanted to mention is we're moving over to the United Way Building and Union Way has been a strong partner for us, and so we're — I see Gregg Schroeder here, and I just wanted to mention that we're very fortunate to have United Way as a strong program and the program will now be located there.

You have in front of you today the 10<sup>th</sup> Class. We are doing one per quarter — 13 people are graduating today, 13 people have jobs. Some of them have been laid off; however, we know that with these troubled economic times, a lot of people will go back to school and will go back to training programs. It's a good opportunity for that, and we're seeing that. Hopefully, that will make them more marketable. We've seen that with our past experience to either obtain new jobs or to retain the jobs they've got. Construction Apprentice Program, as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, targets our highest poverty-sensitive tracks, provides people with another chance. I'd really like to give my heartfelt congratulations to the students because, as many of you have said in the past, it's not — they're not just doing it for themselves. Their success opens a door for other people to come afterwards because it keeps the program with the quantifiable results which you've all asked for. So thank you to Chatham County, thank you to all the partners that have been involved with this, and I'll ask Ms. Sinclair to come up to begin the actual graduation ceremony.

Ms. Tara Sinclair said, thank you, Daniel [Dodd]. Good morning, Chairman, Commissioners. My name is Tara Sinclair, I'm the Program Manager of the Construction Apprentice Program. This morning, as always, I am just so blessed and proud to introduce you to the 10<sup>th</sup> graduating class of the Construction Apprentice Program. Before I get into introducing them, because we put such emphasis on work ethics and attendance and importance of getting to the class on time, we have about 10 students that I would like to recognize that has received perfect attendance for the entire 16 weeks. We have Robert Bryant, William Cook, Willie Holmes, Patrick Jackson, Leland Lee, Alphonzo Oliver, Anthony Patilla, Chris Preston, and Bactuyu Tyson.

Chairman Liakakis asked, are they here, any of them here? Ms. Sinclair said, yes, they are. Chairman Liakakis said, stand up, the ones — the names that she just mentioned. [Applause.]

Ms. Sinclair said, and they will receive a certificate for perfect attendance. But without further ado, I would like to introduce to you today Daniel Bonilla, Timothy Burgest, Robert Bryant, William Cook, Ronald Cooper, Willie Holmes, Patrick Jackson, Leland Lee, Benjamin Love, Alphonzo Oliver, Anthony Patilla, Lanard Perkins, Christopher Preston, Darold Taylor, and Bactuyu Tyson. We have four that could not be with us today because they were unable to get off. We have Tyrell Moore, Douglas Smalls, David Stephens and Sean Williams who could not join us.

Ms. Sinclair said, Ms. Williams will come up with words to the graduates.

Ms. Williams said, good morning, Chairman and Commissioners. Happy Holidays. My name is Delonia Williams. I am the Program Coordinator for Construction Apprenticeship [sic] Program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank 15 individuals, hard-working, dedicated, strong-minded individuals, besides yourselves, of course, who successfully completed the Construction Apprenticeship [sic] Program. Out of all our 10 classes, Commissioners, Chairman, you would not believe the obstacles that these individuals behind me had encountered. However, behind me stand firm individuals, proud participants of the CAP Program who committed their time, their energy and, of course, their powers to sit — to successfully complete the program and be recognized this morning by you all. I am not only privileged but honored to be before you today. So I say all of this, Daniel, Robert, Timothy, Ronald, Willie, Patrick, Leland, Benjamin, Alphonzo, Lanard, Bactuyu, congratulations and remember you will encounter many drawbacks, but never ever forget it is only temporary. Thank you.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you, Ms. Williams. We have two students who would like to share their stories with you. Benjamin Love.

Mr. Love said, good morning, Commissioners. I'm here to tell you how this program has changed my life basically. About four months ago this program took a chance on me and helped me to set a goal to be a better person, to obtain a job in Savannah, you know, and to be a productive citizen. It's been hard, you know. Without this program, I say, and without Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Williams and Mr. Dodd taking a chance on me, you know, I mean, I'm going to tell you I really don't know what I would have done. You know what I mean? But they have taken the time out and helped me and really they've helped mold me to a better person. Going back to school. I haven't been to school in a long time, and I really enjoyed that, you know. Today is one step closer to my main goal, you know. It's to get my own business and work for Savannah, which I live in Savannah, so, you know, I just want to thank them for being beside me and standing behind me and making this day happen. Thank you very much. Commissioner Shay said, praise God.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you. Benjamin [Love]. Timothy Burgest.

Mr. Burgest said, good morning. On behalf of Class 10 of the CAP Program, I would like to thank all the organizations, such as Chatham County, Step-UP Savannah, and Savannah Tech for just allowing this program to be possible, and I would also like to extend special thanks to Ms. Williams and also Ms. Sinclair, who gave their wholehearted effort in making sure to not only the program was a success, but more importantly the people in the program had succeeded. I just think that this program, this whole thing gave everybody the opportunity to learn new things, to go back to school, and also use the things that would be applicable to their, you know, future careers. And overall the program for me, it gave me a sense of accomplishment. I had previously attended Savannah Tech. I didn't finish, but this program I did finish and it just inspired me to, you know, go back to school and further my education and also eventually use this, and I also have a dream to own my own business. Thank you.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you, Tim [Burgest]. Okay, we will now present the certificates. Chairman and Commissioners, if you all would like to join us please. Ms. Sinclair called the following graduates to receive their certifications: Daniel Bonilla, Robert Bryant, Timothy Burgest, William Cook, Ronald Cooper, Willie Holmes, Patrick Jackson, Leland Lee, Benjamin Love, Alphonzo Oliver, Anthony Patilla, Lanard Perkins, Christopher Preston, Darold Taylor, and Bactuyu Tyson.

Mr. Dodd said, this concludes the ceremony. If you have any remarks or comments.

Chairman Liakakis said, Daniel [Dodd], I have a remark. Since you've been here with this Step-Up Program and to work in the community and help a lot of those people in our community that didn't have opportunities, sometimes the least of us, you've done an outstanding job, you and your staff people, and we really appreciate that because now this County Commission is concerned about the people in our community, and we put money aside every year so that you, you know, we just heard Benjamin [Love] and Timothy [Burgest] talk about their particular turnaround in life and what they want to have their own business and all, but we really care, and that's why you can see the different programs that the County Commission has put forth to our community and especially this program because we want to continue it and do the things that we can turn people's lives around and so that all of you become productive citizens, you know. You can have a good life yourself and, you know, now that you're graduating and one of the comments was made basically is never ever give up because sometimes you'll have those rocks in the roadway and those stumbling things, but if you keep right at it and have that positive attitude, you can see like we've had so many successes here and around the country, and I thank each and every one of you for participating in it, and we will continue to do the things on the County Commission to put programs like this in place so that we move our County to a higher echelon. Thank you. May God bless you all. Congratulations to the family members and friends of the graduates today. Glad to have had you here also.

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## **2. PROCLAMATION FOR MEMORIAL DAY SCHOOL'S "BLUE THUNDER" FOOTBALL TEAM.**

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'm going to do today is ask a coach that worked with many of our young people over the years, who retired from coaching to a degree and has done a wonderful job with youth people in our community over the years, none other than the 2<sup>nd</sup> District County Commissioner, Coach James Holmes. And now if the members of the Blue Thunder Football Team, their coach and others, will please come forth.

Commissioner Holmes said, you guys don't look like no football team.

Chairman Liakakis said, Coach, would you come forward with Coach Holmes also.

Commissioner Holmes said, you know, I say that because I've been around a lot of football players and usually they stand 6'4" and 6'5". I think ought to hold that physique, but I've been around also some I would say good programs, excellent programs, but anytime you can have a program that is undefeated, that's a program that stands above all of them. I've been a part of some of those undefeated seasons. Personally I know exactly how proud you feel. I know how good you are and the recognition you brought back to your school and the City and the County. So this proclamation:

  
**The County of Chatham**  
**Georgia**  
**Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County is fortunate to have educational facilities for our youth that provide education in a family atmosphere with caring, loving, nurturing faculty and staff, and in that spirit, we salute with pride, Memorial Day School; and

**WHEREAS**, Memorial Day School, founded in 1971, seeks to prepare each student for the diverse challenges and opportunities of higher education and for responsible citizenship in a democratic society and in a rapidly changing world; and

**WHEREAS**, Coach Michael Thompson and his staff lead the BLUE THUNDER football team to a perfect season of 13 - 0 ultimately capturing the Georgia Independent School Association AA State Championship, the first football state championship to be returned to Savannah / Chatham County since 1982.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby congratulate:

**MEMORIAL DAY SCHOOL'S  
BLUE THUNDER FOOTBALL TEAM**

for winning for the first time in twenty-six years the Georgia Independent School Association AA Football Championship and applaud its head coach, Michael Thompson, and assistant coaches, Tony Welch, Darien Thompson, Bo Dudley, for their skills and leadership making it possible for the team to achieve this high honor.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Holmes said, congratulations. Mike [Thompson], I have here with us a copy of that proclamation for each one of your members, and if you would call their names and call them up, I would ask some of the Commissioners and the Chairman to come up and shake their hand please.

Mr. Thompson said, excuse me for some of the absence of some of the football team. Some of them had finals to take today and couldn't make it, but I'm going to call the ones that are here today. Starting off with — did I give you —.

Chairman Liakakis said, what we've got, we have put their names on each one so each one of you will have an individual proclamation with your name on it. We wanted you to know that beyond the proclamation, we are proud of each and every one of you, so you've got your names on that proclamation also.

Mr. Thompson said, first one, Donald Bulloch, Gabby Sanchez, Brandon Fields, Antonio Proctor, Kyle Bruce, Kevin Palmer, Evan Jarecki, Chris, Coleman, A. J. Welch, Sal Sanchez, Tyler Tootle.

Chairman Liakakis said, and they had a mix-up in the names, Coach. If you'll do this — John — come here a minute, Gail [Gordon]. Gail, if you will get from the Coach, the other two we didn't have the plaques for. Take their names and we will see that you get it this afternoon. Do you want to call out their names, the other two?

Mr. Thompson said, Trey Sowell, and I'm still going to call the ones that is not here just for recognition. We have Jermarcus Richards, Shaad Wright, Colin Plummer, Taylor Thompson, Phillip Bell, Justin Berryhill, Calvert Smith, Jamari Mixon, Tim Jeffries, Tim Rubnitz, and Christopher Edwards.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Coach. Thank you very much. We are proud of your school and all. Wait a minute. We have some Commissioners that would like to ask a question. Samone [Hagins].

Youth Commissioner Hagins said, I would just like to say congratulations on behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission. We're just proud of you. Good job.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Keyuanna [Green], did you want to say something? Youth Commissioner Green said, no. Chairman Liakakis said, she said it for you. That's fine. Well, thank you very much, Coach. We are proud of you and the rest of the County are, too, and may you have many successes in the future.

Coach Thompson said, thank you.

Commissioner Farrell said, congratulations. Way to go, and keep up the good work. You've started off with a great accomplishment and I'm sure there's many more in each of your futures. So continue to strive to be your very best.

Commissioner Holmes asked, what kind of offense did you run? One of the members said, everything. One of the members said, it was a good offense. Commissioner Holmes asked, who was the quarterback? [NOTE: They pointed to the quarterback.] Commissioner Holmes said, job well done.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank y'all.

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### **3. RECOGNITION OF COUNTY'S SUCCESSFUL UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN (GREGG SCHROEDER, PRESIDENT, UNITED WAY OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE).**

Chairman Liakakis said, Gregg Schroeder, who is President of the United Way, if you'll come forth.

Mr. Gregg Schroeder said, we have a couple of others we'd like to bring with us this morning who helped very much. Chairman Liakakis, County Commissioners, I'm Gregg Schroeder, President of United Way, and I'm also here with Dale Critz, Jr., our own junior who chaired the overall campaign in the area this year. We're here today to thank the Chatham County employees as well as the Commissioners for your support of United Way in a record-breaking campaign. We started earlier this year with a meeting in Russ' [Abolt] office, which we always have and he brings in Michael Kaigler and Debra Allen, second year as our Loan Associate. She did a fantastic job. Thank you very much, Debra [Allen]. Crystal Cooper, who acted as the Employee Coordinator, and of course Kim Middleton from the Sheriff's Department, which always adds a level of excitement to the campaign. So thank you very much. But just kind of very short and simple. The mission of United Way is to connect the resources — the human resources of the community to those folks most in need and we try to do that through our agencies and programs. I did notice a couple of our key agency executives here today: Micheal Elliot from Union Mission and Bill Oakley is here from Goodwill and, of course, Daniel Dodd with Step-Up, which is one of our grantee programs. With that I just want to say this year the County, for the first time ever, got into six digits, raised over \$100,000. Actually, it was \$111,495, a 13½% increase, which given the economic times we have is really a phenomenal effort. So our deepest thanks to the County employees and the Commissioners. I think Dale [Critz] just has a couple of thoughts. Thank you.

Mr. Dale Critz, Jr., said, good morning. You know, when we started this campaign, we knew it was going to be tough, and I kept saying that if everybody just dug a little bit, put their hand in their pocket a little bit deeper and got a few more people, a little bit more participation, we'd make our goal. We announced a goal, it was of course more than last year and much, much more difficult times, and the job the County has done really reflected that effort. Gregg [Schroeder] told you, obviously, about the \$111,495, but, you know, as important as that, leadership giving increased by 63% to 16,542. The Finance, Purchasing, and Voter Registration Departments had 100% participation. Good job, and the campaign overall had 11% greater participation. Gregg [Schroeder] talked about the \$111,000, which is a 13½% increase over last year, but the really amazing thing if you look back over the last four years, and in 2005 the County employees gave \$63,700 and have increased that 75% in four years, and I'm sure our employee count is not up 75%. So that is really a particularly great job in participation and really kudos to everybody in the County that participated.

County Manager Abolt said, ladies and gentlemen, it's a testimony to the sense of humanity of the employees that serve this community so well 365 days a year, but it's also a testimony to y'all because if you look at those figures that Mr. Critz has given you, a lot of it has to do to your sense of fairness in compensation for work well done and because of your very sensitive pay plan for County employees, I think you see that reflected in part in those numbers. I also, again as Gregg [Schroeder] recognized, Crystal Cooper, Debra Allen, Kim Middleton, they're the leadership. They are the people that create the stimulus, but I also have to tell you that besides the sense of humanity and fortunately as we all know, the Chairman encourages this, but County employees also have a sense of humor, and Dale Critz was

in this room about maybe five or six weeks ago dressed as his alter ego Ricky Bobby [phonetic] and we had a special presentation on NASCAR, and one of the many things done is we had to orient employees to the benefits of NASCAR. At that particular time, all of our SEC and ACC football teams were on a losing skid, so we wanted to shift our leisure services and activity and interest in NASCAR. Ricky Bobby did that. Also, there's one gentleman that's not with us today that some think might be taping us on video, but it is Mr. Pete Nichols. He put together an outstanding video presentation on different speed and different races over the last 15-20 years starting with Steve McQueen in Bullet, and then Dr. Lewandowski was asked unbeknownst to him to identify the setting, the scene and why that was important to NASCAR. Now, Mr. Nichols we would ask to come out here, but unfortunately we would have to reveal that again Mr. Nichols has been called on by the U. S. Secret Service to go in harm's way and be a body double today for Vice President Cheney.

Mr. Schroeder said, as a gesture of our appreciation, we would like to present a plaque to Chairman Liakakis and to Russ [Abolt] and, to read just a little bit of it, it says: "Thank you for reaching out a hand to one and improving the condition of all." Thanks a lot.

Chairman Liakakis said, and Dale Critz, we'll be watching you in your new career as a NASCAR driver. Mr. Critz said, thank you. I think Kim [Middleton] wanted to say something.

Ms. Cooper said, I need to give recognition — because the County ran such a successful campaign this year, I want you to see the faces of those who led one of the larger departments campaign. They themselves raised \$33,000, and that's Chatham County Sheriff's Department. And I'm going to ask that Lt. Monica Bryant and Lt. Debra Johnson come forward. Thanks is such a small word for what you all did this year in trying to raise that money. The Sheriff's Department has never raised that amount of money before and with that I'd like to present you with this as a token of appreciation on behalf of United Way and Chatham County Government.

Chairman Liakakis said, and Gregg [Schroeder], before you leave, we really appreciate because your leadership at the United Way over the last number of years and prior to you even coming, but more so now, that thousands of people that needed help in our community through the different organizations have been a recipient of the health that United Way has been able to give out, whether it's Meals-On-Wheels, where people only get one meal a day, which is really a lot of people don't realize that, plus Greenbriar and many of the other charitable organizations. And, of course, you're showing your leadership again by bringing Step-Up Savannah into the United Way Building to help out with those people that meet the need in the poverty program. Thank you again.

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**4. RECOGNITION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH ON THEIR 83<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY.**

Chairman Liakakis said, and now we have another great organization and we're going to ask Ms. Helen Stone to read the recognition of the Junior League of Savannah on their 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. So if the Junior League representatives will please come forth.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, this gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to read this and present this to Lynn Brennan, who's the President of the Junior League, and who has selfishly — selflessly given of her time to this organization. In addition to a full-time job with Customs and the Border Agency to being a full-time Mom, she has dedicated a great deal of her time to the Junior League of Savannah. So I'm thrilled to read this and present this to her today. Commissioner Stone read the following proclamation into the record:



**WHEREAS**, the Junior League of Savannah was admitted into the Association of Junior Leagues International on January 7, 1926; and

**WHEREAS**, the Junior League of Savannah is observing the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of its founding; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization is our community's largest local volunteer organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the Junior League of Savannah has impacted this community for 83 years improving the lives of those that live in this community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Junior League of Savannah has provided over half a million volunteer hours and \$2.6 million dollars to improve our community and county; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County/Savannah is extremely proud of the record of service established over the years by the local organization of the Junior League of Savannah, and looks back on 83 years of mutually beneficial relationships.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim January 7, 2009, to be:

### **JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH DAY**

in Chatham County and call upon all citizens, especially those involved in volunteering, to observe that day with appropriate volunteering activities and commitment to make the community in which we live a better place to live.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Stone said, congratulations.

Ms. Brannen said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, thank you very much for the honor to recognize such an impactful volunteer organization. On behalf of the 1,100 members, thank you for the recognition. Our mission, of course, is to develop the potential of women, train them to be effective volunteers, and I'd like to recognize Helen [Stone] as one of those members over the year for her volunteer service that she's done, and hopefully all the women in our County can be like Ms. Stone. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We realize what — the great job the Junior League has done over these 83 years.

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## **5. UPDATE ON EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM (DR. PAUL BRADLEY).**

Chairman Liakakis said, next up we have an update on the Employee Wellness Program, and I'm going to call on Commissioner Odell, who has worked diligently on this because he as well as the other Commissioners know how important our Wellness Program is, and he's done an outstanding job working on this. Harris [Odell].

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Bradley's at the mike and has an excellent presentation, but just by way of information and background, we provide health insurance to our employees and in 2003 that annualized cost was approximately \$10 million. In 2007 that annualized cost rose to approximately \$19 million. We wanted to make a change, and there are two ways that you can impact your health insurance program. You can either (a) cut benefits or (b) do behavioral modification. We investigated a behavioral modification program and the impact of that, I think, will be surprising, and Dr. Bradley has that information. And I am so pleased and I thank each and every one of you for your support — and I'm losing my voice, I don't know why — a cold — but Paul [Bradley].

Dr. Paul Bradley said, thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Thank you again for having me back. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself for the record. Dr. Bradley said, Dr. Paul Bradley, and I'm here to give you an update, a proposal to make recommendations on health care for Chatham County and the employees of Chatham County, and I have to say today I think represents the culmination of all the effort and thought that has gone into that. We finished the challenge that you so graciously allowed us to fund three months ago and I'm here to give you a report. I'd like to start with a quote by one of the participants: "The challenge was designed as a blessing by the good Lord through each of you who helped put it together to help educate and enlighten me how to turn my health downward's spiral around and save my very life."

Could we start the — Chairman Liakakis said, Doctor, Jerrell [McRell] is putting it together now. Dr. Bradley said, I do medical stuff better.

Dr. Bradley said, you gave us 34 high-risk Chatham County employees. We let the County pick these people and we gave them exercise, diet, education and medical evaluation. We gave them memberships for the women at HourGlass Fitness. For the men we gave them memberships at Memorial's Fitness One. We fed them three meals a day. They had to choose — they had either a 1,200 calorie or 1,700 calorie diet, depending on their needs. They had their memberships, they had one-on-one sessions with personal trainers, they had personalized dietician sessions. We took them to the grocery store, we taught them how to shop, we taught them how to eat. We tried to incorporate everything that we thought they needed to fund the future wellness of their plan. So, let me tell you, that's what we did. That's what you approved three months ago. Let me tell you what we saw, and I have to tell you we were not surprised by incredibly pleased.

Total pounds lost for the 34 individuals: 553 or 16.3 pounds per person. The most pounds lost by a single individual, 39. Eleven had weight losses of 20 pounds or more. Total inches lost, 140 or over 4-inches per person. The most inches lost, and these are in their waist, by one individual was 8-inches. Blood pressure — every parameter we followed because this was medical as well as how do you feel — every parameter that we followed got better. Blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar — everything improved significantly. They did so well, and by in large a lot of these individuals were remarkably sedentary — the culmination of their experience was they did the Bridge Walk Run, and you can see here many of your employees.

Again, we took what employees they gave us. Of those, 19% turned out to be diabetic. Probably a fairly a representative sampling of your employee base and a very, very expensive medical problem. Two of those that were in the trial were taking insulin. As I said earlier, everybody's blood sugar got better. You know, an [inaudible] is a three-month summary. They all got better, but most remarkably two of the individuals, these two individuals that were in the trial, they were on insulin, were able to come off of their insulin during the trial — of which had been on insulin for 20 years. So, again, I was pleased. All diabetics had improvement.

Alright. There are a lot of wellness programs out there. We know that. You can go on line and see a lot of different wellness offerings. What we said was, and again this is a lot of it from watching and seeing what I thought was wrong, what I thought we could do. We know times are economically tough. What could we do not only to make your employees healthier because everyone knows, everyone agrees that there's a long-term economic benefit to that. We said we'll be different — and as far as I can tell you we're the first in the country to offer this —, we'll give you a short-term economic benefit that hopefully will be able to cover the cost of this program. So we said we'll review everyone's medications at the start and we'll advise on medications that could be good alternatives and less expensive. Y'all helped me greatly a few months ago when you said that we could come up with a program that covered \$4 prescriptions for free and in that way we could incentivize not only the County to benefit, but the employee actually to benefit from these changes.

Alright. Satisfaction. I need — let me introduce, we have several participants here. If they would please stand up. I won't embarrass everybody, but —. You guys look a lot less [inaudible]. [Applause.] Dr. Bradley said, thank you. We've got a short DVD that has some comments that I think you'll find hopefully enlightening and probably entertaining.

[NOTE: Several individuals who participated in the Wellness Program as one of the 34 high-risk County employees expressed their satisfaction for the program and how it had helped them.]

Dr. Bradley said, [inaudible] now give away \$4.00 medicines for free, a huge savings to the County, but a savings to the individuals as well. We could craft a new list of medications still appropriate to that individual that could potentially cost a lot less, and that's exactly what we did. How did we do it? As I talked to you before, I said we would split branded medications, we changed branded medications to generic and then we changed generic to \$4.00 drugs. Again, where it was medically appropriate. I showed you this slide before. You spent, the County, on its employees \$231,000 last year on Lipitor. I said if we split them in half because the way Lipitor is sold in the drugstore, all the strengths are essentially the same and very few people are on the maximum strength, we could save half of the two hundred and something thousand by just splitting pills in half, or we could in some cases change to an appropriate generic especially if we had a relationship with the patient if we knew that that patient was about to embark on a diet and exercise program where we could expect reductions in blood pressure, cholesterol and the parameters that we were looking for. So we said, and this was a guess on our part, we said if we took all of your patients, this was not likely, but we took all of them and changed them to generics, then we could have this potential savings, \$161,000.

Okay, what did we do with the 34? That's what you want to know. We exceeded it, and I can't promise you that this number will extrapolate to all of Chatham County, but using the 34 individuals that were on cholesterol-lowering medications and making the changes that we talked about or projected three months ago, we actually had an 83% reduction in cost. So the amount of money that you were spending on the 34 individuals at least for their cholesterol medicines at the end of the three months, okay, and we made most of these changes on the first day, and I'm glad to tell you they stuck, meaning that three months later we did not have to change them back, and their lipid profiles by and large either stayed the same or got better. A lot of these generic drugs are maybe not as powerful, but with the addition of diet and exercise and counseling and coaching, we were successful at reducing the cost of the 34 individuals lipid-lowering drug bill by 83%.

I told you that you spent \$455,000 last year on medicines to reduce acid in your stomach. Some individuals really need to be on this medications. Some individuals have really severe problems with reflux. The truth is most of us take these medications. Why? Because we try to eat late, because we choose to have a pizza and go to bed, because we don't know that if you raise the head of your bed, if you avoid caffeine especially in the evening, a long list of things you could do or, of course, lose weight, that you might not need these medications or you might need a whole lot less of them.

We said, and again this was the ultimate which not, of course, wouldn't happen, but if we changed everybody or even half of it, we could save \$227,000. Would we actually see — okay, I have to tell you, the majority — these were randomly selected — the majority of these individuals, the one thing they had in common was they were overweight. The majority of these individuals were on these medications. It's really common if you're overweight. You have a hiatal hernia and it pushes the acid up when you lay down and gives you heartburn. No one likes heartburn, and if you can take a simple pill, it's not cheap if you have to pay cash for it, but it is cheap under your prescription plan. Why wouldn't you, right? So we said, we sat down with them, we explained to them the deal, why are you taking this medication? Well, could you not have to take this medication what lifestyle changes, and then of course they embarked on a three-month program of diet and exercise. At the end of the three months, changing them either to nothing or a comparable generic, we were able in the 34 individuals to have a 95% reduction in cost of those medications.

Alright, here's the numbers. Again, I told you did we do our part with the health class? We exceeded it. I have to tell you, I didn't predict that both patients on insulin would come off their insulin, especially the one that's been on it for 20 years. Those are incredible numbers, but also go to show you how powerful diet and exercise is. It's usually omitted and I told you before in a 15-minute office visit with your doctor, you can't have a 45-minute conversation about diet and exercise. It's just not possible. So, total savings to the County for medications was \$105,000 annualized. When we took all the medications that we were able to change, again splitting it in half, changing them to comparable generics, and then annualized those savings, the savings turned out to be \$105,000 or an average savings of \$3,000 per employee.

Remember because of the changes that you allowed me to make in the co-pay schedule, meaning if I could change them to the \$4.00 drug, that they would then get that medication for free, the patients were big winners too. Or even if I was not able to change them to the \$4.00 drug but able to change them from branded to generic, which the generic co-pay is a lot less expensive, we ultimately saved the employees, the 34 individuals, \$7,600 or \$223 per individual. So it worked both ways, and we had their full understanding and cooperation on day one when we said, look, the County can't afford to keep paying for medications the way it's paying for it and you can't either because ultimately it's not going to work, and by the way I think we can save you money as well.

What got changed? Blood pressure medications. A number of individuals, most of them in fact either got their blood pressure medicines cut in half or even oftentimes eliminated. Diabetic medications decreased. Diabetic medications are very expensive. You literally can spend \$10,000 a year just on a diabetic's medications, not to include the cost of testing and the fact that in general they're ten times more expensive to care for. Anti-depressant medications were often decreased or eliminated by the end of the trial.

Alright. How does it all line up? Because I realize you've got to make these numbers work, and I think they do. Good health care and wellness really does save money, and the unique part of what I'm trying to tell you it's not just 20 years from now it will save you money. I said we could do it right away. I said we could be budget neutral. The total medications savings, as I said, was \$105,000. If you'll remember Commissioner Odell's presentation three months ago, the accepted long term benefit reduction healthcare cost is a six to one return. That doesn't return the first day or the second day, but your long term savings in most studies is around six to one. So I took the food cost out of the project, which will be a comparable wellness program cost and multiplied it by the six. That gave us an additional at least \$50,000 savings. The total cost of what you pay for the 34 enrollees was \$70,000. The net savings was \$85,000. Alright, so how does that extrapolate to all county-covered lives? Well, we will have to find out. You spent \$5,000,000 on medications. We said the last time that we thought conservatively back, we could save you \$500,000 to a million. Where? What we do is we sat down and looked at every medication by cost that the County was paying for, and back then that's what we — we made reasonable guesses as to what we could save. Using the current data that we were able to save over \$100,000 on just 34 individuals, do I think we can probably do better than that? Probably. A lot of the savings come from purely sitting down explaining to the patient, okay, we need to make global and thoughtful changes in your medication list, but then again the wellness component is what makes it last. As we say, makes it stick. You can change medications on the fly, but you have to have a reasonable expectation they'll be able to [inaudible]. So the key to staying on them, of course, is the wellness offering, and the wellness offering is what? It's diet education, it's exercise, it's holding the [inaudible] and sticking with sticking with them.

Okay. So what are we proposing? We are not proposing that you feed everyone. I'm not. We learned a lot, they learned a lot. We did exit surveys on everybody. During the three months we said would did you like, what did you not like. Although food is very helpful, education is the key and, as I said, if you had the opportunity to see me on the *Ruby* show, Ruby is my ultimate challenge. Ruby, eight months ago when we started, had a remarkable lack of knowledge on food, what to eat, how to cook, how to shop, how to work out. She was a fascinating clean slate. I will tell you that eight months later Ruby is down 120 pounds, and Ruby, who was on three diabetic medications and had lousy control, is now on no diabetic medications and has perfect non-diabetic control. Why? Because we're teaching her, and just like those 34 participants mirrored her experience exactly, we taught them. We taught them how to eat, we taught them how to shop, we taught them how to exercise. And, of course, you have to stick with them and you have to keep pushing forward.

What are we proposing? We're proposing to send — we have at HourGlass locations and will have at Fitness One weekly dietitians, and we try to really do this with the medical approach. So our diet classes are lead by a registered dietitian. Weekly diet classes at those locations and what those employees tell us, they say, "Well, look, it's hard to come off-site, it's hard to leave, if you could make it available to us." So what we're saying is we'll also have those classes in areas of concentration, like the courthouse and do this weekly, or more often or more classes if it's needed. We'll take them on grocery store tours, we'll give them cooking classes, we'll give them memberships at HourGlass Fitness Centers for women. We'll give them memberships at Fitness One at Memorial, but we'll also come to them. It was the same feedback. We'll send trainers to the courthouse, we'll send trainers on a regular basis to wherever

there's a concentration of employees. We don't want — we know that everyone doesn't want to go to the gym and we understand that, so we'll go to them. We'll make this as easy and as doable as possible.

We'll sit down with each employee, each covered life — each adult covered life with that nurse practitioner on an annual basis and go through their medication list. We know in a mission that's specifically targeted for that, you can make amazing changes, and that's what we accomplish. We'll sit down with them and go through their medications one by one because medications are going to change. Even — you've got the first visit, you've got a year later, they'll see how the doctor's medications are going to change. We'll sit down with them every year, go through their medicines, clean up their list, make sure there aren't any duplicates. We've found duplicates, we've found medicines that were not completely appropriate, and we'll make sure that list is safe and as reasonably priced as possible.

We have a program called "The Biggest Loser Challenge." It's very helpful to have employees compete against other employees, departments against departments. They did that within the challenge and it's very, very effective, and it also keeps them motivated. We'll set that up between departments and between employees.

We'll have medical thought leaders to come give Lunch & Learns at the work site and I promise I'll meet regularly with the department-care doctors. It's actually a short list of department-care doctors that take care of the majority of County employees with the departments that say, look, we're going to improve their health. We want the County's employees to be the healthiest as they — as healthy as possible, but at the same time they've got a serious problem. They can't keep affording to pay for what they're paying for and either we're going to reduce their cost or we're in trouble. So I will meet with them regularly and make sure because we want this program to be successful and we want the employees to be healthy and the covered lives to be healthy. So I'll meet with them.

So what do we want for that? We're not asking for — to feed the covered lives, but we'll have them meet with the dietician, we'll exercise them, we'll have that annual medication visit. For those that smoke, we'll sit them down once a year with a nurse practitioner who can write medications to help them quit smoking. We'll do that workplace review, we'll set up a challenge, we'll do Lunch & Learns. If you were paying for that individually, I'm not really sure, it's probably about \$120 a month, but we're going to ask if you give us everyone and we'll give them wellness. Okay? Not food, but we'll give them wellness. We're asking for \$20 per member for adult covered life per month, and for that I think we can achieve very comparable outcomes that we achieved in the pilot program.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, let me explain. See, what that means is, what that means is that for \$20 per covered life a month, we get the Wellness Program without the food. If they want to buy the food, the employee has to buy the food except in certain circumstances. If I have to go get a gastric bypass, that's a very expensive procedure. Isn't it not cost-wise for us to look at an alternative to a gastric bypass to see if it works first, like providing them meals and intensifying the program? I think the cost is like 10% of what a gastric bypass would be.

What we are hoping to do is to open the Wellness Program up to not only our employees, but our retirees. At the end of this term, unless we do something, we will be looking at a bill for \$30,000,000. Unless we put the brakes on the escalating healthcare cost, we could be looking at \$30,000,000. We're at \$19,000,000 now. This is not the silver bullet, but what we have to know is, and I thank Dr. Weems at the Health Department for this, 70% of the healthcare problems are self-induced — either food, lack of exercise, medications. What this program attempts to cure is, we have intelligent people, but unfortunately in our system we just don't get a lot of information on nutrition, portion size. We had 34 employees, and we have two here, and we were able to give them a benefit, save them money, and we saved money. That's a win/win for everyone. I think the \$20 per member per month is extremely reasonable comparing it to what the potential cost is elsewhere. I've taken the opportunity, and I'll ask Mr. Kaigler — Michael, if you could just — don't leave, Dr. Bradley — we have this money in our \$19,000,000 already, is that true? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, and, Mr. Hart, as far as is there anything legally in addition that we need to do, in your opinion?

Mr. Hart said, well, if you want to adopt the program, you probably need to make a motion and do that, but as far as transferring the money, we just have to sit down and make an adjustment. I'd like to look at the current contract, but other than that, we could exclude that from the contract.

Commissioner Odell said, we're going through some serious economic times. We cannot — we do not have the luxury of expecting 11.83 millage increase. We're going to have to look at major places that we spend money and attempt to impact those places. How do you do that? The only objection that I had, and I must admit when I was at Kroger's and at Sam's, I had strangers walk up to me and say, "I think it's wrong y'all feeding folks," so the only deep down that I got was people didn't want us to feed employees, and I understand that. The biggest money-saving is in the pharmacy medical adjudication. That's the biggest savings. The behavior modification that you get from working with a dietician. We're not saying that what our physicians have done is wrong. We're not, and it's not, and it's unfair to believe that you can get a 45-minute discussion in about a 10 to 15-minute office visit. It's unfair to place that on the physician, and how do we get around that? This is what we've attempted to do. With that, I'll make the motion that we adopt the Wellness Program, which is the \$20 per member per month —.

Chairman Liakakis said, for those that want to —. Commissioner Odell said, no, that's for everybody. Chairman Liakakis said, no, I mean everybody that participates in it. Commissioner Odell said, no, it's everybody that's on our health insurance.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think they're wanting us to go ahead and pay for every County employee, whether they use it or not. Is that —?

Commissioner Odell said, well, eventually every employee will, and let me tell you what I mean. An employee — we provide an employee a benefit called health insurance. If that employee chooses to smoke and chooses to do other things, then at some point down the road we need to start evaluating the cost benefit. We can't tell you how to live your life, but other employees should not have to pay because you will not be in compliance. So every employee, every retiree, is going to go through and they're going to bring everyone of their medications and they're going to sit down with a physician, they're going to sit down with a dietician, and we're going to look at are there things that make you ask a question, "Should this person be on this kind of medication when there's a generic that costs \$4.00?" We need everybody on the program.

Mr. Kaigler said, and if you approve this today, we'll bring you back an action plan for implementation. You're correct, Commissioner Kicklighter, everybody may not need the service, but we're going to review everybody.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm sure that everybody needs the service, but can you legally force everyone to go sit down and review their medical records with someone [inaudible]? Mr. Kaigler said, you can make that as a condition. What we proposed in the past is making a condition of having the insurance that you go through a health risk assessment. Other companies do that. So you can make that —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that makes great financial sense. Mr. Kaigler said, so if you're going to have the health insurance, there's certain things that you must do and getting a health risk assessment is one of them. Commissioner Kicklighter said, in other words, a review of medication. If mandatory I see where the savings would be great if done that way.

Commissioner Odell said, see, what in addition we're going to do too, we have to look at dependents too. If we provide the benefit, like for my wife, then my wife is going to have to comply with the rules and regulations of my health insurance. If we're paying the cost, we can apply certain strings to demand compliance. The best way to avoid that is not be on the plan.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what I would —. Chairman Liakakis said, let him finish. Commissioner Kicklighter said, what I would ask you, Commissioner Odell, if you would somehow make your motion or actually withdraw it and just with the instruction of let's get the policy completely in place before we vote where we'll know the complete structure of it. In other words, the way it was just stated, if we can actually set it where everybody has to sit down and have their medications reviewed, it will be a savings. But if we just pass it without that mandatory or it being in there, I don't think —.

Commissioner Odell said, it's going to be the mandatory. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think —. Commissioner Odell said, that is the mandatory, Dave [Gellatly], and let me tell you, that's not unique in that way pay Blue Cross the agency fee of \$3.75 per month for every covered life whether they do anything or not. In addition —, hold on for a second — in addition, we pay ACCG \$3.50 per covered life and they do nothing. So what I'm saying is for \$20 we're going to get something, and that's my motion, and I did not hear a second. Commissioner Thomas said, I'll second it. Commissioner Odell said, Dr. Thomas, my great friend, is seconding it, and do I still have the floor, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, yes, and then I'll speak before anybody else asks another question. Go head. Commissioner Odell said, oh, I was going to call the question and call for the vote, but I want to —.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what's the total number? What's the total number?

Commissioner Odell asked, total number of employees or costs? Commissioner Kicklighter said, costs?

Chairman Liakakis said, let me go here. Helen [Stone] is next and we'll go in sequence. Helen is next.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've listened attentively to this conversation because it really hits home with me. I grew up — and I'm not at liberty to tell you my mother's age — with a mother that believed in food, very good nutrition, very good exercise, regular visits to the doctor. The whole thing that's being presented today. As a result, I've never had any health issues, I'm not on any medications, and I can attribute all that to what I was raised with. Part of this, like they're saying, is education. And so my mother will live to be 100, and I won't tell you how old she is now, but she still adheres to her regimen of good nutrition, lots of exercise and regular visits to a physician. So, I mean, this is the deal. This is what we all need to look at to make our employees more beneficial to this County to enrich their lives and to look forward and not be incurring all of this cost with our health insurance. So I cannot stress to you how important this is, and I'm living exactly what this is, and I take no medications.

Chairman Liakakis said, one of the things that we're really concerned about, a few years ago with the cost factor for our medical bill was somewhere around \$10,000,000 for all our employees and their families. Now it's \$19,000,000. We've got a number of things in there. We know that this wellness program works. What Dr. Bradley has just said, it saved us \$85,000. I know we came from some of the citizens saying, you know, this is a waste of taxpayer's money, but we see that we saved \$85,000 on this. If we can get our employees to get on a wellness program, which is good for them, you know, you watched on television and you heard them say how good it's turned them around, how better they feel. They are healthy and all of that, and that's what we want to do because we want to reduce the amount of cost factor on our medical cost right now because \$19,000,000 the taxpayers are paying that. We want to reduce that. So this is one of the ways that it's been proved all around the country that we can do that. Priscilla [Thomas] and then David [Gellatly].

Commissioner Thomas said, I just wanted to say that I attended a conference last week which had to do with obesity and wellness, and I want to tell you that we are [inaudible], that there is a need nationwide big in America [inaudible] big trance here when it comes to health and wellness, and I want to say that there is a movement towards what we are doing right now from the conference that I attended, and I do plan to share that information with the Commissioners

a little later so that you will get a fuller understanding of what the global thoughts are in this direction. I think we are moving in the right direction.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd just like to say I don't think there's anyone that's more for this program than I am, and I'm certainly very impressed with what has occurred and the stats, and there's no question that it would be a money saver. I just think we're going awful fast with information not being answered. I mean, I kind of, sort of understand that if you're an employee and if you don't sign up for this, you'll no longer have medical insurance with Chatham County. Is that or is that not true? Commissioner Odell said, that's not true. Commissioner Gellatly said, okay, so we're dealing with an optional program, but every employee's going to be charged no matter whether they — Commissioner Odell said, right. It's the same way — Commissioner Gellatly said, how does a one month old baby or a six-year old child benefit from this? Why would they pay \$20 a month for that?

Commissioner Odell said, the reason for that — Commissioner Gellatly said, keep in mind I'm for it, but we're just getting a lot of stuff put down our throat real quick here. Commissioner Odell said, but the reason of having a group is that you spread the cost. No one in any group will have a hundred percent utilization. That's the advantage of the group. You have the savings by their being a group. Otherwise, if we have to individually purchase this, it wouldn't be \$20 for the individual, it would be \$120, which is a big difference. But this is not unique to which we were already doing. We already pay ACCG, we already pay the agent for that one month old baby. He gets \$3.75 every month for every covered life.

Commissioner Gellatly said, we're talking about a chunk of dough if we end up two years down the road and we've got eight or ten percent participation. We're talking about a chunk of dough here and, I mean, I'm not the world's greatest at math, but it's a lot of money here.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, because I need to call on our County Manager, who's raised his hand.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. Here is the guarantee. The reason we're doing this is twofold. We're doing it because we genuinely care about our employees and we want a consistent way to improve the health and quality of life for our employees. That is the primary kicker for this, but we are obligated through our oath to make the wisest use of taxpayers' monies. It is my opinion that by doing this as opposed to doing what we are currently doing, that we will have an annualized savings. We will start to see the healthcare cost for the County to start declining. Over the last four years we've had an average of 12% growth. I mean, that's almost like having a credit card. We have seen a 12% growth. We've got to put brakes on that growth, but I understand your concern. But what we need to do is let's do it for six months and at the end of six months, if it's — if we cannot document, and I say we — I sincerely believe in this program. I believe in it because the Chairman — having the benefit to be seated next to the Chairman, who is, you know, David [Gellatly], a health-conscious person, in that limited time period, I have stopped smoking, walk a mile and a half a day, and my health condition has improved. The example he gives about the acid reflux, I'd leave my law office, my wife and children would be asleep, I would pick up some greasy food, eat it on the way, pass out, and have to take Prevacid, the medication. By changing my behavior, I don't incur that cost. I consider myself a reasonably intelligent guy. What do we do to change the lives of our employees? For every one dollar we spent on wellness, we get a \$6.00 return. We'll give you a status report in six months. If it's not doing it, we get out of it. I'm not speaking of a long term contract.

Commissioner Gellatly said, okay. I'm not finished. I would prefer, and again we're getting all of this right now and vote on it, and in my opinion we're lacking a lot of critical information that we need to make a critical decision, especially in the economic times that we're living in. I really truly believe that anything that we can do to require employees, because the other problem, Harris [Odell], is that it's been my experience having drawn a government check all my life, that the people that are in the most critical need for revision in the health practices will not take advantage of the program. Okay? Plus you've got a whole bunch of dependents out there that we're paying a lot of money for, and I would prefer that we — we definitely need to move forward on this program. Definitely need to. I think we need more information. I think that the fee ought to apply to people that are actually going to use the program, and I think that if there are any means that we have as the administrators of a very large workforce to encourage, and I don't want to say force, but come awful close to it, to have people that need it, use this program. Okay? I think that that needs to occur, and the fee ought to apply to the people that are actually using the program and not apply to the bulk of the people that probably won't use the program. I don't think that we should do that, and again I want to tell you that this happens to be a person that is very much for this and totally agrees that we cannot afford to just sit by and watch \$19,000,000 go to \$30,000,000 worth of healthcare because our alternative is going to be to cut the employee benefits back drastically because we cannot afford to keep on doing what we're doing. I'm for this, but I don't see the emergency of it that we've got to do it right now.

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ [Abolt].

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Stone, gentlemen, you are and to your credit risk-takers, but Dr. Bradley is a risk-taker, and I must admit that for a physician to step forward when he did not have to, to interject him in a situation which I can only assume that as a patient and not as a medical doctor, could be resisted and resented by his peers. The fact that he's willing to sit down there and tell other physicians, the primary care providers, that they may not have the right formula for their patient, is pretty brave. That aside, I acknowledge you're risk-takers. You've proved it countless times. You've proved it as recently as with Construction Apprentice. I would ask you, because I want to be a risk-taker with you along with Mr. Kaigler, give us the conceptual okay to do this. We'll come back with the details. All the questions you've asked are very valid. Let's kick it off from the standpoint of we know that you're going to support it. Mr. Kaigler assures me that there'll be no budget consequences between now

and the end of the fiscal year, which is the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, that we can absorb it. Certainly at the time that the initial wellness came forward, that was a risk. I would say just from the standpoint of the urgency of budget, that give us the chance to put it together to your satisfaction and if the savings are there, and I believe the savings can be made based on our experience, that we'll be able to give you a budget strategy that's very palatable. Commissioner Gellatly hit it right on the head. We know that we have problems, particularly in the Special Service District budget. We know that as you begin your budget deliberations come January/February, we're going to have to deal with major costs. This is a major cost. Give us the planning time between now and then to have your conceptual approval. We're going to go ahead with this if you give that to us with the understanding we have a lot of work to do, but the risk is worth the reward,

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Russ [Abolt], let's say this again. What are you recommending again, so we can understand? County Manager Abolt said, conceptual approval. Mr. Kaigler, Dr. Bradley, with Attorney Hart will put together something that protects us from the standpoint of our interaction with employees and budget control, but I have already had the assurance from Mr. Kaigler, who is a man of his word, he can make this work within the budget for this year and that's good enough for me. Let's take another risk with limitations, with controls, doing what you've asked us to do, come back with specifics, but I would ask you to first of all tell Dr. Bradley thank you for this risk he's taking among his profession and among his peers, and then I would thank you also for being the type of risk-takers that I know will get this County through the budget prevails that we face over the next few months.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter], and after Dean, Samone [Hagins], you wanted to ask a question.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what exactly and then I — what is the risk? Where's the risk at all in a conceptual approval today. County Manager Abolt said, there's no risk. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, because I mean it sounds great, so we'll approve the concept of what's been stated, but — County Manager Abolt said, the concept — we'll give you all the specifics that we have your direction to begin to put wheels on this. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and that's what — County Manager Abolt said, just like, you took the action three months ago —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's what obviously happened. County Manager Abolt said, and Mr. Kaigler said ---- let's go to a short term track record. You took a risk three months ago when you all said, okay, you know, staff told you and in this case the Director of Human Resources and Services, we could make the sort term work within the existing budget. He did it, and Dr. Bradley showed you, you saved money. That's enough of a precursor to say let's take one more risk. We're not going to let this thing go awry. This problem is too universal. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, so where's the risk, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, there's no risk right now. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. I mean, that's what I was asking. County Manager Abolt said, there's no risk. Commissioner Kicklighter said, the concept sounds good. County Manager Abolt said, the only risk we would take is if after a while we got through this you felt like you were not a part of making those necessary decisions. I think you have the courage to make the previous decision. You've done that. Give us the conceptual okay. We'll put it together, we'll implement it and, by golly, come the end of June, after you've had full observation and the ability to set any regulations that may be necessary, with the character and the leadership of Dr. Bradley I feel we're very confident. We've got a winner. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, and I want to —.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I call for the question.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I wasn't even finished. Commissioner Stone said, oh, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think it's great conceptual approval at this point. I want to make it clear to the public that this vote, and I'm not risking anything as far as your money. I believe it's fine for citizens with their own individual money to be risk takers, but I'm not sitting up here taking a risk with the taxpayers money. This is conceptual approval if everything comes back as stated, I think it will be a wonderful thing, but there's no risk involved in what we're about to vote on right this second. This is — can only move forward in a positive direction, and having said that I will call or the question.

Commissioner Farrell said, alright, the question's called. Let's vote. Commissioner Stone said, question's called.

Commissioner Odell said, well, can we —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you hadn't — you didn't amend your — you have to amend your motion and all then, don't you?

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Erase the —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, would he have to amend his motion?

County Attorney Hart said, you need an amendment because I think the original motion was —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I remove my call for the question then.

Chairman Liakakis asked, you remove that then? Samone [Hagins], you wanted to ask a question?

Youth Commissioner Hagins said, yes. I know there are two — eventually everybody will be on it, but how are they doing it now? Chairman Liakakis said, well, this is specifically for our employees and their family members. The concern of this Commission because they like to run as efficiently as possible our County Government, when you go from \$10,000,000 a few years ago to \$19,000,000 for our cost factors for our hospitalization, especially our medical cost, our prescriptions and all of that, we need to reduce it. This program that Dr. Bradley has put through, and we had 34 employees in there, it showed that we saved \$85,000 on that because now those patients are not taking their diabetic — a number of them are not taking their diabetic medicine. Others are getting half of their prescriptions on a different type of drug, \$4.00 as opposed to \$30 or \$40 or \$50 for it. So that's the savings. We are looking to reduce the cost factors on our employees, you know, and their families by getting this Wellness Program. What this Commission has been concerned about we have asked the people that supply us with our medical insurance and those things is that we want this Wellness Program into place. They have not done what they promised to do to us. This is a more involved program that people can really get healthy with, and all that we've had is conversations basically talking back

and forth from Atlanta to somebody, you know, to an employee and not really get them into exercise programs and into diet programs other than sending them a piece of paper and say this is what you eat or talk to you on the phone and this is what you do. This is activity by our employees now that have gone through this initial program.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Youth Commissioner Green.

Youth Commissioner Green said, hello. My question was with the current economic situation, would employee health insurance ever be completely eliminated? Chairman Liakakis said, no. I mean, we have an obligation to our employees hopefully that that will never come about because, you know, in addition to their getting their pay to provide the services for our citizens, then we have an obligation for their health insurance and for their life insurance and those kinds of things to provide it in their retirement. So we don't have anything that comes within our time element now for that.

County Manager Abolt said, just a comment, Mr. Chairman, on the question. You know, this is a social policy, and this Board, and look to Commissioner Odell again, but what you did in changing your contractual responsibilities with respect to bidders, if an employer makes a decision not to provide health insurance, there are unbelievable social costs in any community that allows that to happen.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we amend Commissioner Odell's motion so that this would be a resolution of intent and would describe to our professional staff that we are committed to the concept of moving forward with this, but that we would look forward to their clarification and, as Mr. Abolt has said, putting the wheels on this vehicle so that we can move forward.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Stone said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all — let's go on the board for that. That's the amendment. Let's go on the board. Commissioner Shay said, open the board please.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you have to accept the amendment change. Commissioner Shay said, the amendment passes —, I'm sorry. County Attorney Hart said, sub-amendment would be taken up first.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, you have to take the amendment up first. Commissioner Shay said, it's not a friendly amendment, Dean [Kicklighter], it's an amendment from the floor. That's fine, we can do this. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's fine. The motion to amend carried unanimously. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's my first unfriendly amendment.

Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. Go ahead with this.

Commissioner Odell said, staff is going to get back to us? County Manager Abolt said, you will have a report from me on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January that has wheels on it. Commissioner Odell said, and what I'd like to see also is we've been rocking along. We were \$10,000,000, nobody anything. We had no suggestions from this committee. We were at \$12,000,000 and we had no suggestion from this committee. We were at \$14,000,000 and we had no suggestion or recommendation from this commission. We are at \$19,000,000, I came in and said let's look at the Wellness Program based upon the [inaudible], all of the literature that I can find, if you want to impact the cost, you've got to change the behavior. This is the program.

Commissioner Shay asked, so could we vote on the main motion now?

Chairman Liakakis said, let me clarify. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think we've already voted on the —. Commissioner Shay said, we voted on the amendment to amend your motion and now we need to vote on the main motion so that it actually carries.

Commissioner Holmes said, you've got a question from Desmond [Griffieth], Mr. Chairman. You've got a question from —.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Youth Commissioner Griffieth.

Youth Commissioner Griffieth said, yes sir. I want to know would the \$20 per month be added to the \$3.50 or \$3.75 that is already being paid for every covered life or would it act as a substitute for that. Chairman Liakakis said, that is a cost factor that the County would absorb. Commissioner Holmes said, it would be added. Chairman Liakakis said, added to that, Desmond.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Commissioner Odell, you do a great job in everything, but let me just say this. Sometimes people forget, but we did raise concerns. A number of Commissioners in addition to myself, we put the insurance company on notice we didn't like. On three different occasions we told them that their Wellness Program was not working and that we wanted a better, you know, Wellness Program, so I don't want people to think that we didn't challenge the way our insurance company was doing because we were dissatisfied with them, they raking in all of the money and not doing what they were supposed to be doing.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you, Doctor, they'll be getting back with you. We appreciate that.

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## 6. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE UPDATE (DR. DOUGLAS SKELTON).

Dr. Skelton, do you have time to wait because we've got a few people that we have a couple of proclamations that we need to do and it won't take much time? [NOTE: Dr. Skelton indicated his agreement to wait.]

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Chairman Liakakis said, now going back we have the mental health issue update by Dr. Skelton.

Dr. Douglas Skelton said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, the last time I spoke to you about this, I indicated that I had spoken to the gentlemen that's in charge of the transition for the State and he had agreed to appear and describe to you what process is occurring regarding mental health services.

Chairman Liakakis said, Doctor, hold just a minute. The groups that were supporting those three retirees, we'll wait until they get out. [Short pause.] Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Doctor.

Dr. Skelton said, as we pause a moment, let me say as a former medical school dean for some 16 years, your discussion of wellness was wonderful this morning out of concern. I'm glad to see involvement on that. As I said to you last time, I have been in contact with the gentleman that's in charge for the State for the Mental Health and Addictive Disease Programs in Chatham County. That is Mr. Charles Ringling. He is the Regional Director for the Division of Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Addictive Diseases in the Department of Human Resources. He is responsible for Chatham County and several other counties in terms of providing for the citizens. Mr. Ringling is here and would like to give you a verbal update from the person in charge.

Mr. Charles Ringling said, good morning, Chairman, good morning Commissioners. I appreciate having the opportunity — Chairman Liakakis said, Doctor, give your full name so that she can record that for us. Mr. Ringling said, sure. My name is Charles Ringling. I'm the Regional Coordinator for the Division of Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Addictive Diseases for the Department of Human Resources. My [inaudible] area includes Chatham County and 43 other counties in Southeast and South Central Georgia. We're actually the largest geographic region of the five regions that our divisions splits the State into. I appreciate having the chance to provide an update to the Commission on the transition process that's occurring for publicly-funded mental health services in Chatham County.

In November when it was determined that there was a likelihood that the Department of Community Health was going to recommend that the current provider, Savannah Area of Health, Mental Health Collaborative, was going to have a recommendation for their Medicaid provider number to be suspended pending termination. The Division of Regional Leadership determined that we needed to look at a transition plan in reference to assuring the people that received mental health and addiction treatment services in this County would continue to be able to have those services without any kind of interruption. The first thing that we looked at honestly was who the providers were in the community that were already available to be able to provide services because we knew that it didn't make sense in a six-week period of time to develop a permanent plan for individuals needing services that we really needed to have a two-phased plan, one that provided an interim strategy, a bridge strategy of sorts for individuals receiving services effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, and then a longer term plan that would be utilized. That initial strategy was to be able to contract with three current providers in the County: American [inaudible], Recovery Place, and Gateway, doing business as Savannah Counseling Services. All three organizations have current contracts with our division in this County and in other parts of the State and they are well known to us in terms of the quality of services that they provide. We knew that that would make sense as the reasonable interim strategy for them to provide services with the second part of the strategy being one where the division would craft and then release a request for proposal for any interested organization to submit for providing services on a permanent basis for Chatham County residents. So that essentially was the plan that was developed.

Shortly thereafter, I met with a number of local stakeholders. The first meeting that I had actually was with the [inaudible] board. The next meeting I had the day after that in late November was with a number of stakeholders at Georgia Regional Hospital, including the four treatment court judges, city representation, both the sheriffs and police officers representation, the County DFCS, Director of Memorial Hospital and other representatives to explain the situation and explain to them what the plan was and then seek input from them in terms of the longer term strategy. In fact, one of the pieces of input that supported was for whatever provider organization or organizations do provide services in the longer term basis, that there be a multi-stakeholder advisory board that would have input and discussions with those providers that are doing services.

I also met with the County Manager and Assistant Manager and with Dr. Skelton, as well, to discuss how it was that we had gotten to the situation that we were in and what the plan was. So that essentially has happened to this date.

Shortly thereafter we initiated a series of transition meetings with the current providers, with Memorial Health, with Savannah-Chatham Homeless Authority, with Union Mission and a couple of new providers to look at all the issues of transition that needed to be addressed between them and the end of this year to be sure that there would be the smoothest possible transition for individuals either in services already or for those that would be needing services after 1-1, and we've actually had a series of four transition meetings our fifth and sixth week in addition to conference calls and emails in-between those meetings as well with all members participating and discussing various issues as what to do about physician appointments, how to address the matter of people that are already in services but many have had appointments scheduled for some time after the first of the year, how they're sure that they are able to still be in services and be connected with their physicians, as well as what to do about affected employees and how to assure

that as many of those employees as possible can be recruited for the new provider. So we've covered a wide range of issues in reference to that whole transition process.

The other things that we looked at included transportation because we realize that one can have the best facility and the best location for services, but if people can't get to them, it doesn't really help very much. So one of the things that all the new providers agreed upon is to provide and support supplemental transportation services, at the very least on an interim basis for individuals needing services, supplemental to the non-emergency Medicaid transportation and other public transportations. So we have been working to cover all the bases that we can in reference to individuals receiving services, including providing letters, mailing out letters to everybody that's in services, providing hard copy handouts for anybody that is coming into the 107 Fahm Street site that identifies who the new providers are, what their contact information is. We addressed the issue of sample medications that will need to be transferred to the new providers covering every possible base that we can. We have also reached out to leadership at both St. Joe/Candler as well as Memorial so that they can pass on that information to their emergency departments and other specialists that would need to know this information, and we've also been in contact with the Georgia Crisis and Access Line because, you know, is a statewide 1-800 number crisis service that's available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

We continue to meet, we continue to address and finalize issues for the next two weeks, and we will be meeting thereafter, actually in January throughout to address whatever issues are coming up. It's a system where we know that we need to have every level of possible redundancy that we can so that when something happens that's unexpected or if an individual's simply confused and doesn't know how to connect with services, that we have a way for them to know how to do that.

So those are — that's a review really, a summary of some of the things that we've done, and I'm more than open to answer any kind of questions that you have in reference to that.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, good morning, sir. How are you? When you list the stakeholders that you conferred with, you did not list Georgia Regional. Mr. Ringling said, I'm sorry, Georgia Regional was there. I apologize. Commissioner Odell asked, to the best of your knowledge and belief, are there plans to close the Savannah Georgia Regional Campus?

Mr. Ringling said, what the plan is, and let me answer what I'm aware of at this time. First of all, that plan that you're speaking of is one that the Commissioners' described as a plan that can change over time depending on what the results are. For example, a request for proposal was put out for a forensic — an organization to provide privatized forensic services. If I'm not mistaken, I believe that the deadline for submission of the proposals has been extended to the end of January. How that's significant is, is that depending on whether or not a vendor is able to meet the criteria of the proposal could impact what happens with the forensic units at the hospitals, including Georgia Regional, and so while the plan at this point is that if there is a vendor that meets those proposals and individuals are then transferred from our forensic units to other hospitals within the State, that's based on certain assumptions as an RFP being a success. In reference to Georgia Regional Hospital, what has already been begun to be implemented are several things in terms of ramping up community-based services, which includes increasing the crisis stabilization program capacity from eight beds eventually to 24 beds by the end of this fiscal year. We already at 16 beds right now providing community-based mobile crisis services for all ages for Chatham and Effingham County, which is already up and running, providing what's called a Social Detox Service for Chatham County members which started December 1<sup>st</sup> providing limited transportation for individuals being discharged from the hospital who don't have any other transportation available to them to go back into the community and then providing assertive community treatment services, which is essentially a hospital without walls so that roughly 70 to 85 individuals who have severe chronic mental illnesses who have real problems with being able to be stabilized in the community possibly have had involvement with the law enforcement would have this team of professionals, including psychiatry, to be able to be available to them 24/7. So eventually the plan is that the forensic units at the hospitals, assuming that the RFP goes through, would close down and that the acute and long term care units, the acute unit would really be shifted over to the crisis stabilization program because when you look at the length of stay for most people that have been through the acute care unit, it's roughly 10 days, 7 to 10 days. Now that's equivalent to the length of stay that you have for people that are in the crisis stabilization unit. So in a way it's calling the service what it really is. The other unit, which is the long term care unit, those individuals that are still needing to be in that unit and haven't been able to be transitioned into the community would go to other hospitals in the State.

Commissioner Odell said, my only concern is that — and correct me if I'm wrong — it appears that your answer to my question of what or not Georgia Regional is closing is yes, depending on the RFP, but there's a contingency plan. You listed three tiers of patients. There's a contingency plan to move the patients elsewhere. Is that a fair statement?

Mr. Ringling said, in terms of the hospital closing down I think what's fair to say is that there will still be crisis stabilization services provided on the hospital campus and crisis services in the ACT services and the crisis [inaudible], those will be off-campus, but there will be units that will be closed down, which would be the forensic units and the long-term care unit for those individuals that we can't transfer. So there will be a decrease in normal facility based services on the campus, that's correct.

Commissioner Odell said, my concern is founded in the principle that for a long time the largest provided of mental health care, in-house mental health care, was the Chatham County Jail, and it appears to me, looking at all the various churches, that the least of us are not being treated very fairly. If you take medication, you don't get the medication and you act up and you are stored in our jail, that to me strikes as a lack of passion. I simply ask the question because the patients who attended the program that you're looking at three vendors for the most part are the people who can least

accept change, and anticipating that we would get a report on the status of mental health today I took the liberty of doing some research, and my research indicates that at one point we had what's called Tidelands Community Mental Health. We went to Gateway and went to the current services, and now we're changing. The impact of that is in a period of 10 years the people who have mental health conditions that serious enough to require treatment by a psychiatrist, on-going treatment, and we have changed their program four times in 10 years. That's very concerning to me. It's concerning to me that the major in-house, other than Georgia Regional, is Clarke Pavilion at Memorial Medical Center. It just appears to me that this is not a place where politicians can get votes, but if we cannot as a Commission help these individuals who desperately need our help, then no one should be helped. I mean, if our solution to the mental health community is that if you get off your meds we'll put you in jail, I think that's an indictment not only upon Savannah but upon Georgia as to how we treat folks, and that concerns me. I know that you're not the author of the mental health people's misfortune and ironically it's not a political party. The Democrats and the Republicans both can equally be ashamed of how we are treating people with mental disabilities. What can we do, because our losing Georgia Regional, even the forensic unit, and I refuse to accept the principle that it's a cost-containment, and the reason I say that is that we have been cutting mental health funds in the State for the last 15 years. We can no longer assume a lot of gratification in the fact that we are better than Mississippi. That don't work for me. What can we do to impact the closing of Georgia Regional, if anything?

Mr. Ringling said, you make some extremely fair comments. It was just this morning that I was reading an article in reference the Los Angeles County Jail, which is actually the largest institution of people with mental health issues in the United States. I think Cook County in Chicago is the second largest. So it's a major problem and it's not by any means unique to this County or to the State. I think one huge issue that the Commission can choose to act on for this population in my 25 years of working with these individuals mostly as a provider is that these people are the most vulnerable and least advocated for individuals I think of any population that exists. So I think one thing that can be done is to make sure that these people's needs don't fall in the background again, that they remain front and center because they need your voices and they need your attention for them because so many of them don't have that.

Chairman Liakakis said, Doctor, I want to bring the people of Savannah and Chatham County up to date in case they have forgotten that. The Department of Human Resources has abandoned many of our mental patients, whether they are children, adolescents and adults in the State of Georgia, and let's go back a few years. What they did was, and let me preface this. I've been out to Georgia Regional Hospital on a number of occasions in the past and I saw those mental patients that really needed that intensive medical care and what your Director did out of Atlanta said, oh, here's what we're going to do, we're going to close down the children and the adolescents portion of the Georgia Regional Hospital, which they did, and in their proposal they said we'll have group homes in Savannah, Chatham County, you know, a lot of them, which they did not do, and they transferred a number of those children and adolescents to Milledgeville, Georgia, and that put a bind on the family members who, you know, a lot of them don't have the resources and can't go see, which is important that they go see their loved ones that are in those mental hospitals. And then what I found out, one of the reasons why they did that out of Atlanta so that they could get — see, while they were in Georgia Regional there wasn't the federal funding that they could get matching cost factors from the federal government. So what they wanted to do in Atlanta, they got a little over \$600,000 in funding from the federal government because it was able to come through their stipulations on that. So they closed it down so that they could make money on that and then they abandoned those children basically to a degree, putting some of them over there in Milledgeville and all and talking about the group homes.

When you —, as you well know, Doctor, and you don't have anything to do with this, that if you have somebody that needs intensive care, putting them in a group home where a doctor might visit them once or twice a month and giving them some medication is not what it's supposed to be, and now what they want to do is close the Georgia Regional and, if they can out of Atlanta, close it completely. I'm familiar with that, and I'll be going around the State because in my position in some of the things that I head up for the 159 counties of the State of Georgia, and thank God that I have made a lot of friendships with State Senators and State House Members around the State, but I'm going to lobby heavily against that, and I encourage every citizen in the County of Chatham County and for them to contact their local legislators and send letters to the Governor's office because sending them to B. J. Walker is a joke, and now they're talking about those that have acute — and what they do, you didn't mention this to us, they want to send a lot of the people that are patients at Georgia Regional to Columbus, Georgia. They don't have the capacity over there now to take all of those patients in there and give them the service. We take the jail over there, sometimes there is well over 200 inmates over there or mental patients rather that have to have, you know, that are in the jail because they can't have the capacity, and I blame that on the Department of Human Resources because keep decreasing — because they've got an obligation, they really have a true obligation that they go and put out a presentation so all the House members and all the Senate members fully understand how important it is that we help those mental patients of the State of Georgia, but see they haven't done that. They've abandoned it. They want to run it as proficient, you know, and the best that they can and they've taken away the services from those patients that really need it, and this is absolutely wrong to close down that Georgia Regional and talking about mobile services and all of those other things because some of that's a ploy, and by going by their history, what has been going on in the past, you can see it's a ploy because — I mean, these people, I've gone to meetings with some of these people that had children and adolescents out there and they break down and just cry, you know, and they call me on the phone and it's a really sad situation that we've got.

So, Doctor, you can tell them what my message or take a tape from here and let B.J. Walker see that because she can say anything she wants to and do that, but she's absolutely wrong. She has a human obligation to take care of the mental patients in the State of Georgia as opposed to want to run it more efficiently and deny the services that are important for those persons that especially can't help themselves. You can go out there to Georgia Regional, those acute patients out there, and seeing some of them, they have been out there because some of their family members have abandoned them. And so when they get cured, as you well know this, Doctor, that they are left out there and some have been out there over 15, 16 years. They have no place to go, yet they need that medical treatment because

that will keep them from, you know, expiring, to die in that situation. So please, you know, give them that message right there. We thank you for trying to do the things that you are because of this regional responsibility that you have, but you can pass that message on to B. J. Walker that I said that and I'll send her a copy of my tape also.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Any other —, David [Gellatly].

Commissioner Gellatly asked, was there someone before me? Commissioner Odell said, [inaudible]. Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you, Commissioner. I just want to make an obvious observation, why this is another example the State of Georgia coming up with an unfunded mandate. These people will continue to be cared for, even if they are closed. They will be improperly cared for. They're going to be cared for in the Chatham County Jail. We have a jail right now that has a daily population of six to seven hundred people over and above it's capacity, many of them that are not criminals. They have mental and emotional problems that needed to be cared for, and I really have some serious problems with that, and I would invite people to take a tour of the Chatham County Jail and see the numbers of people that are in fact inmates in there that don't belong in there. They belong in some type of state-funded professional facility. Doctor, I would like you to state for the record, you're the Regional Director, what have you done to try to keep this facility open and running?

Mr. Ringling said, well, my task a member of the Executive Branch and with Commissioner Walker being the ultimate supervisor for the department and our division is to work to carry out those recommendations and those plans that are made by senior leadership. I have made a point of being very open and honest and forthright with local stakeholders in reference to the plan as up to date as I have it. Sometimes the department works in such a way that other people may have information before some of the employees do, but I worked to be as transparent as possible for assuring as much as I can that people are aware of what the situation is in terms of what the plan is for the future. The other thing I'd like to just say as an aside in reference to individuals in the jail, I do know what you're talking about in reference to that for a couple of reasons. One is that I've been through CIT training myself when I was in Florida, and actually I'm a part of the weekly staffings that occur for the Mental Health Court out of Judge Reeseman's [phonetic] office every Tuesday morning, and we staff and work with those individuals that don't need to be incarcerated and needs, you know, intensive wrap-around supports in the community. So I know exactly what you're talking about, but that's what I'm doing.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I wasn't finished. Doctor, I don't mean to put you on the spot, but I am. You're the Regional Director. You're a high paid administrator, okay, for the State of Georgia. You're saying very clearly that you back and support your bosses in Atlanta. Is that what you're saying? Do you have an opinion of your own? Do you think that it's something that should occur that the Georgia Regional should be closed due to financial considerations? I'm interested in your position. I mean, you're being paid to be a leader. You know, one time I worked for government and if the City Manager, my ultimate boss, was going to do something that was wrong, sometimes I had to muster up the strength to tell him that. Do you have any such feelings?

Commissioner Odell said, and before you answer realize this is being taped.

Mr. Ringling said, as I said earlier, I've been in this field for over 20 years working with this population, and what I can say is that I think it's an absolute crime that these individuals don't have the resources that they need and that this state as in other states doesn't devote the adequate resources to be able to provide services so that senior leaders are considering decisions that look at efficiencies and that causing the question whether those decisions make the most sense or individuals being serviced.

Commissioner Gellatly said, one more and I'm through, okay. You are one of those senior leaders. What is your opinion? Should it be closed or not closed? What is your opinion, yes or no, should it be closed? Mr. Ringling said, my opinion is that I think it's a good thing that we are having an increase in services that are community-based that have been implemented this year. I think it remains to be seen what the ultimate outcome and ultimate decisions need to be that are in the best interest of our consumers in this State. Commissioner Gellatly said, I'm through. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I'll try and be brief. We've had a lot of meeting already and we have a long way to go from here. It's clear from the pattern that I've seen as a Commissioner over the last many years that there's a move by the administrations over the years to try and close Georgia Regional Hospital, and those are not necessarily because they want to prune service there but because they want to save dollars. Cost containment is the name — rationale behind closing those facilities in every case that I've ever heard at the end of the day. Do you know of any plan or idea to once these facilities are vacated to declare this land and asset as a surplus and make it available for sale? Mr. Ringling said, no, I don't. I haven't been a part of nor heard any discussions about that one way or the other. Commissioner Shay said, given the amount of money that's going to be saved by the cost containment if this plan is enacted, will adequate dollars be allocated from the savings in order to maintain those buildings? My experience as an architect is that unoccupied buildings, once they are unoccupied for a period of time, are very, very difficult to make up to the year 2008 or 2009 or 2010 building codes in order for them to be reoccupied, are those buildings — are there plans actively in place for the maintenance of those buildings so that they can be kept in working order in case they need to be used again? Mr. Ringling said, I have not heard that there are any plans, but I think your point is very well taken and I'll make the point of bringing that back to the folks in Atlanta. Commissioner Shay said, the reason I bring this up is that I think there's a good chance that the idea of moving people away from Georgia Regional Hospital here in Savannah and making them move into privatized circumstances, that although the level of care may be good in the early years, that ultimately it may fail. Ultimately the private sector has never in my experience demonstrated that since these people

are more or less indigent, that there's enough money available to privatize that as a service. I have a private business and I rely on paying customers to make a go. If that eventuality comes and Georgia Regional has been mothballed or improperly maintained or sold, then we will never have that opportunity again, and that in addition to the use and compassion that we've talked about, that frightens me because it would not be possible in an urban area to start over from scratch without spending tens of millions, maybe even a hundred million dollars. Mr. Ringling said, again your point is well taken and I will make a point of bringing both of them up to Atlanta because, as I said before, I have not heard of any planning in reference to that. It doesn't mean that it hasn't begun, but this is just [inaudible] work in progress, so I'll make a point of bringing that up, absolutely. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll yield to Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just wanted to say that this is still appalling to me and I agree with everything that my colleagues have said up here, and I feel very strongly that it's not over until it's over and we just have to continue to work towards this in years to come so that we can be sure that we can take care of those persons with those disabilities here in Chatham County. Chatham County is large enough to be able to take care of our people rather than having to send them elsewhere. So we are going to — I'm asking the citizens of Chatham County to don't give up. Let's continue to rally because it's not over until it's over, completely over.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to have — Jon Hart has just left — to do a resolution to be sent to the Governor and all of our elected officials who would have a decision in this matter so that we can formally go on the record and say we're concerned about this. Ultimately folks, we're going to end up eating the cost. Commissioner Thomas said, yes, we are. Commissioner Odell said, this is clearly another unfunded mandate and, sir, we don't want to put you on the spot. Having been an administrator with department heads who worked for me, my decision was their decision. When they were with their wives, they could give you their opinion, but when they were my employees, when I made the decision it wasn't a vote. This is a decision. It's like how you run an army, and we apologize if we —. We're just so frustrated. There's so many people who are suffering, and this is a compassionate Commission. This is a Commission that genuinely cares about these folks and we don't know what to do. I mean, we're being told one thing it's closing and we see this in 10 years four different changes, we're just a little bit irritating. If we said anything that was offensive to you, we apologize. It's not directed at you. It's directed at we've got to change this. Number one it's not fair to those who have mental health conditions, and number two is we are our brother's keeper. We are, and so I'm hopeful that Jon Hart can craft a resolution that we can send, clarify our concerns and a protest and that we serve our legislative delegation. I mean, this is not something we can sweep under the rug. We've got to deal with this and if all we can do now is to continue to voice our complaints, then let's do it. Let's do it vigorously. And, Mr. Chairman, I was brief. See, he's my Chairman. He told me to be short and I'm short because he's the man.

Chairman Liakakis said, Jon [Hart], on the resolution so that each one of the Commissioners can sign it, make sure all of our names are on it instead of just putting Chatham County Commissioners there, plus one to our eight legislators plus one going to the Governor in there because what they want to do, I mentioned a little bit about the closing down, they like to close down every regional hospital in the State of Georgia except two. Can you imagine all the acute people with mental problems in the State of Georgia to be able to even get anywhere close to the treatment they need in just two regional hospitals. I mean, that's absolutely unacceptable and they are absolutely wrong in that office.

County Attorney Hart said, I'll be glad to prepare a resolution to try to incorporate the comments made here today. I'll probably circulate a draft to you so that you can read it. If you have comments, you know, just write them in there and get them back to the office and we'll incorporate them and get the thing done.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Thank you very much, Doctor. We appreciate your presentation today and anything that you can do to help us because we know a lot of these things about group homes and all of that, they just don't work. Mr. Ringling said, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Doctor.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly asked, did the Sheriff want to say something. He had his hand up like that. Don't ignore the Sheriff.

Chairman Liakakis said, Al — the Sheriff Al St. Lawrence would like to make a comment because he's the custodian of a lot of patients.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, you know, our mental health population is nearly 300 and our classification people tell us we've got to have another dorm for them, but it goes beyond that, the ramifications. Right now we get help from the City, the Metro Police Department on nights and weekends taking them people to Georgia Regional. Guess what? They're not going to go to Columbus or Milledgeville. I'm going to have to have people 24 hours a day transporting people to these forensic units. I mean, this has got — you know, these people are just putting it on us, the State of Georgia, and I'm talking about B. J. Walker. This is absolutely ridiculous to close Georgia Regional Hospital. We just can't deal with it without hiring more people to do nothing but transport these people.

Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence ], we need to quantify that so that when we do this resolution they need to know that this is cost-shifting. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, and what they're doing is these are the same people that elected them, but the impact is it's our budget, folks. We're going to have to

be the ones to step up and make some drastic decisions. If you all can take last year's statistics and assume that you have to take them to Columbus and project what that cost would be assuming the same thing —.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, — that the City helps us with and we do ourselves, and we're going to have to do it all because I can't expect Metro to go to Columbus or Milledgeville. So we're going to have to do it all. I'm going to have to put transport people on the road all the time. These people are not telling you all the ramifications what it's going to take to close Georgia Regional and move forensics.

Commissioner Gellatly said, you're talking somewhere between seven and fifteen million dollars extra in his budget easy. I mean, I did some quick figures on that and you're talking about big bucks, and last time I looked we don't have big bucks.

Commissioner Stone said, that's not cost-shifting, it's cost-dumping.

Commissioner Farrell said, you want to staff Georgia Regional with Chatham County sheriffs.

Chairman Liakakis said, we'll go from there. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, everybody is going to be affected that way and legislators all over the State [inaudible]. Chairman Liakakis said, Sheriff, let me make this recommendation to you, Al. You were former president of the Georgia Sheriffs Association and you still have a lot of influence there. To get the Georgia Sheriffs Association to send a message to the Governor's office, not only about the transportation but abandoning the mental health programs that we need in the State of Georgia to help the mental patients.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we're already doing that, Mr. Chairman, and we're going to do it in January when we're in Atlanta. I mean, the Governor's, Lt. Governor's office, Senator Johnson, and our local legislators know exactly how the Georgia Sheriffs feel about it because they see this as affecting everybody all over the State. It ain't just Chatham County.

Commissioner Odell said, that's why ACCG needs to get involved and push that because the impact is where are we going to get \$7,000,000. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I don't know what it costs, but we can project that, but what I'm telling you is that B. J. Walker is looking at one thing. She's going to cut that budget by a certain amount of money and it's the wrong place to do it, to close the regional hospital in the State of Georgia. It's absolutely wrong. It's going to create a hell of a burden not only for us but other counties as well that's going to have to be transporting these people to the forensic judge either at Milledgeville or Columbus, and I think it's going to be at Milledgeville where it's going to be.

Chairman Liakakis said, they don't have enough capacity. David [Gellatly]?

Commissioner Gellatly said, I want to point out another aspect that nobody's talked about. In my opinion, transporting people that have not committed any type of a crime in the back of a police paddy wagon is in and of itself inhumane and would be wide open to all kinds of law suits. To transport someone in the back of one of those wagons for 160 miles —, I would invite anyone of you to take a ride in a Metro paddy wagon for five miles and see how you as a person that has no apparent mental condition how you feel about that. You're talking about something that's barbaric to transport people that have nothing wrong 160 miles in the back of a paddy wagon. Bad thing to do.

Colonel McArthur Holmes said, if I made add, Mr. Chairman, and Commissioner Gellatly is correct. Mental illness is not a crime. Mental illness is a sickness. I'm in the business of running a mental health institution, and I'm not doing that because — voluntarily. It's something that's been forced upon us. We are nearing 300 persons in that jail that we are treating with medication or counseling or they are being housed in one of our living units because they have no health issues. We get inmates in every day and they are being compensated because there's a lack of medication and the place that they are coming is to the Chatham County Jail, and we have to deal with it. The cost impact right now we see an increase in the cost of our psycho-tropic medications. We are having to look at increasing the number of hours that our psychiatrist has been and the other mental health support staff. So it's going to have an impact on the budget itself and it's going to have an impact on this Commission, so it's something that I would behoove each and everyone of us to really look at.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me just tell you right now, with 300 mental patients in the jail right now, the actual cost factor is over \$15,000 a day is the cost factor, over \$15,000 a day. That's the — you've got the medication and all, but I'm talking about the basic services and all. Alright, thank y'all very much. I appreciate it.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone. Commissioner Stone said, if I may, I would like a copy of that resolution to also go to the ACCG to Clint Mueller, who is the Legislative Liaison, because he needs to be aware of what's going on in Chatham County so that they can act on it on our behalf as well.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you.

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## **VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

### **1. INAUGURATION ANNOUNCEMENT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, as most of you know, all Chatham County Commissioners went back into office. It's the first time in the history of Chatham County that the Commissioners that ran for office and those especially that didn't have opposition, but the entire Commission has gone back in, so the inauguration date where we will be sworn in for the new year will be on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m., and it will be in the Johnny Mercer Theater at the Civic Center. The Johnny Mercer Theater in the Civic Center, and we invite all of the public to come to that inauguration and we will have some judges there that will swear in, and there will be some other activity also going on.

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## 2. EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY SPENCER LAWTON.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll ask the District Attorney, — is he here? Oh, yes, there he is in the back — if he would come forth. Today we've got some proclamations for some of our employees who are retiring, and a dedicated employee of ours who has worked hard for these many, many years is none other than our District Attorney Spencer Lawton. We can see the things that he has accomplished over the years, and I'll talk a little bit more about that, but now I'm going to read this proclamation.



**WHEREAS**, the District Attorney's Office is a zealous advocate for justice and all victims of crime and is the highest officeholder in the jurisdiction's legal department. We salute with great pride Chatham County's District Attorney, Spencer Lawton, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, Spencer Lawton, Jr., a native Savannahian, obtained his undergraduate degree from Tulane University and his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1971. He was engaged in the general practice of law in state and federal courts in Savannah from that time to 1981 when he successfully ran and assumed the office of District Attorney for Chatham County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1983, Mr. Lawton created Georgia's first comprehensive victim witness assistance program. He believes that the criminal justice system should do more than provide justice to criminals, it should provide justice to crime victims as well; and

**WHEREAS**, under his leadership, the Chatham County Child Support Recovery Unit has become one of the best, if not the best, in the nation and has secured over \$400 million in child support payments. He initiated several programs to increase the number of payments by non-custodial parents including his most recent one, a pilot work-release program, that will allow participants to earn money so they can pay child support as well as some of the cost of their room and board while they are in jail.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby salute:

### SPENCER LAWTON, JR.

for his dedication, commitment and ingenuity as Chatham County's District Attorney and for accomplishing his goal of setting the highest possible standard of legal skill, ethics and professionalism. Our best wishes are extended as he assumes the role of retiree.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Liakakis said, you know, there are so many great accomplishments that have been done under your leadership, Spencer, and I want you to know that this Commission really appreciates that because one of the things that you did not have to do is take over this Child Support Recovery Program, and that was not a requirement of the District Attorney's office, but you saw about families, how they were suffering in our community and the children and families were not receiving that support because we had a lot of people that, you know, they abandoned their family, they weren't paying their child support and their family obligations. Because of you putting it into place and you've gotten, you know, one of the top people, David [Lock], in there to help run that, we really appreciate that because many families now are not suffering because of that \$400,000,000 that has been collected to help those families, especially in their time of needs. Also, some other innovative things that you have done for the aged people in our community that were victims, putting in a special Assistant District Attorney on that, and many other things. So again on behalf of the Chatham County Commission, I thank you very much for the people of Chatham County and wish you well, and my God bless you and your family in the years of your retirement.

Mr. Spencer Lawton said, thank you so much. I have carefully prepared my remarks, which I don't think should take more than about a half hour. I just want to thank you all very much. Credit ought to go where credit's due. The Work Release Program for Child Support wouldn't exist if it weren't for the hard work of Commissioner Stone to the extent that I have been fortunate enough to enjoy success in my undertaking in this office, it's because I have had the good luck to surround myself with people who are smarter than I am and work harder than I am, and they are better at what we do than I am, whereupon I get just to sit back and take credit for it. The other thing, of course, that has been instrumental has been the cooperation of this Board of Commissioners and your predecessors. But I have to tell you, without meaning any negative reflection on any of those who preceded you ladies and gentlemen on the Board, this has been the most cooperative, the most conscientious, the most intelligent, the most hard-working Board of Commissioners that I've known in my nearly three decades of dealing with you and your predecessors. I frankly attribute the majority of that consequence to the effort of your Chairman, Mr. Liakakis. I think you've done an outstanding job and, ladies and gentlemen, I think you have, too. You've made my job a lot easier than it would otherwise have been under virtually any scenario I can think of, and I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Commissioner Gellatly said, Spencer, just a minute, don't go away. I'm not going to let you just walk off. It shouldn't be that easy. You know, when you — you and I actually started about the same time, and you're much younger than I, I might point out. I've pretty much stayed the same. Mr. Lawton said, you're pretty much the same. Commissioner Gellatly said, I wanted to just tell you that during my professional career in Savannah we didn't always agree about a lot of things and I would have to say that looking back objectively, you were probably right 80% of the time, and that's not easy for Dave Gellatly to say that, I want you to know that. You are very demanding. You demanded that the police do a very thorough investigation on all of the crimes and certainly serious crimes, and you're absolutely right in that, and that should occur. You've — during your tenure you've developed a very well-organized district attorney's office, a lot of initiatives, a lot of the state of the art programs that are not found in any other district attorney's office. You're a true professional and I count myself very lucky to have known you and to have had the opportunity to work with you. Thank you. Mr. Lawton said, thank you very much, Chief. Coming from you it means a lot. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to say something very briefly. Mr. Lawton, your professionalism, your integrity, your honesty and your intelligence will be missed. Mr. Lawton said, thank you. I appreciate you.

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### **3. EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY DAVID LOCK.**

Chairman Liakakis said, next we have another proclamation for another great assistant district attorney, the number two man in the office, Assistant District Attorney David Lock. Commissioner Farrell will do that proclamation.

Commissioner Farrell said, at this time on behalf of the Chairman and the County Commission, we'd like to present this proclamation of appreciation for the many years of service that David Lock has performed for all of Chatham County in his duties as Assistant District Attorney and for Chief Assistant District Attorney for Chatham County.


  
**The County of Chatham**  
**Georgia**  
**Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Assistant District Attorney is generally considered the second-in-command for the office and today, we salute Chatham County's Chief Assistant District Attorney, David T. Lock; and

**WHEREAS**, David Lock began his employment in the Chatham County District Attorney's Office in 1981 as an assistant district attorney and held that position until his promotion in 1985 to chief assistant district attorney; and

**WHEREAS**, chief assistant district attorney, David Lock has been the go-to guy at the Chatham County District Attorney's office for 23 years. He is on call for police consultation 24 hours a day, and he is the frontline administrator for less senior assistant district attorneys; and

**WHEREAS**, David Lock has prosecuted many difficult cases and in spite of the amount of time he dedicates to his position, he still finds time to serve on boards and committees that are beneficial to our community. He served a president of the Coastal children's Advocacy Center, chairperson of the Chatham County Seniors and Law Enforcement Together Council, president of the Savannah Jaycees and legal counsel for Georgia Jaycees.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby commend:

**DAVID T. LOCK**

for his untiring devotion to the Chatham County District Attorney's Office and the citizens of Chatham County and his dedication to making our community a safer one in which to live. We extend best wishes as he closes the book in prosecuting cases in Chatham County and opens the book in prosecuting cases in Athens, Georgia.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Farrell said, at this time I'd like to present this to David and publicly like to thank him for all the many, many years of service to the community and his hard work and dedication, which I know he devoted much more time to the job than what was required, and for that we, Commissioners and citizens of Chatham County, want to thank you for all those years and wish you the very best as you continue your life's work in Athens, Georgia, close to the home of your Georgia Bulldogs, where I'm sure you will be very happy and content.

Mr. David Lock said, thank you. Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, I want to thank you for this proclamation. It means a lot to me. It was a privilege to go out today, though I'm just moving on. It was a privilege to go out today with two people retiring, Spencer Lawton and our Chief Investigator, J. D. Smith. It was a privilege to work in a DA's office where everything started from the basic premise that whatever we did would be done with integrity and that made an easy place to work. J. D. Smith has the most dedicated public servant I've known with his years of being a police officer and in the DA's office from probably around 1961 on, and not to mention had probably had more contact with anybody over the last 27½ years through lunch and all the other comradery. So I'm probably going to miss him as much as anybody or moreso. We have a lot of good employees in the DA's office and some of the best ones attended this Commission meeting. I want to thank them for their dedication because they're among probably the best employees you have or will ever have, and I'd like to thank the friends that I've made. That's going to be the hardest people to leave over the many years. Pat Farrell is certainly one of them and there's a lot of friends, some are here and some had to leave, that stood with me through thick and thin. Some of them couldn't outlast the County Commission meeting today though. But I want to thank you. Unfortunately, to continue with my career as a prosecutor and maintain State employment, which is — I'm actually technically employed by the State of Georgia, I can't stay here

so I had to move on. Unfortunately, my first choice of a place to go was willing to take me in. So that is good for me, but I'll miss y'all and thank you for all your help and support over the years.

Chairman Liakakis said, David, hold it, hold it.

Commissioner Gellatly said, David, it's been my privilege and honor to have had the opportunity to work with you in a professional capacity and also not a professional capacity. I've enjoyed your professionalism, I've enjoyed your friendship, I've enjoyed your counsel. You're going to be truly missed here. A lot of people may not realize this but certainly would have to suspect that. David's not the type of guy, he's the number two person in the District Attorney's office and he would have the opportunity to delegate tough, nasty, sticky criminal cases to someone else, but he's never done that. He's a man that's prosecuted some of the toughest cases that this County's ever had in its history and prosecuted them successfully, and he certainly has the admiration and respect of the entire law enforcement community and I just wanted you to know that you're going to be really missed and the law enforcement community wishes you the very best wherever you go, whatever you do, and you will not be forgotten. Thank you.

Mr. Lock said, thank you. I count my experience with law enforcement here as among the best I've ever had.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Chairman Liakakis.

Chairman Liakakis said, thanks, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Lock, I just want to thank you from a personal standpoint. I met you when I was a kid basically. Commissioner Gellatly said, he is old. Mr. Lock said, well —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, on a personal level, thank you very much. For those of you who wouldn't know this, Mr. Lock pretty much I credit to not only putting a criminal behind bars, but I credit him for the way he does his job for actually saving my parents' lives. People wouldn't realize it unless they've gone through a tragedy, I guess, but my brother was murdered in 1987 and your diligence as far as not only putting the person behind bars, but doing it in the correct legal manner, which is an iron-tight conviction has kept the person behind bars, and if this person wasn't behind bars I don't think my parents could handle life itself. You've done more for people than you probably would ever know and I greatly appreciate everything you did personally for my family, and I promise you, you will be missed and thank you.

Mr. Lock said, it was a privilege to know your family. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, besides the things that you did in the District Attorney's office and all, that you working with the People's Advocacy Program, the Senior Citizens and all of that, helping them in many, many ways, and especially the way I guess you would be a buddy advocating, you know, for those that have some disability in our community, whether it's mental or some other type of disability, that you worked hard on that and you have given of yourself to those many programs to help the people in our community, and I know that you are being blessed for those good things that you did also out there in the community for those many charitable things. So again thank you very much and may you also be blessed in the years to come. Mr. Lock said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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#### **4. EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF J. D. SMITH, CHIEF INVESTIGATOR, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.**

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have another proclamation this afternoon for the work of J. D. Smith, who's the Chief — who has been the Chief Investigator for the District Attorney's office, and Commissioner Shay will do that proclamation.

Commissioner Shay read the proclamation into the record as follows:



**WHEREAS**, criminal investigators play a vital role in our judicial system by developing and evaluating reactive and proactive investigative plans and today, we salute Chatham County's Chief Criminal Investigator, Joseph D. "J. D." Smith; and

**WHEREAS**, began his career in the fall of 1964 as an uniformed police officer with the then Savannah Police Department and was promoted to the Criminal Investigation Division where he served as a detective until 1973; and

**WHEREAS**, he was hired in 1973 as a Criminal Investigator for the Chatham County District Attorney's Office and was promoted to Chief Criminal Investigator in 1978. He served over thirty-five years in the District Attorney's Office and his total career in the criminal justice system spans forty-five years; and

**WHEREAS**, J. D. made great achievements during his career. He was selected as "Rookie of the Year" in 1964, Policeman of the Year in 1968 and has received numerous letters of commendation which included letters from former United States Senators Talmadge and Nunn; and

**WHEREAS**, due to his above-average skills, J. D. served as the Coastal Representative on the U. S. Organized Crime Task Force out of Atlanta, Georgia, the State of Georgia Security Committee for the Summer Olympic Games, and the State of Georgia Security Committee for the G-8 Conference in Sea Island and Savannah.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby salute:

**JOSEPH D. "J. D." SMITH**

and extend appreciation for over thirty-five years of dedicated service to the District Attorney's Office and best wishes that his success in retirement will be as rewarding as his success in his employment in criminal justice.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Shay said, thank you very much.

Mr. J. D. Smith said, Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Commission, I want to thank you. This is indeed an honor. And, yes, I'm older than dirt, and today does bring to a close 45 years of serving the community, and I've been proud to do that. This is a great community. It has been my native home. It will always be home for me. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and your friendship through the years, especially Russ [Abolt] and his staff, which I may add is second to none, and I appreciate their support. I thank David [Lock] and Spencer [Lawton] for allowing me to continue my career in the District Attorney's office, and it is an outstanding office and anything that I have accomplished I owe to the men and women that have worked for me. The young women and the young men that have come through that office and gave from the bottom of their hearts and worked hard every day. I thank you for this honor, I appreciate it and God bless all of you.

Commissioner Gellatly said, you're exactly right, you are older than dirt, but I want to tell you that during your time of service, 45 years plus, I'd like to put that in perspective from a law enforcement viewpoint. The average police officer spends 22 years to maybe 32 years before they retire; 45 years plus is almost unheard of. There probably isn't another 12 police officers in Chatham County in the last 50 years that have put in as much time as you have, and that's very significant. But I think more than putting in the time, you know, a lot of people and a lot of professions when they put in time, they don't do a heck of a lot more than suck up air and take up space, and you were never ever in that category. You, too, during the 10-years that I worked for the Savannah Police Department during the worst of times, worst of times when police officers were killed in the line of duty and injured in the line of duty, you were one of the first ones in the door wanting to know what you could do to help, and you always did help. I'd just like to tell you as a police officer there's no question in my mind that you are a policeman's policeman and there are very few of those, and I appreciate your dedication to this County. Thank you. Mr. Smith said, thank you for those words.

Chairman Liakakis said, J.D., thank you because a lot of people in this community don't realize that you really cared about the victims of crimes in our community and to put your effort in there and the staff's effort so that the cases would come to fruition in helping those victims in our community and the surrounding area. That's really important because it shows of your care for people, not only the families, of course, but the victims of the crimes also. So thank you again on behalf of this Chatham County Commission and may you also be blessed in the future. Mr. Smith said, thanks a lot.

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- 5. REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS AN UNUSED PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ON FAIR ROAD AND RECONVEY IT BY QUIT CLAIM TO THE SUCCESSOR IN TITLE TO THE GRANTOR AND NOW ALSO THE ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNER.  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this is a late item to the agenda because it's the end of the year and with your permission and my expression that we had this problem and only you can solve, if a motion be made by the Board to put this on your Action Calendar and then when you adopt your calendar this would be included, but it is time sensitive.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, we will put it on Item 1-A on the Action Calendar if you so desire. So I'd like a motion on the floor to move Item 5 to the Action Calendar as 1-A.

Commissioner Thomas said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, okay, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve transferring this item to the Action Calendar as Item 1-A. Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.]

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## **VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

### **1. TRUMAN PARKWAY (COMMISSIONER GELLATLY).**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you. Yeah, I want to make a request that we consider sending a strongly worded resolution to the Governor and DOT regarding the apparent postponing almost for an indefinite period of time, I think it's 2014 before they'll even look as to whether they will complete the final stage of the Truman Parkway. This is a project and a program that's been ongoing for decades in this County, and it just takes a little bit more to complete it. I think that DOT, the way I read it, it looked to me like several months ago they did an audit and found out that they had half as much money as they thought they had, and if that wasn't bad enough we're in bad economic times. So I understand that, but I think that it's totally wrong to cut a program that's so vital to Chatham County, to our economy and to our safety of our citizens to cut out the final stage of this Truman Parkway, and I think we need to make a very strongly worded resolution to that effect and, you know, I may be wrong, but I just see in my mind the money that was going to that project is going to go to some Atlanta project now in the Atlanta area, and it is so wrong and I think that it would be terribly wrong for us to just sit back and do nothing. I think that we need to have a very strongly worded resolution to the Governor, to the DOT and to make it as public as possible, and I think we ought to keep on raising hell about this. Thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone. Commissioner Stone said, just to follow on the heels of that a little bit, I received a phone call yesterday from a Ms. Randy [phonetic] at 11215 Abercorn Street, who owns property — it's the Abercorn Shops — and her concern is something that really concerns me in that the County through the State, this road project, removed her road sign, her identification sign for her business, took it down, did pay her but now they're telling her it's got to stay that way for four years until this project is complete. This project has implications a little further reaching than just transportation and I think it's a huge disservice to the citizens of this community, especially this lady happened to be a senior citizen. This is a business that she runs, and the sign has been removed and it's going to cost her more to have to replace the sign than what she was given to have the sign taken down, and they're telling her she can't do anything for four years. And so I think that, yes, a resolution needs to be sent and I think that the implications are further reaching than just a roadway.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Commissioner Gellatly asked, should we vote on that. Chairman Liakakis said, no, we can just instruct him to do that. I can instruct him to do it and we don't need a motion on it.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A request was made that the County Attorney prepare a strongly worded resolution to send to the Governor and the Georgia DOT regarding the apparent postponing of the completion of the final stage of Truman Parkway and for any disservice to the citizens of Chatham County by the indefinite delay.

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### **2. TELERIDE (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, could I do it from here or do I need to —? Okay. Well, before I get started I want to say that I cut probably 500 pages of research into this and I will try to make it as fast as humanly possible. Basically,

Teleride as we know it today, it's available transportation for all residents that live in Chatham County if they qualify by being handicapped. You can go to the next slide please. Everyone in Chatham County actually pays for this service and again it's available for everyone as of this moment.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, I'll come up there. I thought that you had some kind of remote or whatever. I'm scared to turn my back. I've gotten some bad phone calls recently. Alright, I can't see anything on this particular screen to change it. Do I need to —? Tomorrow will it be the same thing? Will it serve everyone or just a slight few, as recommended by the CAT Board.

Basically, why am I doing this again? You've heard from me the last couple of weeks or last couple of meetings, but in a nutshell while researching Teleride and Teleride's handbook and stats, basically I discovered many, many things that clearly shows that the CAT Authority Board and staff lack sufficient research and thought and consideration before recommending such drastic change that will hurt so many people.

How did we actually get here? You can see, December 5, 2008, Facts & Findings, Federal Transit Administration stated that CAT must be in compliance with the ADA Regulations or risk the loss of federal funding for the fixed route service. A tightening of the geographic coverage to three-quarter mile ADA standard will reduce [inaudible], et cetera. Verbally we were pretty much told that complaints prompted the recommendations, that the complaints were pretty much prompted by increased ridership that burdened the system. In going back and doing a little research, looking at the Chatham Area Transit Transportation Development Plan, which is a comprehensive review that took place, I can — in '05 and '06; well, it was pretty shocking to me is to find out that '07 and '08 we actually have less passenger trips than we did the previous two years. So while being told that an increase in ridership placed a burden, ridership actually lessened compared to the previous two years.

In reality, when you take a close look, the FTA did not recommend — did not comment as far as any complaints. The FTA did not recommend or require a reduction of Teleride's service area. Zoom in here on this letter. that was the letter that was sent by the FTA. When you zoom in here, and basically up top we'll ask ourselves were the changes actually needed or overblown or an opportunity to expand transportation services to areas that previously opted out of CAT.

I want to read just this part here at CAT's website: "Importing information to Teleride customers." This is the FTA to the Interim Director. At CAT's website there's a link entitled "Important information for Teleride customers." this links to a letter that's dated April 21, 2008. The letter instructs riders that they will be informed when making a reservation that the ride is available or if Teleride is at capacity for the day requested. The letter adds that although we make every effort to service all trips, there are times when it's not possible. The content of this letter leads the FTA to reasonably believe that CAT is not fully complying all service criteria. So at that point the FTA recommended some changes. The letter pointed out six specific things that they felt was actually in conflict with ADA regulations.

Conflict 1. It is stated that basically in a nutshell, and I'll not stand here and read on line and as far as instructions and the policy handbook that we have, CAT requires or Teleride requires a 24-hour reservation, 24 hours in advance. In a nutshell the FTA does not like that wording. They provide for you to be able next-day service. So basically to correct conflict number one, you just change the wording. Conflict one done, 24 hour notice to change that on the website to next day service. That's it. One of five is gone. No problems. You didn't have to strand thousands of handicapped people all over the County.

Okay, number two. The requirement that all weekend reservations are made between 8:00 a.m., and Noon, Saturday and Sunday. To not read this to you, in a nutshell you have to be able to make reservations for Teleride during the regular same hours that you would that Chatham Area Transit is actually open. All you have to do is take reservations on Saturdays and Sundays until four o'clock. Expand the appointment times as suggested. Problem number two solved. Done. Two of six now gone and again we didn't strand one handicapped person anywhere.

Problem number three. As pointed out by the FTA, conflict number three, basically we've been undoubtedly charging no-show fares possibly a little bit more than the day-to-day regulations would allow. Hey, don't charge as recommended. Conflict number three is now gone. You didn't strand one handicapped person.

Conflict number four, suspending eligibility after three no-show trips within a 12-month period. Basically the FTA, the ADA Act of 1990, it does not allow for this, I guess, stringent of a suspension. What do you do? You follow the guidelines and suspend as required. Four of six are now gone. We still haven't stranded one handicapped person anywhere.

Conflict number five. As pointed out by the FTA, suspending eligibility for six months only allows for suspension for a reasonable period of time consistent with the FTA interpretation, a six-month suspension would be more reasonable. Again, simply lower the suspension time as recommended by the FTA. Five of the six are gone.

I'm going to grab my water.

Conflict number six, allowing an individual to appeal a no-show suspension within 35 days. While not in conflict with DOT and ADA regulations, this time period appears arbitrary and FTA advises revising. Well, we're not breaking any laws here but, hey, revise it. Done. All six vanished.

We have satisfied the content of what has been prompted the staff to strand any handicapped people throughout the area. If you still believe that this is a service issue, there are many ways to improve and address service issues. If a service issue would have actually been the problem and prompted the FTA to respond. You can see from *Anderson v. Rochester Regional Transportation* basically here the DOT reviews or views every paratransit trip denial within the

context of each agencies service profile. Meaning simply that they had taken into account the demographics and geography. They look at whether or not the transportation system's serving millions of passengers a day versus a smaller system that would serve thousands or hundreds.

You have right here in this ruling many suggestions, actually recommendations that should we need to pick it up a notch we'd actually be able to look at and do here, and I will just. I'm not going to read it. That's fine. You can see there's many good recommendations that if we have a problem, it makes great sense.

The ADA Act of 1990, I'll stand here and believe it with all of my heart. I don't think that act — I don't think they ever had any intention to actually discriminate against handicapped citizens with the ADA Act just because of their address. You know, this act was put in place to not discriminate against handicapped citizens. Now in the Facts and Findings in the recommendations we were basically let to believe that our only basic option would be to reduce the area, reduce the size for this law of three-fourths of a mile, this law we have in place. You can see here you can easily go to the ADA Act of 1990, and I put the website there, nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a public entity (1) to provide paratransit services at a level which is greater than the level of such services which are required. (2) Providing paratransit or special transportation services in addition to those paratransit and special transportation services required by the second. (3) They are not preventing anyone from providing services to individuals in addition to those individuals whom such services are required to be provided by this section. So there's nothing there asking you to cut back or to go to an area. That's a minimum standard that was created to protect handicapped citizens. The intent is not there to strand citizens in an area. It's to provide a minimum standard.

Now although the ridership actually decreased, if you believe that maybe a more efficient management would not help as far as solving some of the late trips and that we actually need to add a slew of buses, 11 was actually recommended at \$80,000 each, if you dig a little bit and you look at this expensive study that was performed on Chatham Area Transit, you'll find that although they had more riders than we do now, during peak times they averaged four of the buses were actually not even running during peak times. On their peak times they had 12 of 16 paratransit buses running during the peak, which is the highest service times. That left 4 buses sitting vacant, and again we've gone backwards in ridership, so we don't have so much more that all of a sudden they're running the roads now. So let's say that we really needed 11 — there's 4 right there. There's 4 sitting somewhere. Generally — that leaves us 7 buses. We take the 4 out that was sitting there, that was sitting there when we had high ridership.

Rather than paying \$80,000 per bus as recommended in the cost estimate to us, I submit that we pay \$18,000 to \$20,000 per bus. How do you do that? With a tiny bit of effort when you have the worldwide web at your hands. On the right, I found — this would have been probably a mat and a half. On the right you'll see a 1997 transport bus with only 33,000 miles. 33,000 miles. ADA compliant, handicapped bus, \$18,995 versus \$80,000 which we were told would have to be the rate that we would have to do. So if you actually take the 7 buses that we would now need, multiply it times \$18,995, you've got \$132,000. That's a far cry from \$880,000 that we were told, a savings of \$747,000. Again, a little bit of effort to keep this goes a long way. I mean, it really does.

Conflicting — I won't read it all, but everything is conflicting. From the analysis to the Teleride handbook conflicts with the actual, with the recommendation policy analysis was. The Teleride transportation plan, the review, it clearly states that it's a paratransit service required by the American With Disabilities Act to [inaudible] with the people throughout Chatham County. Coverage — the ADA requires that Teleride be provided within three-fourths of a mile of all fixed route services provided by CAT; however, Teleride is provided throughout Chatham County in areas significantly larger than required by the regulations. That deserves applause. That's definitely not discouraged by the ADA Act of 1990 or the FTA.

What concerns me is, again, and I can give all kinds of — present you in writing with everything back in these little sound-bytes here, but what concerns me is where is CAT's and First Transit's explanation and the request for assistance? First of all, they didn't have to explain anything about service because that wasn't even questioned. They are just simply required now to do a plan every year.

In this *Anderson v. Transit Authority*, [inaudible] should appear transit provider determine that if it has denied a substantial number of trips and violation —. The FTA again, Chief Counsel wrote that it's a case by case determination. The given system may be more meaningful in some cases. The FTA Chief Counsel has written: Determination of whether denials for missed trips are substantial, necessarily involves a factual case by case determination. So again I'm pretty sure when you consider it takes geography and everything into account, we're really doing a pretty okay job. It's just the only thing they're alarmed about. — And the laughter behind me by the way I'll address is probably, my guess, is coming from someone who lives within the three-fourths mile radius that is not at jeopardy of losing this service. I don't hear a handicapped individual behind me laughing that's going to lose that service, which I find very rude and disrespectful.

I say correct it. Don't quit. Simply address the six issues that were in front of us. We should keep the service that helps all of our handicapped citizens. I ask you here please don't depend on the State or Federal Government, and with that I want to go just a couple of things.

We've been told the State and Federal Government will fund this new transit program that will help offset the loss of Teleride for our handicapped citizens that would lose service if Teleride is not corrected rather than eliminated. As we know, the State right now will not pay the cost for prisoners. The State of Georgia will not pay the cost for probation of inmates. They will not pay for the public defender. They will not pay for pardons and parole of inmates. The State has virtually mawpawed all planned road projects, as very well spoken by Commissioner Gellatly a little while ago, saying that 2014 would be the earliest possible time before they'll even get back to the Truman Parkway. The State constantly places unfunded mandates on our schools, on our — all of the counties and all of the cities throughout the State of

Georgia. Examples today are abundant leading up to this. Today with mental health we heard the Chairman state, he said the State DHR, referring to the State DHR abandoned many Chatham County citizens. Referring to the State, Commissioners Gellatly and Odell calls it more State unfunded mandates. The Sheriff basically says the State is sticking it to us again. Commissioner Stone calls it cost-dumping.

The newspaper, which I will get to, the newspaper shows recently the cuts of Chatham Area Transit, significant cuts of the last two years. We went from a million and a half, which is threatened here, whatever the number is, down to virtually nothing for our own local transportation system over the last two years.

On that wall hangs a total that you wanted only in '05 and '06. We're over \$10,000,000 in money on that wall that we hung to make a point how bad the State is as far as paying for services that owe from '05 and '06 to Chatham County, Chatham County taxpayers over \$10,000,000. That's not '07 and '08.

So now that we know the State will not pay the price to educate our children, they won't pay the price to keep State criminals behind bars, they won't pay the price for our pardons and paroles, the price for public defender, they won't even pay the price for the Department of Family and Children Services. This is an organization which goes out, protects our children, the kids that cannot protect themselves. But we believe that the State of Georgia is going to fund a new transportation system for the whole County for \$30,000. Amazing.

[NOTE: Problems with tape recordings at this point.]

Mr. Joe Murray Rivers said, [tapes and DVD's were not recording]. When he said I needed to do this and he didn't care about other situations about this thing as Dean [Kicklighter] is which he said that I needed to do this and he didn't care about certain other situations. I didn't like that when he told me, but I know in order for us to keep the system going that we don't need that operation from him. We needed his cooperation in anything that we do so that we can continue to go on. He is the Civil Rights guy from that area.

Commissioner Odell asked, can we respond and can we lift the January 2<sup>nd</sup> date and have a discussion on all of the issues? Dean [Kicklighter] is going to share some information of a confidential nature regarding potential income — not income but monies. Right, Dean? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, and we can address it. We don't change anything until the second meeting in February. Is that a monumental problem for Teleride?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it is and I'll help you on this one. According to the letter from the FTA, the content of the letter led the FTA to reasonably believe that CAT is not fully complying with all service criteria. The FTA is requiring that CAT provide an annual update to its paratransit plan. The plan must be filed by January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009, and each succeeding year until CAT returns to full compliance. That's all they've asked from us, show a plan to do that.

Mr. Rivers said, and that was the reason for my urgency in moving because we — if we correct the situation, we don't have to deliver a plan. If the plan is there and we do what we are required to do, we don't have to have a plan. Now all of those six things that he addressed to me in that letter that I've got to give him an answer back on are done. Complete. Finished. And ACAT [phonetic], the citizens set and went over all of that. So that's done. I'm going to give him that.

Commissioner Odell asked, but you all are not saying different things? Mr. Rivers said, no, the only thing that I'm responsible to the FTA Director at the regional is that three-quarter of a mile because that's what he attests, and I'll talk to him. Commissioner Odell said, if we do that we in essence do not change the service boundaries until we can have a full hearing and do it the second meeting in February. That lies the deal. I think there's sufficient votes across the Commission for us to do that, and —.

Mr. Rivers said, point of order now. You can deal with funding, you can deal with funding for Teleride, but the authority —. Commissioner Odell said, oh, yeah, yeah. Mr. Rivers said, has to deal with anything that happens to the Teleride situation.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, we have with us a copy of a letter from Mr. Thomson, Executive Director. Can you come to the mike and explain to us why you support this, please?

Mr. Tom Thomson said, good morning or afternoon. Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, Tom Thomson, Executive Director of the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission. Is that the letter related to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Council Service? Commissioner Holmes said, yes. Mr. Thomson said, yesterday — Wednesday in the CUTS MPL meeting the Board — a member of the Board made a motion and it was seconded to endorse or encourage rather the County Commission to participate in the Regional Development Council's plan for a coordinated rural transportation system.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, you have two different things. You have Teleride. You'll not get to the item Mr. Thomson is testifying to until you go to VIII-2.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and Commissioner Holmes, I'm not opposed to the Urban Transit System. I think it's a fine thing, and I'll vote for it for the unincorporated areas today. I just don't believe the money will be there next year. I support it and I do not believe that it is a substitute for paratransit services for people living outside the three-fourths mile.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's review the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I made one but I'll remove it and let you make one. Chairman Liakakis asked, who seconded that motion? Commissioner Farrell said, I did. Chairman Liakakis asked, alright. Patrick [Farrell], would you accept to remove your second? Commissioner Farrell said, yes. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's move on from here.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, don't we have to have a motion to extend —? Chairman Liakakis said, well, he's going to —. I thought that's what he's going to do now. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. That's what I —, okay. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Harris [Odell]. It's done removed, that other motion.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. I move that we lift the January 2, 2009, deadline as far as amending the service area for Teleride and that this matter be placed upon the agenda to be considered at the first meeting of the CAT Board in January. Chairman Liakakis said, at our first County Commission meeting in January.

County Attorney Hart said, I would ask Commissioner Odell to accept an amendment to that to direct the CAT Board because y'all can vote on funding matters, but you can't make decisions for CAT.

Commissioner Odell said, your words and I adopt them as mind. Commissioner Shay said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. We have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell made a motion to lift the January 2, 2009, deadline as far as amending the service area for Teleride and request the CAT Board to place this item on the agenda for its first meeting in January, 2009.

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### **VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS**

<p>Unless action is contemplated at today's meeting, staff report and file material has not been duplicated in your agenda packet. The files are available from the Clerk. Those on which staff is requesting action are indicated by asterisk (*).</p>
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#### **1. TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RENOVATION OF THE WEST STREET YMCA (MAY STREET).**

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion on the floor to —. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Dr. Thomas is second. Commissioner Thomas said, oh, yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, this is the motion, folks, about the — we were explained about the — on a couple of occasions — last meeting and today by our Assistant County Manager that the money was there to fix that roof, that \$350,000, supposed to go to the May Street Y to do that. Do we have a motion on the floor now that we have been given the information.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve that. I've got one quick —. The Clerk said, we have not tabled the motion. Commissioner Odell asked, we need to vote on it. Motion to untable it. Commissioner Thomas said, untable it. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Odell said, and now I make my motion to approve the request and to simply say that we heard this two Fridays ago and on that Saturday morning James Holmes and I went over there and looked at the building. We talked to Mr. Doliber [phonetic] and we talked to Reverend Tillman. Our concern — my concerns have been alleviated. I want to make certain that there's a plan that the May Street had (1) a plan and (2) that they —.

The Clerk asked, did you receive a second to this motion? Commissioner Odell said, yes, Dr. Thomas. Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Commissioner Odell said, and I am confident that the money is needed. That's a good place for it and I strongly support it and would urge my colleagues to support it.

Commissioner Farrell asked, Harris [Odell], or whoever may be appropriate, do we have — is County staff going to be watching the project and kind of keeping tabs on how that money's going to be spent? Commissioner Odell said, right. We have our man.

Assistant County Manager Pat Monahan said, thank you, Commissioner Farrell. I think the way we're going to try to structure this is similar to the way the County structured a similar agreement with the Lucas Theatre back in the mid-1990s. The County will actually fund the City. The City of Savannah has assigned a Project Manager to oversee the project. So there will be public eyes on the expenditure of public funds. Chairman Liakakis said, what they're saying, one of the Commissioners, they want to make sure that this project, even though they've got a Project Manager, that it proceeds in the right manner as far as our obligations. Mr. Monahan said, speaking to the Project Manager, he also provides regular updates to the City of Savannah. I also spoke to the Assistant City Manager, so when those updates go to the City, then the County in turn will get the updates on the progress of construction.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I'd just like to recognize a handsome young man in the audience, Reverend Thurmond Tillman. I believe Reverend Tillman is an advocate for this project and is somebody that will also be an additional set of eyes to make sure that the project moves forward and is something that we can all be proud of.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I just want to say, yes, I can answer that, that this project will be reviewed constantly, just as we do with other projects, and that no stone will be unturned. I have asked Reverend Tillman, who is the Chairperson of the Board, to be here today along with others so if there was any further questions or concerns that was not addressed in your update, that he will be able to do that today. I would like to thank Mr. Monahan for moving forward in getting this information for me. At no time would I present a project to you that was not worthy of consideration.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Pete [Liakakis]. I was over to the initial press conference when the YMCA was asking for community support, and from that day to this day I've noticed various board members have become a part of that board, and I follow things by leads and leaders, and I see the lead now is on the good instruction and I feel good about the people who are leading that YMCA, and I'm speaking from a person who attends that YMCA on a weekly basis. I'm talking from experience, I'm talking to the leaders who are sitting on that board now, and I'm also talking from a standpoint that I visit and go in these community, and what I see now taking place at the YMCA, we've got the utmost respect that our money is going to be well spent.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Odell moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Odell moved to approve \$350,000 from the 1993-1998 SPLOST funds for participation in the renovation of the West Broad Street YMCA. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: VIII-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To provide additional information about the renovation of the West Broad Street YMCA (May Street).

**BACKGROUND:**

At the December 5 meeting, the Board discussed a proposal for Chatham County's participation in the renovation of the West Broad Street YMCA (May Street). Introduced by Vice Chair Priscilla Thomas, the proposal would partner Chatham County, City of Savannah and private fundraising to renovate the YMCA and restore its historical importance as a centerpiece for youth recreation and community programs. The County could exercise its previous funding and ownership of the property during SPLOST 1993-1998 to participate. Matching the City of Savannah's commitment would be \$350,000.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. Attached is a review of the project, which provides background on the conditions, including the proposed renovation plan and future safeguards to ensure the investment can be sustained into viable community and youth recreational programs.
2. The County would commit the funds by agreement with the City of Savannah, which will serve as managing partner to award contracts for work and oversee construction and quality control.

**FUNDING:**

SPLOST 1993-1993

**ALTERNATIVES:**

For information.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board should rightfully scrutinize any funding requests. The County's participation in this project follows its previous commitment in the 1993-1998 SPLOST, which voters approved.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For information.

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**2. FUNDING RDC REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM.**

Chairman Liakakis asked, what's the Board's desire on that today? Any comments? I see we have Barbara Hurst in the back there. Barbara, did you receive, after you sent the cost factor to those cities, have you received any comments from them?

The Clerk said, you need to take it off the table if you're going to discuss it.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we need a motion on the floor to take this Item 2, RDC Pilot Program off —.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. Go ahead, Barbara. All I need to know is if any of those city councils got back to you.

Ms. Barbara Hurst said, no sir. I have not sent the information. I sent it to you for your notification as to whether or not you wanted me to disseminate it or if you wanted to —.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, we had one of our staff people send it out. They emailed it to all of the Mayors. Ms. Hurst said, okay. I have not heard back from any of them. Chairman Liakakis said, that's what I wanted to find out from you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we place this back on the table until — no. That's not what we want to do? Okay, I'll withdraw my motion. That's fine. Everybody out there says that they want to hear it. So, you know, we already four and a half hours into the meeting, let's go ahead and hear it.

Chairman Liakakis said, here's what the discussion is. The RDC, I can let you know — isn't this true, Barbara? You can't start this immediately. You've got to wait until you get the approval, so it's not going to start on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Is that right.

Ms. Hurst said, yes sir, you're right. We cannot start it until we receive the contract from Georgia Department of Transportation. We have been — we've received approval from the Federal Transit Administration, but until we receive a contract and everybody knows that Georgia DOT is a year behind in issuing contracts, so I'm in line with everybody else.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. We cannot start this now until GDOT gives them permission. So we can do that once we work this other thing out because it's something that we need to do to help out — this RDC can be a big help to us in our community. So I'd like that motion on the floor to continue to keep it on there.

Commissioner Stone said, I'll make that motion, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have a motion on the floor to continue the RDC Regional Pilot Program on — to keep it on the table right now until our next meeting when we get all the information from you and others.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to tell you I received a phone call from the Port Wentworth Mayor this morning during the meeting and he stated that they held a meeting last night. The Council approved support of the Regional Transportation Plan but they do not want to pay any money for it. So —.

Chairman Liakakis said, wow! Commissioner Kicklighter said, but that's a better response than we've gotten from anyone else. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let's move on. Barbara [Hurst], thank you very much. We'll be in touch with you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I think Pooler will answer the question now that they have something in writing.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Stone moved to untable this item for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

- b. Commissioner Stone moved to table to the next meeting funding of the RDC Regional Transportation Pilot Program. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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### **IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

(Unless the Board directs otherwise, adoption of an Action Item will mean approval of the respective County staff report and its recommended action.)

- 1. TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS: (1) INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES IN THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND TO RECOGNIZE THE ROLL-FORWARD OF FY2008 GRANT BALANCES OF \$27,673, AND (2) TRANSFER \$3,200 WITHIN THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S BUDGET TO SALARIES AND BENEFITS.**

Commissioner Shay said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay made a motion to approve the following budget transfers and amendments: (1) Increase revenues and expenditures in the Multiple Grant Fund to recognize the roll-forward of FY2008 grant balances of \$27,673, and (2) transfer \$3,200 within the Court Administrator's budget to salaries and benefits. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**

**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

**ISSUE:** To request approval of the following budget transfers and amendments: (1) increase revenues and expenditures in the Multiple Grant Fund to recognize the roll-forward of FY2008 grant balances of \$27,673, and (2) transfer \$3,200 within the Court Administrator's budget to salaries and benefits.

#### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- (1) Chatham County has eight grants that extend across fiscal years. The balances remaining total \$27,673. The attached resolution amends the budget to account for grant activity that will occur in the current year.
- (2) The Superior Court Administrator has requested a transfer of \$3,200 within the department's budget to salaries and benefits to fill a vacancy. The new employee is being hired at a salary higher than the employee that is leaving. The proposed salary is greater than the budgeted salary. A transfer from an operating line item to salaries and FICA is requested.

**FUNDING:** Funds are available in the Court Administrator budget for the transfer. The budget amendment will establish funding in the Multiple Grant Fund.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

##### **MULTIPLE GRANT FUND**

increase revenues and expenditures by \$27,673 for FY2008 grant balances.

##### **GENERAL FUND M&O**

transfer \$3,200 within the Court Administrator's budget to salaries and benefits.

- (2) Amend or deny the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** State law grants the Board authority to amend the budget during the year as it deems necessary.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board approves Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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**2. TRANSMITTAL OF SUMMARY DATA FROM THE 2008 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND THE MANAGEMENT LETTER WITH RESPONSES TO THE SINGLE AUDIT FINDINGS AND THE MANAGEMENT LETTER. (NOTE: IF THE DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE, THE CAFR WILL ALSO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE BOARD.) RICK TINDOL, THE AUDITOR, WILL BE PRESENT.**

Commissioner Farrell said, so moved.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We won't have to go through the rest of it. Let them speak on this. We have a motion on the floor and a second, and I'm going to have Linda [Cramer] speak on this.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this is an important time and certainly these gentlemen could come back. This is your external auditor to you. You don't want to rush through this. If you'd like to delay it, that's fine. You do have the summary report. The audit itself document is being printed up. The important thing I want to point out to you as kind of a Christmas gift, number one, you have just about the finest auditing firm around and they have been doing this for decades, and I am just flat amazed knowing copious and detailed they are into analyzing the fiscal affairs of Chatham County, that for the first time in my memory they only came up with three findings, too, which are [inaudible].

Chairman Liakakis recognized Finance Director Linda Cramer.

Ms. Cramer said, we had a successful year with the audit. As you can see, our fund balance improved overall. We had limited number of comments, only three in the audit findings and I'd like — this was the year where we had to provide the auditors with a lot of documentation on our internal controls in the Finance Department and in other parts of the County, and I would like to give a lot of credit to Lesha Lanier, our new Assistant Finance Director, Read DeHaven and Tom Drane were all instrumental in working those internal controls and on the audit, as well as all the accountants that worked with Rick [Tindol] and Derrick [Cowart]. So I know Rick has a few things he'd like to mention to you, and we'll try to be brief.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Thank you.

Mr. Rick Tindol said, good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. It's again a pleasure to come before you, and I know you're running short on time so I promise this will be very brief. Derrick [Cowart] is passing out this financial — selected financial ratios that we do every year, and I'll just leave it to you mainly for information other than to point out that it's amazing through Russ [Abolt] and Linda [Cramer] and all the good work you've had with the economy being down and where you are financially, and these ratios will point that out that you did not decline any from the previous year in bad times. So again, without the hard work of all these dedicated individuals that would not have happened. You scored a total of — just jumping right into the middle of this — you scored a total of 14 points out of a possible 15 again for about the fourth straight year, up from 7 points back in 2002. So you've come a long way financially and you continue to hold that even in these difficult economic times.

Chairman Liakakis said, and that's attributed, of course, to this County Commission and our staff people. Correct? Mr. Tindol said, correct. Absolutely. Chairman Liakakis said, good.

Mr. Tindol said, it's a matter of being able to adjust, which Russ [Abolt] has done and, of course, there's hard decisions yet to be made, but you know, it's also — these — when people ask why do we have these fund balances? There's times like this when you have to have the significant fund balances to weather the storm, so to speak.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you, Rick [Tindol]. We appreciate your firm and, you know, the good auditing job you do for the citizens of Chatham County. Mr. Tindol said, thank you. Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, I just have a couple of small questions. Under these repeat problems, the centralized cash collection points, what are we — I mean, this has been on the book for a long time. County Manager Abolt said, longer than I've been here and as long as you have constitutional officers and different points of collection of cash, we'll always this. I don't want to say it's — it's not — it's not fixable, but it will require state legislation. In the past we tried it and it's just not apparently doable. Commissioner Stone said, but is this problematic? I mean, to see something on the CAFR repeatedly as a problem, and if it's something that's going to take state legislation is that something we need to be aware of and working on?

Mr. Tindol said, Derrick [Cowart] and Linda [Cramer] have discussed this and I think each of them may have a brief comment on that. Commissioner Stone said, okay, thank you.

Mr. Cowart said, yes, Commissioner Stone, I think that it's something to be aware of that there are risks out there and the County just needs to maintain watch and improve where you can. Some of the cases we're talking about is you've got very small or a few people working a particular area and often times it comes down to a cost benefit to the County.

County Manager Abolt said, also this is a finding that they've testified in the past that they find in most governments throughout the State, and we're not suffering.

Commissioner Stone said, there were a couple of others and in the essence of time I'll just get with Mr. Abolt and maybe he can answer them and, if not, I will seek from Ms. Cramer — Mr. Cowart said, y'all can give us a call any time. Commissioner Stone said, okay. I just want to make sure that we're — I mean, this County does such an exceptional job, I just want to make sure we're in compliance straight across the board. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yes. One comment. I'm making a request to the County Manager that 14 out of a 15 is extraordinary, and I would like to have a formal press release — not formal in the sense that we say anything, but just a formal written press release to everyone. The significance of this and certainly in the times that we face right now, why that's an extraordinary accomplishment and it needs to be expressed. I guarantee you that if our score was a 3 or a 4, it would be expressed all over the front page of the Sunday paper. County Manager Abolt said, we'll do it, sir. Commissioner Gellatly said, so let's make sure we get credit. County Manager Abolt said, we'll have Mr. Tindol a part of that. He's very photogenic.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank y'all very much. Appreciate it.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The external auditor, Rick Tindol, presented to the Board the summary data from the 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the Management Letter with responses to the Single Audit Findings and the Management Letter.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

**ISSUE:** Transmittal of summary data from the 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the Management Letter with responses to the Single Audit Findings and the Management Letter. *(Note: If the document is available, the CAFR will also be transmitted to the Board).*

**BACKGROUND:** The 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report ("CAFR") will be submitted to the State of Georgia and the Government Finance Officers Association's award program by December 31, 2008. Publication of the CAFR has been delayed this year due to additional time needed by one of the County's component units.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The CAFR represents the audited financial report of Chatham County prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The CAFR presents the recorded financial transactions and activities of Chatham County for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Due to additional time needed this year by one of the County's component units, printing of the CAFR has been delayed. Upon receipt, the document will be forwarded to the Board.
2. Summary data is available. At June 30, 2008 the main operating funds of the County were the General Fund and the Special Service District. Components of fund balance for these funds at year end were

<b>General Fund and Special Service District</b>		
<b>June 30, 2008</b>		
<b>(in 000s)</b>		
Fund Balance	General Fund	SSD
<i>Components:</i>		
Reserved	\$ 3,212	\$ 636
Unreserved, Designated	8,197	263
Unreserved, Undesignated	12,446	9,831

Total Fund Balance	\$	<u>23,855</u>	\$	<u>10730</u>
Change from Prior Year	\$	<u>868</u>	\$	<u>151</u>

3. The amount shown in the General Fund as Fund Balance – Unreserved, Undesignated of \$12.4 million is equal to one month of operating expenditures.
4. In the Special Service District, the amount shown as Fund Balance – Unreserved, Undesignated of \$9.8 million is equal to three months of operating expenditures plus the fund balance appropriated for fiscal 2009 year of \$2.6 million.
5. Amounts shown as Fund Balance - Unreserved, Designated in both funds are in excess of stated reserve policies. These funds can be utilized for capital improvement projects or other significant organizational expenditures such as funding for the other-post employment benefits trust fund (future retiree health care). In the General Fund, this amount equals \$8.2 million. In the SSD Fund, this amount equals \$262,797.
6. The CAFR includes the County's government-wide financial statements. These statements present all activities of Chatham County on the accrual basis of accounting and include capital assets as well as long-term debt. Overall the County's net assets as shown on the government-wide statements increased from the prior year by \$43 million. Most of the increase is the result of revenues received in advance of capital project spending (e.g. SPLOST funds).
7. The independent auditor prepares a Single Audit Report as required by *Government Auditing Standards* and *OMB Circular A-133*. This report includes a Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs pertaining to fiscal 2008 activities. Responses to the findings are attached.
8. A status report on the findings and questioned costs for fiscal 2007 is also attached.
9. A copy of the Management Letter with departmental responses is also attached.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** The Finance Department remains committed to the timely preparation of financial reports and to the elimination of findings related to processes and internal controls.

**ALTERNATIVES:** N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN APPLICATION TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATED TO THE OPEB TRUST FUND SECTION 115 TRUST, AUTHORIZE POWER OF ATTORNEY TO THE HAY GROUP WITH THE IRS IN RELATION TO THIS MATTER, AND PROVIDE BUDGET APPROVAL FOR THE APPLICATION FEE.**

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, we recommend again the blonde lady on the Empire State Building is fighting the gorilla and starting to win. This allows Internal Revenue Service to make it even more cost-appealing to us as we create this trust fund and manage an obligation over several years. Please pass it.

Commissioner Stone said, I make the motion to approve. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve an application to the Internal Revenue Service related to the OPEB Trust Fund Section 115 Trust and authorize power of attorney to The Hay Group with the IRS in relation to this matter,

and provide budget approval for the application fee. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

**ISSUE:** To request that the Board approve an application to the Internal Revenue Service related to the OPEB Trust Fund Section 115 Trust, authorize power of attorney to The Hay Group with the IRS in relation to this matter, and provide budget approval for the application fee.

**BACKGROUND:** In March 2008 the Board approved the establishment of a trust fund for investment purposes for the Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust Fund. As part of this process, application needs to be made to the Internal Revenue Service for a determination that the trust is exempt from taxation under Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The OPEB Trust Fund was established in fiscal 2008 to account for funding of current retiree health care and life insurance benefits as well as pre-funding of future benefits. The Trust Fund was established as a result of statements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board that changed the treatment of related liabilities on the County's financial reports.
2. As a result of the GASB statements, an actuarial determination is now performed each year to assess the impact of retiree healthcare and insurance costs. The actuary determines how much the County should set aside annually to cover costs. The amount that the County does not fund is recorded on its financial statements as a liability. This liability accumulates over time and could become quite substantial.
3. To offset the liability, the County established the OPEB Trust Fund. The Fund will invest in equities and fixed income securities that should provide a higher investment return over time than money market accounts. The higher investment yields will assist in providing funding for the retiree other post employment benefit costs.
4. As part of this process, the County will need to make application to the IRS for the trust to be tax exempt. The County's actuary, The Hay Group, will make this application for the County and work directly with the IRS. In this role, they will need a power of attorney authorization from the County.
5. The IRS charges \$11,500 for this application. The fee will be paid from the OPEB Trust Fund.

**FUNDING:** Funding for the application fee of \$11,500 is provided in the OPEB Trust Fund, 786 9130 52.12099.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** A determination of tax exempt status will benefit the Trust since overall costs will be lower.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1) That the Board approve the Section 115 Trust Application, the Power of Attorney related to this matter with the IRS for The Hay Group, and the application fee, or
- 2) That the Board provide alternate direction.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend Alternative 1.

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**4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR STUDY OF PIPEMAKERS CANAL FLOODWAY WITH THE CITY OF POOLER.**

Chairman Liakakis said, there's \$140,000 cost factor. The City of Pooler will pay \$70,000, the County will pay \$70,000 because this is really important from the information that the Federal Emergency Management Agency sent to us about this floodway out in that general area because what has happened is we believe, talking to a number of developers and others that have the expertise, that the information that was distributed by FEMA was incorrect and a lot of people's property in that area of Pooler specifically, that they have lost the value of their land.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, move for approval, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay made a motion to approve an intergovernmental agreement for study of Pipemakers Canal Floodway with the City of Pooler at a cost to the County of \$70,000. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-4**

**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Leon Davenport, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

**ISSUE:** To approve an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Pooler and Chatham County to restudy the Pipemakers Canal and to share the cost in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.

**BACKGROUND:** A new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shows an increase in the floodway adjacent to the Pipemakers Canal. The Unincorporated Count and the municipalities were required to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The new DFIRMs show a significant increase in the size of the floodway along the Pipemakers Canal. This has had an impact on existing developments and reduced the amount of land that could be developed in the Pipemakers Canal Basin. Some developments previously thought to be out of the floodway area are now located within the floodway boundaries.
2. Determination of the floodway area was made by FEMA using information provided from several different entities. The methods and information used in making this designation should be reviewed to ensure that appropriate modeling techniques and information were used. The restudy could result in a Letter of Map Revision that would change the floodway boundaries within the jurisdiction of Pooler, Bloomingdale, Garden City and Savannah.
3. By this agreement the County agrees to divide the cost equally for the restudy with the City of Pooler. The County's share would therefore be in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Pooler and Chatham County to study the Pipemakers Canal and to share the cost in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.
2. That the Board not approve the agreement.

**FUNDING:** Funds are available in the 1998-2003 SPLOST Pipemakers Canal (Fund 322.4250; 52.12003; 322.80213).

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** The Board must approve intergovernmental agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board approve Alternative No. 1.

District 7,8

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**5. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY COMMANDER HARRIS.**

Commander Roy Harris said, good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm Roy Harris, Commander of CNT. Again, it's a pleasure to be with you today, though it's been a rather long day. If you will look at the report that you have there, first

on page one, the first thing I want to mention is, of course, we executed 10 search warrants during the month of November, but the interesting thing there, the stats we're looking at. For 2007 CNT made 66 drug buys, actual buys from individuals, and I have been stressing that we address that more firmly, and for this year up until the end of November we had upped that to 162 buys. That's where an agent actually buys drugs from a defendant. The reason that is important is if you go back and look at possession of a drug it's far less of a drug than when you make a hand-to-hand sale. We look at possession of cocaine, the first offense is a 2 to 15-year range, but if we look at possession with intent to distribute, this is where we have other items there such as bags, scales and other things to show the person was in the distribution market, then you've got a first offense of 5 to 30 years. When we get down to sales, it's 5 to 30 years and trafficking is first offense 10 years and \$100,000 fine. So we're seeking those upper thresholds when we're doing this.

If you look down through the, oh, what have we got, eight items there, you will see that during the month we conducted some type of joint investigation with about every legal entity in this area. We had, of course, the Sheriff's Department assisted us on the 10-kilo stop on I-16. We had an investigation with GBI, Metro Police, DEA and the Sheriff's Department again executing warrants here in Savannah as a result of information developed out of that traffic stop, and we seized another half pound of marijuana, three firearms including a stolen .50 caliber pistol and a Glock 9mm that had the serial numbers removed, \$16,000 in currency again hidden in the attic, which is a great place to hide your money by the way because a lot of people seem to be doing that.

We assisted DEA with a roundup of defendants of the 45 people following the rather lengthy investigation we had ongoing last year and this year. That one we put about 4,000 personnel hours into that investigation.

Number 5, we assisted DEA and Beaufort County Investigators. We got a call from them saying that they had information there was drugs in a house and there was a trap place. The actual trap compartment was in the stairway there. It was very uniquely designed where you pull some carpet off and a door was drug. The drugs were gone, but we did recover a stolen pistol from the stove and scales and some packaging materials that had cocaine residue on that.

We also assisted the Immigration Customs Enforcement on two different occasions involving some Mexican nationals that were here illegally that were also distributing drugs, and Item 8 we worked with MACE, which is Liberty County's drug squad targeting three people.

We gave you an update there on Operation Raging Waters. If you remember Raging Waters, that was the case where Metropolitan Police initiated this to try to stop some of the gang violence here in the City of Savannah and Chatham County. We approached from the CNT angle these gangs on the drug nexus and tied them together. If you look at these, we had two more sentenced for federal time on these cases here, and if you go down the list you'll see sentences of 11.25 years, 10 years, 8 years, and a lot of 5-year sentences, which in the federal system they serve about 99% of this time once they go in there. A lot of these are gun charges. I think we significantly made some impact on some of our gang activity going through this type of nexus.

This past month we had 40 undercover buys by our people and another 29 by informants to put us at 97 active investigations. We seized over a million dollars worth of powder cocaine and about \$55,000 worth of marijuana, 9 firearms and arrested 74 people. This was a pretty banner month for us to have that many arrests.

If you go back to page eight, you will see there the breakdown of hours worked by zone. Central Precinct was the number one with 640 hours, Garden City was the number one in the other municipalities as the number of hours and that was basically on the joint ICE investigation with the Mexican illegals.

We had a lot of court hours again this month, the total hours worked. So that's a quick rundown of that report, which is fairly self-explanatory. If you have any questions, I'll try to answer them.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Commander Harris. We appreciate your leadership again, as we stated before. We've got a good drug squad and a lot of people in the community don't realize. I'm glad that the newspaper is finally in the last number of months now are printing the results that the CNT has gotten, and that makes a big difference in our community and the majority of those, well over 90% are in the City of Savannah. And one of the things that you just mentioned, too, that's really important, instead of just going up and just grabbing somebody off of the street, we can see if somebody's charged with possession if they got drugs on them, they go up to the court and get probation or they might just get a small fine, something like that, but once they make the purchase from that person selling it instead of just going arresting them, you know, for possession that we can see the results of those longer terms that they are getting in jail, and we really need that because we've got too many people in our community that are selling drugs, and if you don't get them on that type of thing, then we've got problems because they're back out on the streets selling again. Thank you, Commander.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commander Roy Harris gave a verbal report on the statistics of the Counter Narcotics Team for the month of November, 2008.

Chatham Savannah  
Counter Narcotics Team  
Monthly Report  
November  
2008

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

1. Search Warrants executed: 10 – Arrests for Drug Sales in 2007 – 66  
Arrests for Drug Sales in 2008 - 162
2. On 11/09/08 agents developed information following a lengthy investigation that a target was transporting a large quantity of cocaine into Savannah on I-16. The vehicle was stopped by CCSO and CNT. After a search warrant was obtained, a search of the vehicle produced approximately ten (10) kilograms of cocaine concealed under a rear passenger seat. The driver was later arrested for trafficking in cocaine and the vehicle was seized.
3. In connection with the events from 11/09/08, CNT along with GBI, SCMPD, DEA, and CCSD, executed search warrants on Leeward Drive, Garland Drive, and Culverton Court, Savannah, Georgia. As a result of the search warrants, agents seized cocaine, approximately a half pound of marijuana, 3 firearms (these included a stolen .50 caliber and a Glock 9mm that had the serial numbers removed), packaging materials, and approximately \$16,000 in currency concealed in an attic. Agents also arrested five subjects in connection with the investigation for trafficking in cocaine, possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, and possession of stolen property.
4. CNT assisted DEA with a round-up of defendants involved in a recent joint DEA/CNT investigation. Agents assisted in the arrest of approximately 45 subjects who were indicted by the Southern District of Georgia on Federal drug crimes. CNT agents logged over 4000 hours during this long-term investigation.
5. Investigations executed a search warrant on Screven Avenue, Savannah, Georgia after receiving information from DEA and Beaufort County Drug Investigators about leftover contraband. Agents found a stolen 9mm firearm in the stove, numerous digital scales and bags (with cocaine residue) and an empty concealed compartment found hidden in one of the stairs.
6. Investigations received information in reference a suspicious package. Agents took custody of the package and provided CNT Intell with all the pertinent information. The marijuana was removed which was found to weigh approximately 20 pounds.
7. Investigations concluded a joint investigation with ICE by executing two search warrants in the Savannah and Garden City area. As a result of the search warrants, agents seized over 10 ounces of powder cocaine, cutting agents, two firearms, packaging materials, numerous boxes of unspent ammunition, and approximately \$3,500 in currency. Four subjects, Mexicans illegally in the US, were arrested and charged with trafficking in cocaine and sales of cocaine.
8. Agents worked with M.A.C.E. on several cases which led to 3 targets being arrested on felony possession charges. These arrests were made in both Liberty and Effingham counties. Separate sales warrants will be served in Chatham (our case) after the Liberty county subject is extradited.

**OPERATION RAGING WATERS – Sentencing Up-dates**

9. On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, Ahmad Rashaad FERGUSON was sentenced before Chief US District Court Judge William T. Moore Jr. following a Rule 11 proceeding where ROSS entered a guilty plea to Possession of Cocaine Base with Intent to Distribute. FERGUSON who was an enforcer for the Hitch Village Posse before his arrest was sentenced to serve 120 months in custody of the Bureau of Prisons followed by 60 months supervised release.

On Tuesday, November 4, 2008, Amos GREEN entered a plea of guilty at a Rule 11 proceeding for Possession of a Firearm by Convicted Felon before Chief US District Court Judge William T. Moore Jr, GREEN was one of the original members of the Gwinnett Street Posse and will be sentenced as an armed career criminal.

**US DISTRICT COURT CASES**

**HITCH VILLAGE POSSE**

Michael "Blue" FERGUSON * SENTENCED TO 135 MONTHS	CONVICTED	DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS
Ahmad "Mhad" FERGUSON SENTENCED TO 120 MONTHS	CONVICTED	DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS
Samson "Sam" FERGUSON * PENDING SENTENCING	CONVICTED	DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS
Terry JACKSON SENTENCED TO 60 MONTHS	CONVICTED	POSSESSION OF FIREARM DURING DRUG CRIME
Laquesha OLIVER SENTENCED TO 28 MONTHS	CONVICTED	MAINTAINING DRUG INVOLVED PREMSIS
Seville "Breeze" JENKINS SENTENCED TO 12 MONTHS	CONVICTED	POSSESSION OF STOLEN FIREARM
Maroln "Marlon D" ROSS SENTENCED TO 97 MONTHS	CONVICTED	DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS

**WATERS AVENUE CREW**

James "Fat Cuz" JOHNSON * * CRIME PENDING SENTENCING	CONVICTED	DIST. OF NARC./POSS. F/A DURING DRUG
Yusef "Sef" JACKSON * SENTENCED TO 120 MONTHS	CONVICTED	POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON
Desmond TOLBERT SENTENCED TO 60 MONTHS	CONVICTED	POSSESSION WITH INTENT NARCOTICS

**GWINNETT STREET POSSE**

Antonio "Dub" GARDNER * * SENTENCED TO 120 MONTHS	CONVICTED	POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON
Amos GREEN PENDING SENTENCING	CONVICTED	POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON

**NO AFFILIATION**

Bertram Wendell MARTIN CRIME PENDING SENTENCING	CONVICTED	POSSESSION OF FIREARM DURING DRUG
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\* BLUE ASTERICK DENOTES THAT SUBJECT WAS A LEADER IN RESPECTIVE GANG.

<b>UNDERCOVER BUYS</b>	
<b>Buys</b>	<b>Number</b>
Undercover Buys	40
Confidential Informant Buys	29

<b>SHORT – LONG TERM NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS*</b>	
<b>Investigations</b>	<b>Number</b>
Investigations Initiated During the month	14
Active Investigations from prior months	88
Active <b>Joint</b> Investigations with other agencies (DEA, AFT, IRS, etc.) - Immigration, Customs Enforcement - US Army Criminal Investigative Division	2

Total Number of Active Investigations	97
Total Number of Active Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)	5

\* Not including on-view arrests

<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>			
<b>Drug Type</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Approx. Weight</b>	<b>Approx. Total Value</b>
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	22.93 Pounds	\$1,040,170
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	41.9 Grams	\$4,190
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	N/A	N/A
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	24.9 Pounds	\$55,704
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	14 D/U	\$350
Misc Pills	Various	297 D/U	N/A
LSD	\$10 Dosage Unit	12 D/U	\$120
Methadone	\$10 Dosage Unit	81 D/U	\$810

\* Source: Office National Drug Control Policy

\*\* Source: Established regional average price

\*\*\*Source: IAW GBI reporting – One marijuana plant equals 2.2 lbs of processed marijuana

<b>WEAPONS SEIZED</b>	
Firearms (including hand guns and long guns)	9

<b>PERSONS ARRESTED*</b>	
Powder Cocaine – Possession	0
Powder Cocaine – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale	2
Powder Cocaine – Trafficking	5
Crack Cocaine – Possession	0
Crack Cocaine – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale	6
Crack Cocaine – Trafficking	0
Marijuana – Possession	5
Marijuana – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale	11
Marijuana – Trafficking	0
Methamphetamine – Possession / Manufacture / Sale	0
MDMA / Ecstasy Sales / Possession / Trafficking	0
Prescription Drugs – Fraud / Forgery / Possession / Sale	1
Heroin Possession/Sales	0
Criminal Attempt to Possess Controlled Substances	0
Non-Drug Related Offenses**	5
Possession of Drug Related Objects	0
Distribution of Cocaine-Conspiracy (Federal Indictments Served)	39

Total Arrest	74
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\* Characterized by the highest charge filed, **NOT** total charges.  
 \*\*Non-drug related offenses include firearms violations, Obstruction, Simple Battery, etc.

ADOPTION CASES FROM OTHER AGENCIES	
AGENCY	OFFENSE
No adoptions reported this month	

ASSET FORFEITURES	
US Currency Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)	\$22,047.00
US Currency Awarded	\$146,522.00
Motor Vehicles Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)	2
Motor Vehicles Awarded	1998 Ford Econoline
Personal Property Awarded	N/A

DRUG COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED		
Drug Complaints	Received	Assigned
Project Log/Official Complaints	1	1
Green Sheets/ Outside Agencies	4	4
Hot line/ Call-In Complaints	7	7
Crime Stopper Complaints	13	11

COMMUNITY MEETINGS	
<b>Sergeants and/or agents attended the following Community Meetings:</b>	
1. On November 13, 2008, Commander Harris along with Lieutenants Mitchell and Smith attended a monthly CLEO (Coastal Law Enforcement Officers) meeting held at SCAD.  2. On November 18, 2008, Commander Harris attended the Georgia Sheriff's Association Annual Conference held at the Hyatt in Savannah.  3. On November 20, 2008, Commander Harris instructed a criminal justice class at AASU on current narcotic trends.	<b>**In addition to these monthly meetings and activities the following are done every month:</b>  -Every Monday Commander Harris or Captain McBurney attends the SCMPD Command Staff meeting at headquarters.  -Every Wednesday, Captain McBurney or Lt. Mitchell and our intelligence agent attend a Compstat meeting held at SCMPD headquarters. This meeting addresses current statistics, crime trends and other activities that occurred during the week in the various Precincts.

<b>TRAINING STATISTICS</b>
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Course Title	Agents Trained	Course hours per Agent
5-Day Block	2	40
Electronic Surveillance	1	8
Advanced Narcotics Investigation	1	40

**DRUG INVESTIGATION**

**HOURS WORKED BY ZONE**

SCMPD – West Chatham Precinct	387.5
SCMPD – Downtown Precinct	193.5
SCMPD – Central Precinct	640
SCMPD – Southside Precinct	168.5
SCMPD – Islands Precinct	147
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1536.5</b>
Garden City	101.5
Port Wentworth	8
Bloomington	0
Pooler	33
Thunderbolt	7
Tybee Island	18.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>168</b>
Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.)	75.25
Assistance Rendered to Outside Agencies	35
Training	128
Court Hours	255.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>493.75</b>
<b>Total Hours Worked</b>	<b>2,198.25</b>

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

(The Board can entertain one motion to adopt the below-listed calendar. Such motion would mean adoption of staff's recommendation. Any Board Member may choose to pull an item from the calendar and it would be considered separately.)

Chairman Liakakis said, we've got one and we voted to bring Item 5 under 1-A a little bit earlier to request the Board declare a surplus an unused portion of right-of-way on Fair Road. We've got those items, 1 through 15-K, and holding — I have a request to hold Items K. Any other items that you would like —.

County Manager Abolt said, table Item K until your next meeting.

Commissioner Farrell said, and J. Chairman Liakakis said, Items K and J. Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, I just want a little more clarification for Item H. Chairman Liakakis said, Item H. Okay, we need a —.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move that we table Items 15-J and 15-K until the next meeting. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you. Mr. Leonard is here to comment on the question about billboards, holding up technology along — not holding up, supporting technology.

Commissioner Shay said, we need to vote, we need to vote.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's vote on this thing. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stone said, just some clarification on what the problem is under Item H, if this is something significant because the billboard companies don't want to participate. Mr. Lewis Leonard said, actually that's correct, but the big hangup was the Department of Transportation. When we started the project we asked them what the process is to get on the right-of-way and they said, well, you fill out the application, you give them to us, we evaluate them and tell you

what's wrong, you know, work it out, but you've got to jump through all of our hoops. Well, when we did that then they said we don't want you on the right-of-way and basically told us to go away. So Plan B was to use the billboard companies, mainly one billboard company, and they didn't want to work with us either, so we're doing this data network to the current radio system. Instead of going low with it, we'll go high with it and we'll cover the County that way. Commissioner Stone asked, so it can still be covered? Mr. Lewis said, yes. Commissioner Stone said, I mean, because this is Public Safety Radio and I just want to make sure that we had an alternative to — if the Department of Transportation or the billboard companies didn't want to cooperate, I just wanted to make sure it wasn't endangering us. Mr. Lewis said, we were under the impression that DOT would cooperate since we were going to put up cameras on 95 and 16, and we had hoped to aid them in the contra-flow decisions about when the — if a hurricane was coming — to evacuate — turn I-16 four ways going West, but they didn't want to participate. Commissioner Stone said, I think that's a real shame.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, which item are you on? Commissioner Stone said, H, 15-H.

Commissioner Shay asked, are you through? Commissioner Stone said, I'm finished. Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we adopt the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 15, Items A through I. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Shay moved to table Items 15-J and 15-K. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously
- b. Commissioner Shay moved to approve Items 1 through 15-I. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**[NOTE: ACTION OF THE BOARD IS SHOWN ON EACH ITEM AS THOUGH AN INDIVIDUAL MOTION WAS MADE THEREON.]**

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2008, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 5, 2008. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**1-A. REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS AN UNUSED PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ON FAIR ROAD AND RECONVEY IT BY QUIT CLAIM TO THE SUCCESSOR IN TITLE TO THE GRANTOR AND NOW ALSO THE ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNER.  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

[NOTE: This item was moved from to the Action Calendar, Item 1-A, from Item VI-5.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the request to declare as surplus an unused portion of right-of-way on Fair Road and reconvey it by quitclaim to the successor in title to the grantor and now also the abutting property owner. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-1A  
AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager  
**ISSUE:**

To declare as surplus an unused portion of right-of-way on Fair Road and reconvey it by quit claim to the successor in title to the grantor and now also the abutting property owner.

**BACKGROUND:**

Telfair Business Center, LL.C., requests that Chatham County quit claim a portion of Fair Road which was conveyed in July 1953 for an extension of the roadway, but the County never opened it nor maintained it. Duval Engineering and Contracting Company donated the 3/10 of an acre parcel. Telfair Business Center, LL.C., as successor in title, requests that since the County has no plans to extend Fair Road, the County reconvey it. As a requirement of law, Telfair Business Center is also the abutting property owner.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. The property of interest is a tract of 3/10 fo an acre of unopened right-of-way on Fair Road, which Duval Engineering and Contracting Company donated to Chatham County in July 1953 for an extension of the roadway. Telfair Business Center, LL.C., as successor in title to Duval Engineering requests the return of the unopened right-of-way.

2. County staff has reviewed the roadway's location and believes it should be regarded as surplus since the land could not be used for any public purpose. Staff noted that a portion of the property encroaches into the S&O Canal right-of-way, which means no encroachment of improvements into the planned recreational corridor.

3. Since the grantor donated the property, the County would not seek compensation from the successor in title.

**FUNDING:**

Funding is not applicable (return of property to successor in title to the original grantor).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board declare the 3/10 of an acre tract of unopened right-of-way on Fair Road as surplus and reconvey it by quit claim deed to Telfair Business Center, LL.C., the successor in title to the original grantor.

2. Take no action and continue the County's interest in the property for future use.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §32-7-4), Chatham County must follow certain procedures in the disposition of public right-of-way. Under the law, declaration of surplus right-of-way must be offered according to a three-tier preference: 1) to the owner of the property at the time of the acquisition (Duval Engineering and Contracting); 2) to the owner of the abutting property (Telfair Business Center); or 3) public sale. In this case, Telfair Business Center owns the adjoining property but also became successor in title to Duval Engineering.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 26, 2008, THROUGH DECEMBER 10, 2008.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period November 26, 2008, through December 10, 2008, in the amount of \$1,293,667. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2008 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve an amendment to the 2008 holiday schedule to recognize Christmas holidays as being Thursday, December 25, 2008, and Friday, December 26, 2008. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**

**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Michael A. Kaigler, Director  
Human Resources & Services

**Issue:**

To amend the 2008 holiday schedule.

**Background:**

On November 16, 2007, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved the 2008 holiday schedule recognizing Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) and Thursday, 25, 2008 (Christmas Day) as holidays. Due to the days that the holidays fall in 2008, changes made by other governments and inquiries from departments and employees, staff examined the possibility of moving the Christmas Eve holiday, December 24 to the day after Christmas, December 26; thus, creating a three day consecutive work week and a two day vacation for the week of December 22, 2008.

**Facts and Findings**

1. The State of Georgia and the City of Savannah have modified their 2008 holiday calendar to designate December 25 and 26, 2008 as holidays.
2. If approved, payroll will be issued on Wednesday, December 24, 2008.
3. County Departments were polled about their support for a change and whether their department would be significantly impacted by the change, if approved. Over ninety percent (90%) of the departments supported the change and did not foresee any major service disruptions. A few departments cited concerns about employee pre-approved leave and confirmed travel plans.

**Funding:**

No additional funds required. These days are currently budgeted as work days.

**Alternatives:**

1. Amend the 2008 Holiday Schedule.
2. Do not amend the 2008 Holiday Schedule.

**Policy Analysis:**

Each year the Board of Commissioners authorize eleven holidays on which offices are to be closed. It is the policy of the Board to provide paid holidays as an employee benefit. This practice is consistent with other major employers in the local and regional labor market areas.

**Recommendation:** That the Board adopt Alternative One.

**CHATHAM COUNTY  
2008 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 21
George Washington's Birthday (President's Day)	February 18
Memorial Day	May 26
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 1
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving (two days)	November 27 & 28
Christmas Eve	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25

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**4. REQUEST BOARD TENTATIVELY SET MEETING DATES FOR 2009. THE SCHEDULE WILL BE CONFIRMED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR IN JANUARY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to tentatively set meeting dates for 2009 to immediately follow 9:00 a.m. pre-meeting for the third Friday in January, second and fourth Fridays in February, March, May, June, August and September, second Thursday and fourth Friday in April, second Friday and Fourth Thursday in July, third Friday in October, and first and third Fridays in November and December, with the schedule to be confirmed at the first meeting of 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4****AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To tentatively set the days and time for regular Commission meetings for 2009. The Board will be asked to confirm adoption of the calendar at the first meeting of 2009.

**BACKGROUND:**

The County's Enabling Act requires the action be taken during the first meeting of the Board each year.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Enabling Act states:  
*The Board of Commissioners shall hold two regular meetings each month except as may otherwise be determined by the Board of Commissioners, at the County seat for all matters requiring action of an administrative or policy nature, and for all matters advertised or scheduled for hearing in which the public will be asked to speak for or against the items under consideration, which meetings shall be open to the public. At the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners in January of each year, the Board of Commissioners shall set the days and the time when it will hold its regular meetings. Meeting hours for the public hearings may be changed by action of the Board of Commissioners and may be held at such hour as stated in the public notice of the date and time of such hearing. Special or additional meetings may be held as necessary upon call of the Chairman or any five members of the Board of Commissioners, provided all members of the Board of Commissioners have been notified at least 24 hours in advance of such special or additional meeting, and such notice shall specify the subject matter to be considered.*
2. The Commission has met on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the past except for November and December. The meetings in November and December are held on the first and third Fridays to allow for the holidays. There are five Fridays in October 2009. Changing to first and third Fridays beginning in November will allow at least two weeks between meetings for the remainder of the year.
3. Because of various conflicts during the month of January, there will be just one meeting on January 16, 2009.
4. The ACCG Legislative Conference will be February 9 and 10, 2009, in Atlanta. This will not be a conflict.
5. The NACo Legislative Conference will be March 7 through March 11, 2009, in Washington, D.C. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
6. In 1998 the Board asked that in future years meetings not be scheduled on Good Friday. In 2009 Good Friday will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This will conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule. Suggest that the first meeting of April be moved to Thursday, the 9<sup>th</sup>.
7. The ACCG Annual Meeting will be April 25 through 29, 2009, in Chatham County. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
8. The NACo Annual Conference will be July 24 through 28, 2009, in Davidson County (Nashville), Tennessee. This does conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule. Further complications on the July schedule are School Board millage approval and the requirement for the Tax Assessor to deliver the digest to Atlanta by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. Suggest holding the July meetings on Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

9. The ACCG Fall Policy Conference will be October 7 through 9, 2009, in Atlanta. This will conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule. Suggest Board have just one October meeting on the third Friday, October 16, 2009.
10. Currently the pre-meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to be followed immediately by the regular meeting, generally at 9:30 a.m.
11. A calendar is attached showing County holidays for 2009 and tentative Commission meeting dates.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Set meeting time to immediately follow 9:00 a.m. pre-meeting and set dates for the third Friday in January; second and fourth Fridays in February, March, May, June, August and September; second Thursday and fourth Friday in April; second Friday and fourth Thursday in July; third Friday in October; first and third Fridays in November and December, schedule to be confirmed at first meeting of the year.
2. Set meeting time and dates as designated by Commissioners, schedule to be confirmed at first meeting of the year in January.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Compliance with the Enabling Act.

**FUNDING:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative #1.

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**5. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA POWER ON SCOTT DRIVE.  
[DISTRICT 1.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to authorize the execution of an Easement Agreement with Georgia Power for use of County property on Scott Drive adjoining Memorial Stadium and the one-time funds shall be as designated in Facts & Findings 3 of the staff report. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5**

**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To authorize execution of an easement agreement with Georgia Power on Scott Drive.

**BACKGROUND:**

Georgia Power Co. is upgrading and adding a 115KV transmission line. The company has a preferred routing along Scott Drive to a planned transmission substation near Truman Parkway. Georgia Power has presented an easement agreement for use of county property on Scott Drive adjoining Memorial Stadium.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. Georgia Power has provided an easement agreements. The routing of its transmission line would impact 1.066 acres of county property.
2. The Department of Public Works & Parks Services has reviewed the routing and concurred that it would not adversely impact Memorial Stadium.
3. Based on the Assessor's Office value of \$1.20 SF for in this area, a 1.066 acre easement would be valued at \$55,722. Staff is suggesting the following:
  - 3.1 Proceeds from the easement would be designated to the capital project for relocation of Public Works & Parks Services.

- 3.2 The cost of any increased power service to the Memorial Stadium or new Public Works and Parks Services complex would be offset from the \$55,722 and the balance be designated as a one-time revenue for the relocation of Public Works and Parks Services.

**FUNDING:**

Not applicable (revenue generating).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board authorize execution of the easement agreement and designation of the one-time funds as noted in "Facts & Findings" #3.
2. That the Board authorize execution of the easement agreement but without charge to Georgia Power.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

State law and the Enabling Act provide the Board with the trust of owning, managing and controlling public property, including authorization for the County to enter into an easement agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**6. REQUEST BOARD EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WHICH AUTHORIZES GARDEN CITY AND POOLER TO MANAGE PHASES OF THE S&O CANAL CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN WITHIN ITS INCORPORATED AREA.  
[DISTRICTS 6, 7 AND 8.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the execution of an agreement which authorizes Garden City and Pooler to manage phases of the S&O Canal Corridor Master Plan within its incorporated area. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6**

**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To execute an agreement which authorizes Garden City and Pooler to manage phases of the S&O Canal Corridor Master Plan within its incorporated area.

**BACKGROUND:**

By contract with Chatham County, the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Society agreed to manage the 1998-2003 SPLOST funds dedicated to the S&O Canal Corridor. A Master Plan (January 2001) guides the projects to complete a recreational trail with historic components. The 16.5-mile project includes four phases with multiple sections and segments totaling \$7 million (2001 dollars). Several segments and sections are located within the incorporated limits of Garden City and Pooler.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. Attached is a letter of concurrence from the Savannah Ogeechee Canal Society which confirms the cooperative relationship between the Society and the cities of Garden City and Pooler. To date, because of a mix of leadership changes within the Society and uncertainty about managing a project of this scope, success in completing sections of the master plan with available funding has lagged.
2. The leadership of the city managers of Garden City and Pooler would be welcomed in moving the project forward. Because of a grant opportunity, the County is already working with City of Savannah staff on the Heritage Trail, which incorporates the S&O Canal Corridor near Battlefield Park.

3. By the agreement, Chatham County would provide funding of \$400,000 to Garden City to undertake segments within Garden City and Pooler in cooperation with the S&O Canal Society. Garden City would need to provide a report to Chatham County on its use of the funds and be subject to the usual conditions on a municipality's use of SPLOST funds.
4. Staff has already transmitted a copy of the Master Plan to Garden City and specified any expenditure of funds must be consistent with the master plan.

**FUNDING:**

1998-2003 SPLOST (Savannah-Ogeechee Canal).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board authorize an agreement with Garden City to undertake segments of the S&O Canal Corridor Master Plan within its city limits in cooperation with S&O Canal Society and provide funding of \$400,000. Garden City will also work with Pooler on projects within Pooler's incorporated limits.
2. That the Board opt not to contract with Garden City and Pooler on the S&O Canal Corridor projects but continue the current working relationship between Chatham County and the Canal Society.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Establishing a contractual basis with Garden City and Pooler will provide champions to manage the S&O Canal project and supplement the S&O Canal Society's interest in the project's completion.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR CEMA TO ACCEPT A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM AWARD TO FORMALLY UPDATE THE CHATHAM COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN TO MEET THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve that CEMA accept a Federal Emergency Management Agency Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program Award to formally update the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet the Federal requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-7**

**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Russ Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Clayton S. Scott, Director, Chatham Emergency Management Agency

**ISSUE:**

To obtain approval of the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) to accept a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program award to formally update the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet the federal requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) applied for and has received FEMA approval for a grant to be used for the five-year federally mandated update of the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The total approved cost is \$50,000 with a federal share of \$37,500 and a local share of \$12,500.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Pursuant to part 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR201), sections 206 et seq. and meeting the FEMA Minimum Standards of Acceptability, effective

November 1, 2003, an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan was required in order for a community [county] to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project grant funds.

2. In order for communities to remain eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, their Hazard Mitigation Plans must be updated and approved by GEMA and FEMA every five years.
3. The Chatham County Hazard Mitigation Plan was first approved by state and federal authorities and published in January 2005. An updated Hazard Mitigation Plan is required in January 2010.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve acceptance of the \$37,500 of grant funds to be used to secure a consulting firm to assist the CEEMA staff with preparing, submitting, and obtaining state and federal approval of an updated Chatham County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Do not approve acceptance of the \$37,500 of grant funds.

**FUNDING:**

Adequate funds are available within the CEEMA budget to meet the requirements of the local share of \$12,500.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is the policy of the Board of Commissioners to accept Federal grant funding that is in the interest of the community.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative #1.

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**8. REQUEST BOARD CONFIRM THE PURCHASE OF A 106.73-ACRE TRACT FOR THE SALT CREEK MITIGATION BANK WHICH ALSO MEETS THE COUNTY'S GOALS FOR OPEN SPACE AND GREEN SPACE.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to confirm the purchase of a 106.73-acre tract for the Salt Creek Mitigation Bank which also meets the County's goals for open space and green space. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-8**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To confirm the purchase of a 106.73-acre tract for the Salt Creek Mitigation Bank which also meets the County's goals for open space and green space.

**BACKGROUND:**

During the August 22, 2008 Executive Session, the Board authorized a Purchase Agreement for \$1 million plus closing costs to acquire a 98-acre tract of land which would be used for a mitigation bank. Any public project, such as road, drainage and work along the Savannah River, requires mitigation to offset any impact to salt marsh; otherwise, the project will not receive federal and state permit approval. A mitigation banking instrument, which the Corps of Engineers must approve with federal agencies' concurrence, provides a savings account for future projects. It yields value not only in the availability of salt marsh but also a savings in the time required for each individual project to identify and acquire property, develop a creation/restoration plan and obtain necessary federal approvals.

The Salt Creek Mitigation Bank will be the first permitted salt marsh mitigation bank in the State of Georgia. The property owner, J S & H Enterprises, has completed about 95% of the permit process, which will yield at least 400 credits. Chatham County has an immediate need for some 20 credits (or two drainage projects will be determined as non-compliant),

and the County Engineer’s Office projects more than 400 credits will be needed during the course of the next 10-15 years for other public projects.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

- 1. At the August 22 meeting, the Board authorized an offer of \$1 million for 98 acres (however, the value results not from the land but the value of the mitigation credits). Besides the 98 acres, the County can acquire additional uplands for \$100,000, or a total acquisition of \$1.1 million, plus closing costs. The uplands can be used for added credits since the property qualifies for restoration. In comparison, other options to yield mitigation credits indicate this purchase would be a bargain:

	Credits	Cost Per Credit
Salt Creek	400	\$ 2,500
Hutchinson Island	20	\$18,260
Market Value (South Carolina)	N/A	\$ 5,000

*Note: The 400 credits at Salt Creek exclude available extra credits for salt marsh restoration of upland areas (contingent on Board approval to purchase uplands).*

- 2. Since the Board’s authorization, staff has worked with survey and environmental engineers to prepare a plat and complete a minor subdivision on Property Identification Number 1-0992-01-004, part of the Household Tract off U.S. 17 (see Attachments). The subdivision divides the 216.9-acre parcel into three lots. Chatham County will acquire Lot 1, but rather than 98 acres, the tract totals 106.73 acres (includes upland areas).
- 3. The subdivision also creates Lot 3 of 5.25 acres. While the County will take title to Lot 3, because it is landlocked, the property will include a reversion to J S & H Enterprises, LLP, since it is not included in the acquisition price. If J S & H does not exercise the reversion, the property will become Chatham County’s in 20 years.
- 4. The tract also provides a secondary benefit. As part of a drainage project, the County owns the tidegate and controls the water volume which creates the flooding for the Salt Creek Mitigation Bank. The County would assume full responsibility for the control and creation of the salt marsh which makes this land so valuable.
- 5. The property will be placed into a restrictive covenant. Besides fulfilling mitigation needs, the property fulfills the County’s open space and green space goals.

**FUNDING:**

Funds are designated in the 2003-2008 Greenspace Fund (the property meets open space goals and will be placed into a restrictive covenant).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. That the Board confirm the purchase from J S & H Enterprises for 106.73 acres of the Householder Tract (per attached plat) for \$1,100,000 plus closing costs, including the reversion for Lot 3. This adds 5-8 acres of uplands more than originally negotiated for wetlands restoration. This will yield 400+ mitigation credits.
- 2. That the Board confirm the purchase of 98 acres of the Householder Tract (attached plat will need to be revised) for \$1,000,000 plus closing costs, including the reversion for Lot 3. This will yield 400 mitigation credits (excludes added uplands areas). This will yield 400 mitigation credits.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

State law authorizes Chatham County to acquire property and own it for providing public services. This purchase will allow the County to acquire property consistent with its goals for open space and green space but also further assist in mitigation requirements at a bargain price for various public projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**9. REQUEST BOARD’S FORMAL ACCEPTANCE AND NECESSARY SIGNATURES FOR APPROVAL OF A NON-MATCHING GRANT FOR THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT CHILD SEXUAL PREDATOR PROGRAM FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the request to formally accept and require necessary signatures for approval of a non-matching grant for the Sheriff's Department Child Sexual Predator Program from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-9**

**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Honorable Chatham County Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Al St Lawrence, Sheriff

**ISSUE:**

Request Commission's formal acceptance and necessary signatures for approval of a non-matching grant.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Sheriff's Department has a special unit for the Registry and Tracking of Sex Offenders, referred to as SORT. Recently, the U.S. Department of Justice made available grant funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services involved with Child Sexual Predator Programs.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Sheriff's Department applied for and was chosen to receive \$418,131 in non-matching funds, payable over a two-year period. The grant will cover the necessary funding for three additional positions; Assistant District Attorney, Deputy Sheriff and Administrative Assistant along with various office equipment, supplies and limited travel expenditures.
2. Formal acceptance of this grant requires signatures of the Commission Chairman, Pete Liakakis and the Sheriff, Al St Lawrence.

**FUNDING:**

No matching funds are required. Expenses are limited to those proposed in the application and those approved in the grants' Financial Clearance Memo.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board Policy to approve non-matching grants that will enhance the capabilities of a law enforcement agency.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board acceptance of grant and approval of Chairmans' signature.
2. Board Deny acceptance of grant and deny approval of Chairmans' signature..

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Board approval of Alternative #1.

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**10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO LEASE 17 MINIS AVENUE TO SAVANNAH COUNSELING SERVICES.  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the request to lease 17 Minis Avenue, a 7,615 sq. ft. building, to Savannah Behavioral Counseling Services at the rate of \$9 a square foot, or \$68,535 annually, or \$5,711.25 monthly. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM:** X-10

**AGENDA DATE:** December 19, 2008

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To approve a change in the lessee to Savannah Behavioral Counseling Services for the rental of 17 Minis Avenue in Garden City.

**BACKGROUND:**

With the State of Georgia's recent change in contracting for public mental health services, Chatham County needs to change the lessee of 17 Minis Avenue in Garden City to reflect the new tenant. Savannah Area Behavioral Health Collaborative (SABHC), the current tenant, will be dissolved as an organization. The new lessee will be Savannah Behavioral Counseling Services, which has contracted with the State of Georgia on an interim basis to provide behavioral health services.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. In 1993, Chatham County developed and obtained bond financing on behalf of Tidelands for 17 Minis Avenue, a 7,615 square-foot building. Through state-approved changes, the tenancy changed to Gateway and then SABHC. By action of the State of Georgia, Savannah Behavioral Counseling Services became one of the successors to SABHC under the restructuring in delivery of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse programs. Changing the lessee will be necessary to meet legal requirements of the tax-exempt financing of the bond issue.
2. The County will use its standard lease agreement but limit the term based on the state's designation of interim status from January 1, 2009, through June 30, 2009. Depending upon the state's decision, the term can be extended year-to-year every July 1 thereafter to coincide with the County's fiscal year.
3. Based on 7,615 square feet, the rate will be \$9 a square foot, or \$68,535 annually, or \$5,711.25 paid monthly.
4. Savannah Behavioral Counseling Services has requested a waiver of the fee, which SABHC received. While staff agreed to present this request, the County has invested more than \$200,000 into the building within the last five years with no revenue to offset the capital repairs and improvements. Because of this, the Health Facilities Fund for capital repairs remains nearly depleted, and if no revenues from rental properties replenishes it, the County will need to rely upon general funds for these expenses.

**FUNDING:**

Revenue generating of \$5,711.25 monthly. Revenues to the Health Facilities accounts will not change. These revenues fund the Hospital Authority Bonds (1993) in an amount equal to principal and interest payments and a maintenance fee for capital repairs and replacement. This provides for a balanced budget.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve the lessee from SABHC to Savannah Behavioral Health Services for 17 Minis Avenue at a rental rate of \$5,711.25 monthly for six months. Depending upon the State of Georgia's lead, the lease may be continued annually at a rate of \$68,535 paid monthly (\$9 square foot).
2. That the Board opt not to lease the building to Savannah Behavioral Health Services but accept offers from qualified tenants for the property. Only a qualified tenant, such as a government or non-profit agency, could be considered to avoid any jeopardy of the tax-exempt financing.
3. That the Board take other action, as it deems appropriate.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Chatham County developed several properties during an era when Tidelands served under the authority of the Board of Health. State law recognized this relationship as a government-to-government, which enabled tax-exempt financing through bonds. Regardless of changes in state law which have reorganized these services, and the legal status of who provides them, Chatham County must abide by federal bond regulations to ensure the requirements of the pre-existing financing.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**11. REQUEST BOARD ACCEPT THE DEED FOR 107 FAHM STREET (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER) FROM UNION MISSION, INC., AND ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH UNION MISSION FOR ITS USE.  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the request to accept the deed for 107 Fahm Street (Behavioral Health Center) from Union Mission, Inc., and enter into a lease agreement with Union Mission for its use. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM:** X-11

**AGENDA DATE:** December 19, 2008

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To obtain approval of the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) to accept a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program award to formally update the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet the federal requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) applied for and has received FEMA approval for a grant to be used for the five-year federally mandated update of the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The total approved cost is \$50,000 with a federal share of \$37,500 and a local share of \$12,500.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Pursuant to part 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR201), sections 206 et seq. and meeting the FEMA Minimum Standards of Acceptability, effective November 1, 2003, an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan was required in order for a community [county] to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project grant funds.
2. In order for communities to remain eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, their Hazard Mitigation Plans must be updated and approved by GEMA and FEMA every five years.
3. The Chatham County Hazard Mitigation Plan was first approved by state and federal authorities and published in January 2005. An updated Hazard Mitigation Plan is required in January 2010.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve acceptance of the \$37,500 of grant funds to be used to secure a consulting firm to assist the CEMA staff with preparing, submitting, and obtaining state and federal approval of an updated Chatham County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Do not approve acceptance of the \$37,500 of grant funds.

**FUNDING:**

Adequate funds are available within the CEMA budget to meet the requirements of the local share of \$12,500.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is the policy of the Board of Commissioners to accept Federal grant funding that is in the interest of the community.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative #1.

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**12. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN PEGGY BLOOD AT 918 PENN WALLER ROAD AND CHATHAM COUNTY. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the right-of-way Encroachment Agreement between Peggy Blood at 918 Penn Waller Road and Chatham County. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-12**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

**ISSUE:**

To request approval of the right-of-way Encroachment Agreement between Peggy Blood at 918 Penn Waller Road in Chatham County.

**BACKGROUND:**

On October 22, 2008, Public Works and Park Services received an application from Ms. Peggy Blood to allow a fence to encroach the public right-of-way of Walthour Road. The County does not consider the encroachment to be a public safety issue as presently constructed. The fence is contiguous to several public underground utility services, which, at some future date, may require service, maintenance or removal and could result in fence damage. At the Commission meeting of November 21, 2008, Ms. Blood appeared before the Board of Commissioners and requested relief from having to remove the constructed fence. The County Attorney's Office was directed to enter into an Encroachment Agreement with Ms. Blood upon such satisfactory terms as necessary to protect the County's interest.

Attached to the staff report is a copy of the Encroachment Agreement, in which Ms. Blood agrees to remove the fence at the request of the County and understands that she has only been granted a license to encroach upon the public right-of-way. Ms. Blood agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County in regard to any cost associated with the removal of the fence or a third party claim.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. On October 22, 2008, Public Works and Park Services received an application from Ms. Peggy Blood to allow a fence to encroach the public right-of-way of Walthour Road.
2. The County does not consider the encroaching fence to be a public safety issue as presently constructed.
3. The fence is contiguous to several public underground utility services, which, at some future date, may require service, maintenance or removal and could result in fence damage.
4. At the Commission meeting of November 21, 2008, Ms. Blood appeared before the Board of Commissioners and requested relief from having to remove the constructed fence.
5. The County Attorney's Office was directed to enter into an Encroachment Agreement with Ms. Blood upon such satisfactory terms as necessary to protect the County's interest.
6. Ms. Blood agrees to remove the fence at the request of the County and understands that she has only been granted a license to encroach upon the public right-of-way.
7. Ms. Blood agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County in regard to any cost associated with the removal of the fence or a third party claim.



**WHEREAS**, a survey of the property, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated by reference, has revealed that said fence encroaches into the public right-of-way of Chatham County; and

**WHEREAS**, owner has sought a variance to allow for encroachment of said public right-of-way; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has agreed to grant a license for right-of-way encroachment.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Owner and County agree more particularly as follows:

1. The Owner agrees and acknowledges that her fence encroaches into the public right-of-way and that the County has the right to cause said fence structure to be removed from the public right-of-way.

2. The Owner acknowledges and agrees that the County has entered into this Agreement in which it has granted unto her a revokable license for her fence to encroach upon the public right-of-way as shown upon the attached Exhibit "A", but that the County, in its sole discretion, may at any time terminate this Encroachment Agreement and revoke said license so as to require the Owner at her expense to remove said structure and abate any encroachment in the public right-of-way.

3. The Owner agrees that this Encroachment Agreement shall be recorded in the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County land records for recording and said Agreement, until terminated by the County, shall be considered as an instrument which runs with the land.

4. The Owner and County agree that the fence, as built and encroaches, does not constitute a safety hazard and Owner agrees to not make any additional modifications to the fence without seeking the appropriate right-of-way encroachment permit.

5. The Owner agrees that there are certain underground utilities adjacent to the fence and public right-of-way, which at some time in the future, a public utility may be required to perform maintenance, alteration or removal, and that the fence, in its encroaching position, may have the potential to interfere with utility services. Owner agrees and understands that at the request of the County, on behalf of any utility company, shall remove said fence at no cost or expense to the County or said utility company to allow maintenance, alteration or removal of said utilities.

6. The Owner agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Chatham County for any claim of damage, negligence, property loss, or injuries, which are alleged to be caused or contributed to as a result of any encroachment into the public right-of-way.

Witness the hand and seal of the undersigned Owner and County.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Blood

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Witness Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
 Board of Commissioners  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notary Public Sybil E. Tillman  
 Clerk of Commission [SEAL]

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**13. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER AND WINE RETAIL LICENSE FOR 2009.  
 PETITIONER: ANKURKUMAR B. PATEL, D/B/A SHIVM FOOD, LOCATED AT 7361  
 SKIDAWAY ROAD.  
 [DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the petition of Ankurkumar B. Patel, d/b/a Shivm Food, located at 7361 Skidaway Road, for transfer of beer and wine retail license for 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-13  
 AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**THROUGH:** R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

**FROM:** GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES  
 WILLIE LOVETT, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

ISSUE  
 Request for transfer beer & wine retail license for 2009, Ankurkumar B. Patel, d/b/a Shivm Food, located at 7361 Skidaway Road.

BACKGROUND  
 Mr. Patel requests approval for a transfer of beer & wine package license, in connection with an existing convenience store. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

- FACTS AND FINDINGS
1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.
  2. The returned application was reviewed by Regulatory Services. The County Fire Inspector inspected the site for compliance with the safety codes and approved the facility.
  3. This application is in compliance with all requirements.
  4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the time and date of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION  
 The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 3

We verify that the attached report and attachments are complete and correct to form.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Chief Willie Lovett  
 Gregori S. Anderson

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**14. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2009. PETITIONER: ALDO G. BOTTI, D/B/A ALDO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE, 461 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the petition of Aldo G. Botti, d/b/a Aldo's Italian Restaurant and Lounge, 461 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for renewal of Sunday sales license for 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: X-14  
AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

**TO:** BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
**THROUGH:** R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER  
**FROM:** GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES  
WILLIE LOVETT, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

ISSUE:  
Request approval for renewal of Sunday Sales license for 2009, Aldo G. Botti, Aldo's Italian Restaurant and Lounge, 461 Johnny Mercer Blvd, Savannah, GA 31410.

BACKGROUND:  
Mr. Botti requests approval for Sunday sales licenses in connection with an existing restaurant.

- FACTS AND FINDINGS:
1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and separation requirements and approved.
  2. The returned application was reviewed by Regulatory Services. The County Fire Marshall inspected the site for compliance with the commercial kitchen requirements and approved the facility.
  3. The applicant and business meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage and Sunday Sales Ordinance.
  4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION:  
The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 4

We verify that the attached report and attachments are complete and correct as to form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregori S. Anderson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Chief Willie Lovett

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**15. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear).**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Professional Services Task Order contract for surveying services on County projects	Engineering	James M. Anderson & Associates	Not to Exceed \$250,000	•SPLOST (1985-1993), (1998-2003), (2003-2008) •CIP - Various •Land Bank

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
B. Network software	Sheriff	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$16,240	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
C. Three (3) network servers	Sheriff	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$19,680	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
D. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms for preventative maintenance and repair services of the HVAC equipment for the Detention Center facility	Detention Center	Boaen Mechanical	\$27,800	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
E. Cancel the annual contract for attendant services at the Chevis Road and Sharon Park Recycle Drop Off Centers	Public Works	N/A	N/A	N/A
F. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to provide management of three (3) Recycle Drop Off Centers	Public Works	Sweet Dreams (WBE)	\$172,650	•Solid Waste - \$78,400 •Solid Waste Restricted - \$94,250
G. Contract for the construction of the maintenance building for the Soccer Complex	Parks and Recreation	Ansley - Sheppard - Burgess	\$57,076	2005 DSA Series Bond - Animal Control Shelter
H. Integrated Voice and Data and High Performance Data equipment	I.C.S.	Motorola	\$422,212	First Responder Data System
I. Confirm purchase of ballots for 2008 General Election	Elections Board	Owen G. Dunn Company	\$13,340	General Fund/M&O - Elections Board
J. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to provide concessions at Tybee Pier and Pavilion	Parks and Recreation	Sweet Dreams	\$50,496	Revenue Producing
K. Contract to conduct a disparity study of Chatham County, city of Savannah and Savannah-Chatham County Public School System purchasing and procurement practices	Human Resources	Miller 3 Consulting, Inc. (Contingent upon approval by City of Savannah and School Board.)	\$487,840 County portion: \$162,613	CIP - Human Resource - Disparity Study - \$150,000 •General Fund/M&O - Purchasing - \$12,613

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve Items 15-A through 15-I. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Shay moved to table to the next meeting Items 15-J and 15-K. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM : X-15 A thru K**  
**AGENDA DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2008**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**THRU: R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**

**FROM: MICHAEL A. KAIGLER, DIRECTOR**  
**HUMAN RESOURCES & SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF BIDS**

**ITEM A**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a “Not to Exceed” \$250,000 Professional Services Task Order contract with James M. Anderson & Associates for surveying services on County projects.

**BACKGROUND:** There are numerous small construction projects that can be done by a variety of professional engineer and technical services companies that are either pre-qualified by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) or have demonstrated their capability to accomplish quality and timely work for the County. Department of Engineering staff, as project managers, coordinates the various services (i.e. permitting, surveying, design and right of way acquisition) to pull a project together [rather than by way of subcontracts for the services].

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. This contract will be managed by task orders for specific tasks unique to the projects with deliverables for either lump sum or not to exceed amounts (e.g. time and materials).
2. James M. Anderson & Associates previously provided timely, accurate and reliable surveying services for the Old Highway 204 Bridge Replacement Project and for a jurisdictional wetlands delineation along the Pipemakers Canal. Their selection is based on their prior experience with the County.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (1985-1993), (1998-2003), (2003-2008)  
CIP - Various  
Land Bank

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approve a “Not to Exceed” \$250,000 Professional Services Task Order contract with James M. Anderson & Associates for surveying services on County projects.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award task order contracts when it is in the best interest of the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
ESTELLE BROWN

**ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$16,240 purchase of mandatory network software off the State of Georgia contract from Dell Marketing for the Sheriff’s Department Complex.

**BACKGROUND:** This purchase will allow for the mandatory upgrade of vital network software along with the purchase of software support and associated maintenance for a three (3) year period.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The current software is old and outdated and will no longer be supported by the company.
2. Pricing was obtained from Dell Marketing, Atlanta, GA, and is in keeping with the same network software throughout the County. Dell Marketing has the State of Georgia contract for this software.
3. Staff believes the State of Georgia total contract price of \$16,240 is fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Sheriff’s Department  
(1003300 - 54.24002)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approve the \$16,240 purchase of mandatory network software off of the State of Georgia contract from Dell Marketing for the Sheriff’s Department Complex.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary equipment for the using departments.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

I.C.S. APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
LEWIS LEONARD

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

### ITEM C

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$19,680 purchase of three (3) replacement computer network servers off the State of Georgia contract from Dell Marketing for the Sheriff's Department Complex.

**BACKGROUND:** These servers will replace older models that have been in place for many years and are beyond their anticipated usefulness and their replacement has been recommended by I.C.S. staff. These servers are used as network hubs that then feeds network services to the various units.

#### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. These servers will ensure network services are continuously supplied to the various units within the Sheriff's Complex.
2. I.C.S. has recommended standardization to Dell Marketing for County departments. Pricing was obtained from Dell Marketing, Atlanta, GA, and is keeping with same type systems throughout the County. Dell Marketing has the State of Georgia contract on these servers.
3. Staff believes the State of Georgia total contract price of \$19,680 is fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Sheriff's Department  
(1003300 - 54.24002)

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of the \$19,680 purchase of three (3) replacement computer network servers off the State of Georgia contract from Dell Marketing for the Sheriff's Department Complex.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary equipment for the using departments.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

I.C.S. APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
LEWIS LEONARD

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

### ITEM D

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$27,800 annual maintenance agreement, with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with Boaen Mechanical of Savannah, GA for preventative maintenance and repair services of the HVAC equipment for the Detention Center.

**BACKGROUND:** The Detention Center has a requirement to maintain the HVAC system throughout the facility.

#### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. This project was properly advertised and four (4) bids were received and opened on 13 November 2008. The bids were as follows:

Boaen Mechanical Savannah, GA	\$27,800
Johnson Controls, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$33,230
Southeastern A/C Company Garden City, GA	\$39,480
Thermaserve, Inc	\$62,400

Jacksonville, FL

2. Staff believes the bid of \$27,800 from Boen Mechanical to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Detention Center  
( 1003326-52.22001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of the \$27,800 annual maintenance agreement, with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with Boen Mechanical of Savannah, GA for preventative maintenance and repair services of the HVAC equipment for the Detention Center.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low responsive, responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to cancel the annual contract with Mr. Jack C. Douglas for attendant services at the Chevis Road and Sharon Park Recycle/Drop-off Centers.

**BACKGROUND:** On 11 November 2005, the Board awarded a contract for attendant services at Chevis Road Recycle/Drop-off Center. A change order was approved on 11 August 2006 to add the Sharon Park Recycle/Drop-off Center.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. On 13 June 2008, the Board approved a 4% increase to Mr. Douglas's contract. Mr. Douglas was not satisfied with the amount of the increase and requested a rebid of the Chevis Road and Sharon Park Recycle/Drop-off Centers. Mr. Douglas agreed to continue services until the rebidding process was complete or until 30 January 2009.
2. Bids were publicly advertised and opened on 9 December 2009. Please see item F for the recommendation from staff.
3. It is staff's recommendation to release Mr. Douglas from his contractual obligations.

**FUNDING:** No funding required for termination of contract

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to cancel the annual contract with Mr. Jack C. Douglas for attendant services at the Chevis Road and Sharon Park Recycle/Drop-off Centers.
2. Provide staff other direction

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to terminate contracts upon contractor's request.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM F**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Sweet Dreams of Tybee Island, Georgia to provide management of three (3) recycle/drop-off centers.

**BACKGROUND:** Chatham County Public Works and Park Services is responsible for the various facilities, and aspects of collection of bulky items and recyclable materials. These facilities are under contract for the management and over site for the County.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Staff prepared a scope of work that included all three (3) of the County owned drop-off centers and included an emphasis on recycling.
2. This project was properly advertised and two (2) bids were received and opened 9 December 2008. The bids are as follows:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Sweet Dreams*	Chevis Road	\$39,200
Tybee Island, GA	Sharon Park	\$39,200
	Wilmington Island	\$94,250
Jack Douglas	Chevis Road	\$45,763
Savannah, GA	Sharon Park	\$45,763
	Wilmington Island	NO BID

\*WBE firm

3. The bid submitted by Sweet Dreams is significantly lower than Public Works could do providing the service in house.
4. Staff believes the bid provided by Sweet Dreams to be fair and reasonable. Sweet Dreams has provided service at the Wilmington Island center for the last six (6) years and staff has been pleased by their performance.

**FUNDING:** Solid Waste (Sharon Park and Chevis Road)  
 (5404501 - 52.39001)  
 Solid Waste Restricted (Wilmington Island)  
 (5404510 - 52.39001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Sweet Dreams of Tybee Island, Georgia to provide management of three (3) recycle/drop-off centers.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low responsive, responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM G**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award a \$57,076 contract to Ansley-Sheppard-Burgess, for the construction of the Maintenance Building for the Chatham County Soccer Complex.

**BACKGROUND:** On 16 December 2005, the Board approved replacing the Animal Control Shelter with the funds received from a 2005 DSA Bond. Given the limited options of property, it was decided that the best site for the Animal Control Shelter was its current location. It met all site requirements and would keep the facility within proximity of the Humane Society. By developing the existing site, it would enable the existing facilities to remain open until completion. One of the many problems in reconfiguring the site was moving the storage building for the Soccer Complex which shares the site. Funding saved by developing the current site will enable staff to provide new entry signage that will separate the Animal Control Shelter from the Humane Society, and other County uses.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The work for this contract consists of the construction of a 30' x 30' pre-engineered maintenance/storage building with a 6' x 7' double door entrance on the front of the building and an 8' x 8' roll-up side door.

Connected to the new building will be a 15' open storage area with cover for heavy equipment. The building shall be wired for electricity.

2. This project was properly advertised and eight (8) bids were received and opened on 24 November 2008. The responses are as follows:

Ansley-Sheppard-Burgess Savannah, GA	\$ 57,076
PINCO Savannah, GA	\$ 58,920
Erickson Associates Savannah, GA	\$ 63,000
Keith Ray Construction Thunderbolt, GA	\$ 67,785
Kerby Enterprises, Inc. Pooler, GA	\$ 69,847
Collins Construction Services, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$ 81,934
E & D Contracting Services, Inc.* Savannah, GA	\$ 86,212
WBM Construction Co., Inc. Metter, GA	\$138,700

\*WBE firm

3. Staff, along with the design consultant, Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co., believes the bid from Ansley - Sheppard - Burgess to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** 2005 DSA Series Bonds - Animal Control Shelter  
(3703910 - 54.13011 - 37032297)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- Board approve the award of a \$57,076 contract to Ansley-Sheppard-Burgess, for the construction of the Maintenance Building for the Chatham County Soccer Complex.
- Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low responsive, responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
TOM DRANE

**ITEM H**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$422,212 purchase of additional data communications equipment to be used in conjunction with the County's new Public Safety Radio Network from Motorola Communications for the I.C.S. department.

**BACKGROUND:** In September 2007, the County entered into an agreement with Motorola Communications to place broadband data communication devices along I-16 and I-95 in Chatham County. Due to the project team's inability to get authorization from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Larmar Sign Company to install our devices on their signage and infrastructure, I.C.S. asked Motorola to discontinue their efforts in deploying this data network. Staff then asked Motorola to provide a credit for the balance associated with this project. Some of the broadband equipment is being kept for installation at County owned locations. Motorola has agreed to accept the return of the unused broadband equipment and services and are providing a credit balance of \$422,212 that can be used for other Motorola products or services.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. On June 27, 2008, the Commission approved an Agreement with Motorola for a grant-funded Astro 25 Master site in the amount of \$2,020,904. This equipment will form the basis of public safety radio communications for the next 20 years.
2. Included with the proposal for the radio master site, were optional pricing for Integrated Voice and Data (IV&D) and High Performance Data (HPD) that were not purchased due to limited grant funding.
3. The optional price for IV&D is \$294,217 and the price for HPD is \$143,828.00 totaling \$437,828.00 for both high site data solutions. These prices were based on purchasing these options simultaneously with the Master site. Motorola has now offered both of these options at the \$422,212.00 credit balance if we proceed with this procurement by the end of December 2008.
4. This procurement will allow the installation of these products simultaneously with ASTRO 25 Master site implementation early next year.
5. Both IV&D and HPD are high site data solutions that will provide wireless data capabilities, enhanced information flow and greater efficiency for all public safety and public service agencies served by the radio system.
6. GE Capital has agreed to change the terms of the lease agreement from low site high-speed data to high site high-speed data equipment without changing the other terms of the lease.

**FUNDING:** CIP - First Responder  
(3503921 - 54.25001 - 35030788)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of the \$422,212 purchase of additional data communications equipment to be used in conjunction with the County's new Public Safety Radio Network from Motorola Communications for the I.C.S. department.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary equipment to law enforcement activities.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

I.C.S. APPROVAL   
LEWIS LEONARD

BUDGET APPROVAL   
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM I**

**ISSUE:** Request Board confirmation of the \$13,340 purchase of printed ballots for the general election from Owen G. Dunn Company, Inc., for Elections Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Elections conducted an election for the 4 November 2008 General Election. The ballots were used for mailed absentee, provisional and challenged voting.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. This General Election had 50 races, three (3) constitutional amendments and one (1) local referendum, which resulted in 30 different ballot styles.
2. The election was expected to have record turnout and record demand for absentee and provisional ballots. The extra ballots were ordered to insure an adequate supply would be on hand for mailing ballots and provisional ballots in polling places.
3. Owen G. Dunn Company, Inc., has previously been the printer of record for the ballots. While there are other companies, Owen Dunn Company, Inc., has made the delivery deadlines required by the Elections Board. A total of 30,230 were ordered by the Elections Superintendent to insure an adequate on hand supply.
4. Staff believes the total cost of \$13,340 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Elections Board

(1001400 - 53.17009)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board confirm the \$13,340 purchase of printed ballots for the general election from Owen G. Dunn Company, Inc., for Elections Board.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** O.C.G.A 21-2-284a1 requires that the Election Superintendent must, at least 45 days prior to any general primary or general election, prepare, obtain and deliver an adequate supply of official absentee ballots.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM J**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual revenue producing contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to provide concessions at the Tybee Pier and Pavilion with Sweet Dreams of Tybee Island, GA for Public Works and Park Services.

**BACKGROUND:** The current contract will expire 31 December 2008.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Bids were properly advertised and mailed to those parties that requested packages. On 20 November 2008, a mandatory, on site pre-bid conference was held at the Pavilion in which five (5) potential bidders attended.
2. Two (2) responses were received, one (1) of which was a no-bid. The only responsive and responsible bid was from the incumbent concessionaire, Sweet Dreams for \$50,496. This bid represents a \$29,000 increase over the previously awarded contract. The contract term will run from 1 January thru 31 December each year.
3. The contract proceeds will cover the cost to the County for insurance and utilities. The contract also provides for janitorial services with supplies and security including minor or routine maintenance and repairs up to \$1,000 per occurrence. Major replacement or repairs will continue to be the responsibility of the County such as roof, concrete and lighting fixtures.

**FUNDING:** N/A - Revenue Generating

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an annual revenue producing contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to provide concessions at the Tybee Pier and Pavilion with Sweet Dreams of Tybee Island, GA for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award revenue producing contracts that are in the best interest of the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

**ITEM K**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award a contract to Miller 3 Consulting, Inc., to conduct a disparity study of Chatham County, City of Savannah, and Savannah-Chatham County Public School System purchasing and procurement practices contingent upon approval by City of Savannah and the Savannah-Chatham Public School System.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2006, the Board adopted an M/WBE Policy for Chatham County and authorized the County's participation in a joint disparity study. Earlier this year, the City of Savannah, Chatham County, and the Savannah-Chatham Public School System collaborated and convened an intergovernmental team of representatives from each agency to update the 1995 Disparity Study. An updated disparity study is required of a governmental entity that administers an M/WBE program. The legal standard that was

applied in the U.S. Supreme Court decision of *city of Richmond vs. Croson* mandates a government to demonstrate a compelling interest or need for a race or gender based M/WBE program, and that the M/WBE program be a narrowly tailored to address any underutilization of minorities or women that were found within the defined market area.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. In May 2008, an RFP was issued on behalf of all three (3) agencies to contract with a firm to conduct a disparity study for Chatham County, City of Savannah, and the Savannah-Chatham Public School System. The purpose of this study is to determine if underutilization exists and to make recommendations to improve minority and woman-owned business participation, particularly local participation in the procurement of goods and services with these agencies.
2. Nine (9) respondents submitted proposals to perform the study. The team reviewed and evaluated the submissions. The top three (3) proposing firms were invited to present their proposals before the review team. The team interviewed Miller 3 Consulting, Inc., Mason Tillman and Associates, Ltd., and MGT of America. The team narrowed the field from three (3) to two (2) finalists, giving consideration to each firm's qualifications, experience, methodology, M/WBE participation and fee. Afterwards, background research and additional list of follow-up questions and telephone interviews were conducted with two (2) firms to clarify points of methodology.
3. Based on the aforementioned, review and evaluation processes, the review team recommends Miller 3 Consulting, Inc., (Miller 3) to conduct the disparity study at a cost of \$487,840. The cost will be shared equally between the three (3) agencies, upon approval, in the amount of \$162,613.
4. Miller 3, a MBE firm based in Atlanta, GA, emerged as the best proposer having completed numerous federal, state, and local disparity studies nationwide, including joint studies between municipalities and school boards. Miller 3 also has a strong record of defending their studies. The firm reports that no Miller 3 Consulting study has ever been overturned and no study completed in the last 13 years has been challenged. Miller 3 will be able to provide a completed final report within our 18 month desired time frame. The firm's principal, Sherri Miller-Williams, will act as project manager.

Miller 3 Consulting, Inc. (100% MBE firm) will utilize Savannah State University Survey Research Center (13% MBE) and MJNH Consulting (19% WBE) to satisfy the M/WBE participation goal of 48%. SSU-SRC will be utilized in both Phase I and II of the disparity study analysis providing data collection support, private sector analysis and conducting anecdotal interviews. MJNH, a local WBE will be responsible for performing race neutral analysis, administering the survey and conducting anecdotal interviews in Phase II.

5. The disparity study will consider five (5) years (2004-2007) of procurement and contracting. The study evaluation will be made at the prime and sub contractor level. If the Phase I analysis reveals an underutilization of minority and woman owned businesses, Miller 3 will undertake Phase II that involves the research and analysis of the underutilization. We are requiring that any or all three (3) agencies would proceed to Phase II of the study based upon the findings of Phase I. The final report will be separate for each agency, and Miller 3 will present its report separately to each governing board.

The components of Phase I are:

- Legal analysis
- Relevant Market and Data Collection
- Availability Analysis
- Disparity Analysis
- Regression and Capacity Analysis

Phase II components are:

Review of procurement and MWBE Program Policies, Procedures, and Practices

- Anecdotal Interviews
- Analysis of Race/Gender-Neutral Initiatives
- Private Sector Analysis
- Findings and Recommendations
- Final Report

6. The City of Savannah is scheduled to approve its participation of the contract at its December 18 Council Meeting. The School Board is tentatively scheduled to approve its participation at the first meeting in January. Staff is requesting that the Board approve award of this contract contingent on approval by the City of Savannah and the Savannah-Chatham Public School System.

**FUNDING:** CIP/Human Resources - Disparity Study - \$150,000  
General Fund/M & O - Purchasing - \$12,613

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approve a contract to Miller 3 Consulting, Inc., to conduct a disparity study of Chatham County, City of Savannah, and Savannah-Chatham County Public School System purchasing and procurement practices contingent upon approval by City of Savannah and the Savannah-Chatham Public School System.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is the policy of the Board to ensure that procurement of materials, supplies and services meet the steps and requirements as outlined in the Chatham County Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL   
 READ DEHAVEN  
 PREPARED BY   
 PURCHASING AGENT

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**XI. FIRST READINGS**

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting.  
 On first reading, presentation by MPC staff and discussion only by Commissioners will be heard.  
 Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

1. **THE PETITIONER, ROBERT B. BRANNEN, JR., AGENT (FOR GASTON PROPERTIES, LLC) IS REQUESTING THE REZONING OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5406 LAROCHE AVENUE FROM AN I-P/EO (INSTITUTIONAL PROFESSIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) CLASSIFICATION TO A B-N/EO (NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS/ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) ZONING CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. MPC FILE NO. Z-081029-00121-1 [DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Chairman Liakakis read this item into the record as the first reading.

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2. **THE MPC INITIATED REZONING, PER REQUEST FROM PIN POINT BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION, IS REQUESTING REZONING OF PROPERTY BOUNDED BY BOND AVENUE TO NORTH, MOON RIVER TO SOUTH, DIAMOND CAUSEWAY TO EAST, AND PIN POINT AVENUE TO WEST FROM A R-M-H/EO (RESIDENTIAL MOBILE HOME ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A R-1/EO (ONE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. MPC FILE NO. Z-080925-32671-1 [DISTRICT 1.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Chairman Liakakis read this item into the record as the first reading.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

None.

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**XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. PROGRESS REPORT ON GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SEE ATTACHED).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached for review.

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**2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999 (SEE ATTACHED).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached for review.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008**

List of Purchasing Items between \$2,500 and \$9,999  
 That Do Not Require Board Approval

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Purchase and installation of a surveillance system for the Wilmington Island Drop Off Center	Public Works	Speros, Inc.	\$9,975	Solid Waste Management Fund
Five (5) computer with monitors and associated software	Juvenile Court	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$6,890	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Parts and labor to replace defective compressor, open fire damper, wire unit and return to operation	Aquatic Center	Boaen Mechanical Contractors, Inc.	\$5,141	General Fund/M&O - Aquatic Center
Engineering services for the Animal Shelter	Special Projects	WPC	\$4,640	Bond Funds - Animal Control
Materials and labor for Courthouse project for metal framing and drywall work	Special Projects	James Smith Drywall Unlimited	\$6,496	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction
Rain gauges complete with wireless data plan	Mosquito Control	Upward Innovations	\$5,303	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Replace releasing board in Halon panel in computer room	Detention Center	Hendrix Enterprise	\$4,000	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Shay and seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter, the Board recessed at 2:15 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 2:57 p.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute an Affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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**APPROVED:** THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
 PETE LIAKAKIS, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF  
 COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION