

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009, 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, January 16, 2009.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Patrick K. Farrell gave the Invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Thomas led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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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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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

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

### **1. SET BOARD RETREAT AND BUDGET GOALS SESSION AS WELL AS PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE COMMISSION.**

Chairman Liakakis said, what I want to do now is see the feelings of the Commissioners where we'll have the information from the County Manager and we'll be discussing this in the Green Room prior to having our retreat for the upcoming budget. So looking at this I wanted to find out how next Tuesday, how would that and to the majority of Commissioners be here at 10:00 a.m., next Tuesday?

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, is there anyway to do it on a Monday or a Thursday or a Friday? Any day other than Tuesday.

Chairman Liakakis asked, how about next Thursday then? Does anybody have a problem with next Thursday? Commissioner Gellatly said, I think I do, but I don't have a calendar. Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Here's what I'll do then. In the essence of time, I'll call each one of you over the telephone. I'll give you a couple of days and the majority, we'll go from there. Those particular, Tuesday [sic] and Wednesday that you're talking about, we'll take that into consideration, too. We'll see how that goes and after we have that particular session with the Commissioners, what we'll do is set up our retreat once we have that information from the County Manager.

County Manager Abolt said, if I — we'd like you to set it some time in February. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

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## **VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

### **1. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS: ELECT A COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM AND CONFIRM THE DAYS AND TIME FOR REGULAR COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2009.**

Chairman Liakakis said, next on the agenda is the election of Commissioner Vice Chairman, Chairman Pro Tem, that we have when we start a new Commission, so we have right now, as we know, our Vice Chairman is Priscilla Thomas. So we'll vote on that one and then we'll got to Chairman Pro Tem.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we nominate Dr. Priscilla Thomas as Vice Chair. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor to vote for Priscilla Thomas. You have to vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Liakakis said, next is Chairman Pro Tem. Our present Pro Tem is Dean Kicklighter.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I would like to renominate Dean Kicklighter for another term. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to nominate Dean Kicklighter. Are there any other nominations. Clear the board please. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, why didn't you ask that with Dr. Thomas? I'm just kidding. Chairman Liakakis said, alright, there's no other for Chairman Pro Tem.

Commissioner Odell said, no speeches.

County Manager Abolt said, we'd also need a motion for you to officially adopt your meeting schedule.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we officially adopt the meeting calendar that in somewhere in our book. 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. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

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

- a. Commissioner Odell moved to renominate Commissioner Thomas as the Vice Chairman. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- b. Commissioner Gellatly moved to renominate Commissioner Kicklighter as the Chairman Pro Tem. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- c. Commissioner Shay moved to officially adopt the meeting calendar for 2009 as follows: 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. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: VII-1****AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009****TO:** Board of Commissioners**FROM:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager**ISSUE:**

To elect a Commission Vice Chairman, Chairman Pro Tem and to confirm the days and time for regular Commission meetings for 2009.

**BACKGROUND:**

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

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Concerning the election of the Vice-Chairman, the Enabling Act states:  
*At the first meeting in January following each regular election of the members of the Board of Commissioners, the Board shall elect from its members a Vice-Chairman. In the event of the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at Board meetings. In the event of the death, disqualification, or resignation of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties and have the authority of the Chairman until such time as a new Chairman is chosen as provided in Section 1-108 of this Act.*
2. Concerning the election of the Chairman Pro Tem, the Enabling Act states:  
*At the first meeting in January of each year, the Board of Commissioners shall elect from its members a Chairman pro tem. In the event of the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, the Chairman pro tem shall preside at meetings of the Board of Commissioners. Such a Chairman pro tem shall not have or exercise any of the duties or authority of the Chairman except to preside at meetings of the Board of Commissioners.*
3. Concerning setting the days and time of meetings, 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.*
  - a. The Board adopted a tentative schedule for 2009 at its meeting of December 19, 2008, to be confirmed at the first meeting of 2009. The agenda item is attached.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Elect a Commission Vice Chairman, a Chairman Pro Tem and confirm meeting schedule tentatively adopted on December 19, 2008.
2. Elect a Commission Vice Chairman, Chairman Pro Tem and set meeting time and place as designated by Commissioners.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Compliance with the Enabling Act.

**FUNDING:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative #1.

**~~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 17, 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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**CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Commissioner Odell made a motion to recess as the County Commission at 9:45 a.m., and reconvene as the Chatham Area Transit Authority. Commissioners Stone and Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened as the County Commission at 10:43 a.m.

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**VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS**

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 (\*).

**\*1. FUNDING RDC REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM.**

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion on the floor to take it off the table.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor, go on the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Liakakis said, as we know, we have been discussing that and the concern — one of the things that I would like to ask Joe [Rivers] —. Joe, would you come forward on this particular item because you have been talking with them and all. What is your recommendation on this?

Mr. Joe Murray Rivers said, well, the same recommendation that came from the CAT Board that we go ahead and approve it. There is no conflict in there. The nuances of things of crossing our line, we can work those things out and also lately I recommended that we just do it as a pilot project for a year and see how it works out. You know, it doesn't have to be a permanent thing, but I understand that they have the money now from the federal government, from the Georgia Department of Transportation and they are ready to go, and if that's the case, then we try it as a pilot project.

Chairman Liakakis said, because they had that money that was coming in. They were waiting for some additional funding also, but now all of that is in.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, on numerous occasions we, being this Board of Commissioners, requested resolutions from each of Chatham County's municipalities either stating that they support this transit plan, regional transit program or they oppose it. To date I believe that there has been one vote taken in the City of Port Wentworth. I have no knowledge of us actually receiving anything in writing, but I have heard that from the Mayor that they supported this. We've heard expressions of either opposition or support. We've heard verbally that more info is requested. We've heard several things except we have really not received anything that we've requested. So in my opinion, the cities have pretty much left it up to our judgment as to whether or not they — we feel as if this program is good for the County as well as the area, and I'll state after reviewing and after this morning's pre-agenda session with the understanding that Teleride is a separate issue and this Board already has instructed the Chatham Area Transit to continue its service for the entire county, to lead that part is separate, that this program set aside in my opinion is a safety net should something happen that discontinued that service, it will provide — the Regional Transit Pilot Program will provide door to door service for qualifying handicapped citizens of Chatham County that lives outside the three-fourths of a mile fixed route Chatham Area Transit district. Am I correct on stating that? Okay. In addition, people will be able to utilize the service if they desire. All residents basically living outside of the three-fourths mile area can utilize that service. Citizens within that area can actually utilize the service to go elsewhere and for \$30,000 a safety net in place should something happen that forces us to slim down Teleride service in the County. That's a pretty inexpensive safety net. I want to stress to the public on this that this is a one-year safety net. This is a one-year pilot program. I believe the funding is guaranteed from the State and federal government for just one year. I am of the opinion that after this particular one-year period, that money will either be reduced or taken away altogether, and I believe once the numbers are in of actual ridership that the \$30,000 fee for this one year will go through the roof as far as expenses, and I personally would guess that this program will not be feasible next year, but for \$30,000, taking advantage of what the State of Georgia as well as the federal government is offering at this moment for this one year, that's one year assurance that handicapped citizens will be able to get to a doctor should they need to go. Having said that, and with the understanding that the cities in Chatham County never passed resolutions either supporting or opposing this Regional Transportation Pilot Program, I now make a motion that we approve this one year pilot program in the amount of \$30,000.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Stone said, I second that. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a second. Now for discussion. Joe [Rivers], for clarification, that three-quarters of a mile, is Teleride going to expand — continue to go beyond three-quarters of a mile.

Mr. Rivers said, FTA — we are in non-compliance now. Once we comply with FTA rules, we're just waiting for the date to pull that back. What I'm trying to do is make that service correlate with the implementation of the service coming in from rural transportation.

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Shay, will you help me on this, sir?

Commissioner Shay said, what I was hoping was we could unbundle these two issues for the time being, but there is a concern about the lack of overlap on service. My understanding is that right now, because we have not as a Chatham County Commission voted to suspend service outside the three-quarter mile limit, that it's still in effect. Mr. Rivers said, no, there's one thing. The control of whether we provide service in or out is with the Authority Board. The Authority Board has — you have it as funding to say that it will go. We don't have the capacity to meet our obligation within the three-quarters of a mile, so being that we don't have that capacity, we try to suggest that we correlate our effort with rural transportation to take up that slack as we pull back. Commissioner Shay asked, has the Chatham Area Transit Board resolved to suspend service outside the three-quarters of a mile limit? Mr. Rivers said, you have given us that authority, that's why we put January 2<sup>nd</sup> in as that date of pullback, but if we're going to implement the service, you know, I'm prepared because my answer has to be back to FTA the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. Commissioner Shay said, but I thought that we had voted not to implement that because we were still keeping this under consideration. Mr. Rivers said, the County Commissioners asked that that be done and that's why we tried to separate this issue altogether because this has always been a county issue. It has never been a — we have worked with it —. Commissioner Shay said, well it has [inaudible] now because — the County, we've resolved that we would like to see it continued and we're willing to continue funding until we untangle this knot, but now I'm hearing that the CAT Board is unwilling to continue —. Mr. Rivers said, I didn't say that the CAT Board was unwilling to continue. What I said to you was that the CAT Board voted to allow us to pullback that service to be in compliance with the FTA rules. That's what —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, so why was that not brought back up to the CAT Board that we just finished to address the wishes of the County Commission, being this Board is the one that funds the program. Mr. Rivers said, well, we left it out there because we thought that we would have some resolve on it, and I met with you, I thought everybody else was clear on all the issues, and I thought we would have some resolve when we got here today. I don't have any problem with — you know, I have to explain to the FTA why we have not done certain things, so it leaves me at risk.

Commissioner Shay said, let me see if I can fall off the horns of this dilemma. CAT has resolved with the County's funding in support to meet all of the FTA's questions and concerns to make sure that we are up to their standards for everybody that is within the three-quarter mile limit that we are required to by law, and this Commission is has or is about to, I would hope, make sure that the people that are outside of that three-quarter limit are between there and the boundaries of Chatham County, that we will continue to at least provide them some access to the system, although it may not be at exactly the same standard as those people who are within the three-quarter limit until we can figure out an alternative off the horns of this dilemma, and the reason I bring this up is the conflation of these two programs,

one which is a regional program and this one that is our responsibility as Commissioners, creates a lot of confusion and it's really the reason that we've had this come up I think this is the fourth meeting without being able to get off of this and move forward. And I think between our discussions earlier, Commissioner Kicklighter and others, what I would like for you to understand is we would be willing to resolve that we go forward with the Regional Development plan, but we also have the expectation that for those people that are outside the three-quarter mile core limit to there to the boundary that they would not be cut off from service immediately, that we would continue to the extent that we have with our existing resources to serve them, although not at the same level as those within the three-quarter mile limit because we realize that that level of service is too expensive for us to be able to afford right now until we can figure out how to deal with paratransit for those outside the three-quarter mile limit up to the boundaries of the County within the programs that we've already said, so that yes there may be some interface between the regional system and our local system, but nobody is going to just get completely pushed out of the nest here right now.

Mr. Rivers said, with the regional system, Commissioner Shay, you will pick up that void. The regional system will fill that void, and that's what I recommended early on when the Chairman asked me to look into it, and that was even before we had the problem of the fallback.

Commissioner Shay said, but I want it to be clear that we're not saying that the regional system is a substitute. It is an opportunity for us to leverage resources, but we're not leaving the people that are outside the three-quarter mile limit and within Chatham County totally dependent on whatever largess that we get from the State of Georgia and the Governor's budget, which nobody has yet finished reading, for the funding on a going forward basis. We're saying we like the \$30,000 deal, it seems to be a little bit too good to be true, but we're willing to take the risk and move forward with this for the next year, but we're also moving forward with a plan for how to deal with the people that are outside the three-quarter mile limit and inside the County limits in a way that they may not get exactly the same service as the people within the three-quarter mile limit, but they are not going to be completely cut off either.

Mr. Rivers said, well, as far as the paratransit, Teleride goes, Teleride once it pulls back we're hoping that that void will be taken up by the rural transportation.

Commissioner Shay said, and what we're saying is we think that's a good idea, but we want to make sure that that's not the only plan. Mr. Rivers said, well, then we have to come up with an additional plan, which we came up with an additional plan but the cost of that plan may be prohibitive on our budget and on all the budgets, but we have to satisfy whatever we've got within that three-quarter of a mile, and there are some — maybe some other alternatives, maybe some things that we need to look at and sit down and look at and see how can we provide adequate service outside of the three-quarter of a mile. Commissioner Shay said, amen. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I still think that what we're trying to do is to solve two problems that are totally different. If we need to go back to the Chatham Area Transit Authority and say that the County Commissioners are willing to fund the additional money for an indefinite period of time so that we do not have to have Teleride to reduce or construct their services, then let's do that. I think the RDC independent of that supplements that. We need to vote on this. This is a good thing. If they don't — if the government doesn't fund it next year, well at least we've got it for one year so we need to do it. But my understanding was that we would look objectively at our own alternate plan and determine what the cost of that is even — there are certain restricted criteria as to time we have to respond on Teleride for those people that live within that controlled service area. Those people who live outside of the controlled service area, it is my impression that those limiting restrictions do not apply and, therefore, if we can mesh that with RDC, but we also have a backup and know what potentially that backup's going to cost, I think that is what Shay wants. Pat [Shay], that's what you want and I think Dean [Kicklighter] wants — he's going to get hammered like most of the people that live outside. It's a good thing in that we have voted to provide the funding to maintain the service until we can unravel this. That's a separate vote. I think we need to vote on the RDC today, approve that, get that out of the way, and at our next CAT meeting have on the agenda the service area that we had been — we talked about restricting, and the extended area that it includes all the County, talk seriously about the cost of maintaining that, even if we have RDC. Those are two separate issues and let's not combine them, and having said that and firming believing that we have beaten this horse to death, I'm going to — and David [Gellatly] has been the primary person to beat it to death. He hasn't said a lot, but he's been over there thinking. I'll call for the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, that's ends everything at this point.

County Manager Abolt said, your source of funding and I would suggest the M&O Contingency.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, source of funding, M&O Contingency and I'll amend that. Commissioner Stone said, I'll accept that amendment.

Chairman Liakakis said, no more discussion, call for the question. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. Shaunte' [Hasty], you wanted to ask a question? Youth Commissioner Hasty said, no, Commissioner Shay answered it. Chairman Liakakis said, oh, he did. Okay, good. Thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Stone moved to untable this item and place it before the Board for consideration. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the funding of \$30,000 from the M&O Contingency for the RDC Regional Transportation Pilot Program for a one-year trial period. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: VIII-1**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

*Coastal Georgia*  
**Regional Development Center**

TO: Chairman Pete Liakakis  
Chatham County Commission

FROM: Barbara Hurst  
CGRDC Transportation Director

DATE: January 12, 2009

SUBJECT: Status of DOT contracts for transit and vanpool programs

Attached is a status report of the CGRDC's pending applications for funding from GA DOT for the regional rural public transit program and the regional vanpool program.

Details of these contracts are outlined below.

**5316 (JARC) contract**

- Used to help support the regional vanpool program. (**No city/county funds are contributed to this program.**)
- Capital grant – \$640,257 Contract has been signed (by Allen Burns) and returned to GA DOT for final execution.
- Operating grant – \$450,000 was returned to DOT for correction of errors in the contract. The expiration date of the contract will be extended from 6/30/09 to June 30, 2010. *If funds are expended prior to 6/30/2010, CGRDC will apply for a supplemental grant for additional funds to continue the program.*
- CGRDC projects initiation of this program in February 2009 upon final execution (signing) of these contracts by GA DOT.

**5317 (New Freedom) contract**

- For Mobility Manager position and advertising & marketing of the Section 5311 Rural Public Transit Program
- Capital grant – \$249,395 Contract has been signed (by Allen Burns) and returned to GA DOT for final execution. *If funds are expended prior to the 12/31/2001 contract expiration date, CGRDC will apply for supplemental funds.*
- CGRDC expects initiation of this program in February 2009 upon final execution (signing) of this contract by GA DOT.

Both, JARC and New Freedom programs will have additional funds available (2007 funds will be allocated by DOT in 2009). The CGRDC will submit supplemental budgets in March 2009 for continued funding through these grants.

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**\*2. AT MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2008, PURCHASING ITEMS J AND K WERE TABLED:**

| <b>ITEM</b>  | <b>DEPT.</b>         | <b>SOURCE</b>  | <b>AMOUNT</b>                          | <b>FUNDING</b>   |
|--|----------------------|--|--|--|
| 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<br>County portion: \$162,613 | •CIP - Human Resource - Disparity Study - \$150,000<br>•General Fund/M&O - Purchasing - \$12,613 |

Chairman Liakakis said, on Item 2 we have two items here. The first one is that we need to take off the table. It's an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four additional one-year terms to provide concessions at Tybee Pier and Pavilion. You know, we had an individual —.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Shay said, second.

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

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to approve this contract. Any discussion? The motion carried unanimously.. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, Item K, contract to conduct a disparity study of Chatham County, City of Savannah and Savannah-Chatham County Public School System purchasing and procurement practices. Mr. Abolt?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, as you know, you held onto this because of an issue of contesting the way the award was being fashioned. The lead agency, lead staff on this, City of Savannah, I do not know what the City Council did yesterday, but Mr. Kaigler and I have prepared this in such a way where you would award this contingent upon approval by your two partners, the City of Savannah and the School Board, and failing approval by either one of those partners, this of course is not *fait accompli*. I'll defer to Mr. Kaigler in the event he heard anything more from the City Council as of yesterday.

Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. The City Council approved it on yesterday. The School Board is scheduled to approve this item on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

Commissioner Odell said, I make a motion to approve with restrictions as outlined by the County Manager. Commissioner Stone said, second.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to take this item from the table for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Shay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the annual contract with Sweet Dreams with an automatic renewal option for four additional one-year terms to provide concessions at Tybee Pier and Pavilion for \$50,496.00.
- c. Commissioner Odell moved to approve a contract with 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 the City of Savannah and the School Board, at a cost to Chatham County of \$162,613.

**AGENDA ITEM: VIII-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**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

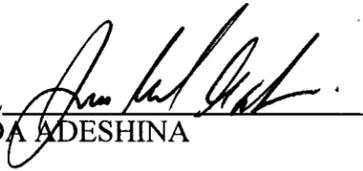
**ALTERNATIVES:**

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  
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**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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**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 AMEND FISCAL 2009 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS TO REFLECT FISCAL 2008 RESERVES FOR ENCUMBRANCES AND CAPITAL PROJECT BALANCES FOR THE GENERAL M&O, SPECIAL REVENUE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND TO RECOGNIZE AUDITED FISCAL 2008 FUND BALANCES FOR ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS EXCEPT THE GENERAL FUND M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND.**

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, this officially wraps up the budget for 2008 and allows you to carry forward monies for those projects still in the process during this fiscal year. It is a formality, but I recommend you approve it.

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion on the floor. Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion and a second. Alright, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to amend the fiscal 2009 budget resolutions to reflect fiscal 2008 reserves for encumbrances and capital project balances for the General M&O, Special Revenue, Capital Improvement, and Enterprise Funds, and to recognize audited fiscal 2008 fund balances for all governmental funds except the General fund M&O and the Special Service District Fund. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:**

To amend fiscal 2009 budget resolutions to reflect fiscal 2008 reserves for encumbrances and capital project balances for the General M&O, Special Revenue, Capital Improvement,

and Enterprise Funds, and to recognize audited fiscal 2008 fund balances for all governmental funds except the General Fund M&O and the Special Service District Fund.

**BACKGROUND:**

The fiscal year 2009 Chatham County budgets were adopted on June 27, 2008. A subsequent independent financial audit has verified fiscal year-end 2008 fund balances and capital project balances including reservations of fund balance for encumbrances and restricted fees. This report amends current year budgets to show the potential use of unreserved fund balance in those funds where it is considered an operating resource. The report also provides appropriations related to outstanding fiscal 2008 encumbrance balances ("carryforwards") and restricted fee reserves. Although a budget amendment to account for year end encumbrances is not a requirement of enterprise funds, enterprise funds are included in this report to facilitate effective management planning.

Fund balance is not considered an operating resource in the General M&O Fund and the Special Service District. Audited fund balance information for those funds was presented to the Board in December 2008.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- (1) The Chatham County General Fund M&O budget amendment increases the budget by \$919,849 Reserved for Restricted fees. The restricted fees will be added to the appropriate expenditure budgets.
- (2) The Chatham County Confiscated Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$199,993 to reflect a fund balance total of \$334,173. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (3) The Chatham County Emergency Management Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$275,469 to add fund balance. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (4) The Chatham County Street Paving Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$1,368 to reflect fund balance of \$293,496. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (5) The Chatham County Street Lighting Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$1,472 to add fund balance. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (6) The E911 Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$34,743 to reflect fund balance of \$634,543. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (7) The Chatham County Land Bank Authority budget amendment increases the budget by \$37,119 fund balance. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (8) The Chatham County Sales Tax I Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$2,804,873 to reflect a fund balance of \$13,346,542. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (9) The Chatham County Sales Tax II Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$121,740 to reflect a fund balance of \$8,201,084. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (10) The Chatham County Sales Tax III Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$1,862,757 to reflect a fund balance of \$74,671,240. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (11) The Chatham County Sales Tax IV Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$16,112,367 to reflect a fund balance of \$99,271,965. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (12) The Chatham County Capital Improvement Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$19,996,667 to reflect a fund balance of \$25,073,517. Appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (13) The Chatham County Capital Improvement - Series 1999 DSA Revenue Bond Fund budget amendment decreases revenue by \$73,053. Total fund balance will be \$520,892. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (14) The Chatham County Capital Improvement - Series 2005 DSA Revenue Bond Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$170,679 to reflect fund balance of \$4,245,057. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (15) The Chatham County Capital Improvement Bond Detention 2007 Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$9,924 fund balance. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (16) The Hospital Authority Debt Service Fund increases the budget by \$102,896 to add fund balance. The appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.

- (17) The Chatham County Water and Sewer Fund budget amendment adjusts revenues by \$65,179 to reflect encumbrance carryforwards. Appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (18) The Chatham County Solid Waste Management Fund budget amendment adjusts revenues by \$349,910 to reflect encumbrance carryforwards. Appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in Reserved Fund Balance, Unreserved Fund Balance and/or Net Assets for all funds.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

**GENERAL FUND M&O**

- (a) A budget amendment in the amount of \$919,849 for Fund Balance - Reserved for Restricted Fees.
- (b) Appropriations in accordance with the attached resolution.

**CONFISCATED SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

A budget amendment to increase by \$199,993 from fund balance with a corresponding appropriation for Public Safety expenditures.

**CHATHAM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

A budget amendment to increase by \$275,469 from fund balance with corresponding increase in expenditures.

**STREET PAVING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

A budget amendment to increase by \$1,368 from fund balance with corresponding increase in expenditures.

**STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

A budget amendment to increase by \$1,472 from fund balance with a corresponding increase in expenditures.

**E911 FUND**

A budget amendment to increase by \$34,743 from fund balance with a corresponding increase in expenditures.

**LAND BANK FUND**

A budget amendment to balance to increase revenues by \$37,119 from fund balance with a corresponding increase in expenditures.

**ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX I FUND**

A budget amendment to decrease fund balance carried forward by \$2,804,873 in fund balance with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

**ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX II FUND**

A budget amendment to decrease fund balance carried forward by \$121,740 with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

**ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX III FUND**

A budget amendment to decrease fund balance carried forward by \$1,862,757 with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution

**ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX IV FUND**

A budget amendment increasing fund balance carried forward by \$16,112,367 with a corresponding increase in expenditures. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND**

- (a) A budget amendment increasing the fund by \$19,996,667 audited fund balance.
- (b) Appropriations in accordance with the attached resolution.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT - SERIES 1999 DSA REVENUE BOND FUND**

A budget amendment decreasing the fund by \$73,053 in fund balance with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT-SERIES 2005 DSA REVENUE BOND FUND**

A budget amendment increasing the fund by \$170,679 in fund balance with a corresponding increase in expenditures. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND DETENTION 2007 FUND**

A budget amendment increasing the fund by \$9,924 in fund balance with a corresponding increase in expenditures. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY DEBT SERVICE FUND**

A budget amendment recognizing fund balance of \$102,896 with a corresponding increase in expenditures.

**WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND**

A budget amendment in the amount of \$65,179 net assets for year end encumbrances with corresponding expense appropriations.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISE FUND**

A budget amendment in the amount of \$349,910 net assets for year end encumbrances with corresponding expense appropriations.

- (2) Amend the transfers and budget amendments.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The State Code grants the Board of Commissioners the authority to amend the budget as it deems necessary during the fiscal year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

PREPARED BY: Read DeHaven

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2. TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS: (1) TRANSFER \$110,182 FROM THE DETENTION CENTER OPERATING BUDGET TO SALARIES AND BENEFITS TO IMPLEMENT SALARY ADJUSTMENTS IN A) THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT \$1,470, B) THE DETENTION CENTER \$108,380, AND C) THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM \$332, (2) TRANSFER \$7,000 WITHIN THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S BUDGET FOR SALARIES AND WAGES, (3) INCREASE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES IN THE GENERAL FUND M&O \$2,894 FOR A REIMBURSEMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE PROGRAM, (4) TRANSFER \$5,012 FROM M&O CONTINGENCY TO PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THE COMMUNITY BASEBALL LEAGUE EXPENDITURES, (5) APPROPRIATE \$1,112,165 SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND BALANCE FOR TRANSFER OUT TO THE BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES ENTERPRISE FUND, (6) INCREASE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES IN THE BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES FUND \$1,112,165 FOR THE TRANSFER IN FROM THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND, AND (7) APPROPRIATE \$120,000 IN THE 2005 DSA BOND FUND FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE SABHC FACILITY PROJECT.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, thank you. A lot of words, I appreciate the Chairman reading the details highlighting the biggest amount there has to do with what we refer to as the reserve amount allocated out of unrestricted fund balance for SSD that in the event that the downward trend continues for the balance of our fiscal year in building permit fees, you have that reserve set up. A part of this obviously is going to be used to fund a small part of your predictable permitting, but I do want to defer with your permission, Mr. Chairman, to Commissioner Holmes Item 4, which is a relatively small amount of money, just a tad over \$5,000 came about as a result of the creative thinking of Commissioner Holmes and the desire of staff to embark on during this baseball season a very neat baseball program a league for youngsters.

Commissioner Holmes said, the program, ladies and gentlemen, that we are embarking upon to enhance our program that we already have in place, it's a program that's going to deal with kids that don't have to be competitively strong and run so fast to be competitive. It's a non-competitive league and all coaches and leaders are hand-picking going through a training. So it is all based on funds instead of wins.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Helen [Stone], you had a comment?

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I had a question and maybe it's a concern. On Item 6, this \$1,000,000 that's being transferred into the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund, this is a little bit frightening because — I mean, I don't know what the projection is going to be in the future, and I'm worried — very worried about the Special Service District budget, especially with the increases or requests for increases from the Police Department. So is this a rational move? County Manager Abolt said, I think it is a prudent move with risks, and the only risk here, of course, for the balance of the fiscal year, I made a decision and a recommendation to you that would keep Mr. Anderson's department solvent for the balance of this year and in anticipation of the turn-around in the home building industry and the difficult situation it would put us in if we would lay off these inspectors, but this is only through this fiscal year. In the event things do not turn around obviously just as you said so well, Special Service District for next year's budget will be extremely problematic. We have some obligations currently to fund a certain level in the MPD based only on population and then we have, if there's a continuing downturn in other activities that would adversely affect the Special Service District, it's legitimate to say there will be substantial cuts in the Special Service District budget and in my budget I present to you in May and June and the budget you'll be adopting come July.

Commissioner Stone said, well, that's what I'm worried about. Are we appropriating a lot of money here that we might need to get us through this year out of this Special Service District budget? County Manager Abolt said, the answer is yes, but you've been dealing, and this is two issues of importance to bring out right now. Number one, as you know, for a number of years you've been drawing down on your unrestricted fund balance to support primarily increases in the MPD. You still have your necessary based on financial policy, I think it's two months, three months, whatever, I forget now, reserves in SSD so you're not this year going in harm's way, but unless things turn around by the first of July, you'll be taking some drastic steps based on my recommendations. But the downside of that is, let's say if you decided to say, okay, this is the middle of January, we want to reduce Building and Safety by this amount of money, because of a policy recommendation I made to the previous Board, you know, we fund Building and Safety, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, and a good portion of Engineering based on fees. You know, we stopped any major subsidy by the Special Service District taxpayer to those regulatory functions, the reason being is, you know, when there's activity out there that creates wealth for the private sector, they should pay their fair share of it. With this unforeseen economic downturn, we're reversing it for the time being. The downside would be if you were to say, Mr. Manager, make the cuts now, we would have no capacity so that all of a sudden if there was a resurgence, we call it, when there's a resurgence in building, we would not have the competency of any inspection staff to go out and there and begin issuing permits, and that flies right in the face of your idea of predictable permitting. The long and the short of it, it is a risk, a risk I think that is worth taking. You are setting up a reserve. Whatever you use in it will only go for those services needed, but the long and the short of it is come 1 July we'll have problems.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand what you're saying. I'm just saying as a representative for the Special Service District, I'm going to be watching this very closely because this really gives me pause for concern. That budget is fragile to begin with and I'm very nervous about removing a million dollars out of our savings for Building Safety and Regulatory Services when the jobs aren't even there to fit the need. So I have some reservations about this because of my constituents and so I just want to watch it very closely.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter] is next.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Mr. Manager, would there be any way to transfer the inspections employees that are no longer needed to other County departments at this time, the departments that are actually in need of employees, that way they could retain their employment with the County but we cannot — County Manager Abolt said, first of all, yes sir. I don't want to assume anything, but I want to make sure it's understood by the viewing audience, the workers — the individuals that we have in Building Safety are fully employed. That's not the issue. They're doing some nuisance abatement, inspections, we've made a major commitment to work on predictable permitting, they're doing zoning inspections. The amount of complaints we received have been minimal as a result of that. That's not the issue. The issue is that other governments — I'll give you an example: the City of Savannah — traditionally have funded these regulatory functions from general tax dollars. A number of years ago, I think shortly after you came on the County Commission, we again were faced with serious problems in the SSD and, of course, growth was prevalent, and I had made a recommendation which is very valid particularly in good times that, you know, growth should in effect pay its way as opposed to being subsidized by the general property taxpayer. And we successfully did that up until this year. My concern, and this is in your private life, if we were to lose or diminish, whatever the proper word is, our inspection staff and then when this resurgence of growth comes about, then you'd get all sorts of complaints from builders and developers well why aren't you out there inspecting my property. This is the downside of funding these types of services almost exclusively from property tax dollars. It's a short-term risk. I'll guarantee you come the first of July, if there's not a turnaround as we would hope it would be, then there's some more drastic steps will be taken. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I appreciate that, but I definitely share the concerns. Now I just — my concern is not when it turns around being able to get people in here because the way the economy is there's going to be qualified people that's looking for good jobs, like I believe we provide here, and my concern is for the employees themselves actually what the reality is when this budget cuts, it's either there jobs which is their livelihood and that's why I would like to see these people offered a transfer into a department that's actually hiring, and in this economy trying to look after their best —

after them as well as be a guard of the taxpayer's dollars, I think that would be the logical move for us at this point rather than paying millions knowing that it's not a necessary expense at this time, and especially paying the millions with hope that the building starts back in July. County Manager Abolt said, I appreciate you —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll give you this personal example. I held on personally for quite a while with the real estate business that I do in my private life, but now you can believe I'll do about any other job around to bring some money to my house because the fact is the real estate market has slowed and that's just a sad fact of life right now, and I think we need to look at now as well as in the future —. County Manager Abolt said, I appreciate your sensitivity. We did send you a report on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December that indicated our plan of action. We have some vacancies we're not filling in Building and Safety plus, as I said, we're using these employees elsewhere. I would venture to say if things don't turn around by the end of June, you're going to see more than just a Department of Building and Safety looking at positions that would not longer be budgeted after the first of July which we'd make transition. As we've always done in the past, again you'll remember this, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Odell, that when we had to do this before, our first choice was to absorb them in other parts of the County, and we would do that if the jobs are available.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell asked, out of the million and one that we're transferring, is every one of those dollars going to make up the difference —? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Commissioner Farrell said — that are coming in for permitting or how does that break down? County Manager Abolt said, we're just saying here — we haven't got the six-month report from Ms. Cramer — that will come in the first part of February — we're just prudently saying, okay, we have this fund called unrestricted fund balance and we're going to say reserve it and only use that amount you need, and only use that when it's required. But at the end of the year if it turns around or if there are other ways in which to deal with the turnover, as Commissioner Kicklighter said, we would not use it all. This is just being prudent six months in. I'll have a more definitive report for you come the 13<sup>th</sup> of February when I have the first half of the current fiscal year report in front of you. Commissioner Farrell said, okay, so you're saying that if all things remain the same, you possibly could use that whole entire amount by June 1<sup>st</sup>. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, yes sir. Commissioner Farrell said, June 30<sup>th</sup> to keep the department afloat because of the declining trend in building permits. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. That's correct, finalizing building permits.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, one way to evaluate a department I guess is what revenue that department produced, which we did to this department. Is that true, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, and because the building industry is down, the revenues have decreased, but ancillary services, which are necessary services, these people are still performing. That's true, isn't it? County Manager Abolt said, no question about it. Commissioner Odell said, so the viewing public should not be on the misapprehension that we've got a million one worth of staff sitting around and doing nothing because that's not the case. I guess my only concern is that, and I don't have a crystal ball, but what I do have is I do not think that our economy is going to turn around by July. I'm hopeful that it does, but I don't think that it will, to the point that we will be back to '06 levels and everybody buying. So we're going to have to make a decision regarding this department or change the source of funding. And that's a policy decision if we want to change how we fund it. If we compare it with how other folks fund it, other folks fund it from tax dollars. When we change — Dean [Kicklighter], when you came on and some others came on, we were going through looking at and based upon the County Manager's recommendation, and his recommendation was that if we're growing, then taxpayers shouldn't necessarily pay for that growth, and we set up and transferred the method of funding based upon revenue. I am willing, and having worked with Mr. Abolt for many years and realize that he spends more time than we do just on this Friday morning, and that it is his expert opinion that based upon a review of the organization totally that this at this point is a wise expenditure. With that I'll support the County Manager's recommendation with the full understanding that if things do not turn around when we start our new budgeting process, there are going to be a lot of options on the table. We've never talked about consolidation with City and education departments so that we can get some synergy out of group activities, we're going to have to think about some of those things and think hard about them and put off the emotions of this is mine and this is yours, but I don't think we are there now.

County Manager Abolt said, you're going to also have two reports coming to you as to the progress of this fiscal year. The first I believe will be the 13<sup>th</sup> of February when you get your midyear report on financial status and then you get two and a half months out of your third quarter report. All of you worked with me long enough to know that if there are trends that are developing that are such that things are not going to get better, then you're going to see other strategies implemented before the end of the fiscal year affecting more than just the Building and Safety Department.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, Mr. Chairman, is there a motion on this? At this point there's not, right? Chairman Liakakis said, no. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. At this time I would like to make a motion to approve number two with the exception of subsection #5, which will be 2(5), and we will address that next individually. Approve paragraph number 2 under Items for Individual Action except for number (5), and we will address that separately. Commissioner Odell said, you would also have to do (6) because (6) is dependent upon (5). Commissioner Kicklighter said, (5) and (6). Thank you. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second.

Chairman Liakakis said, you know, listening to what the County Manager has said, and he's done a lot of work with his staff and they've always brought us positive information about the operations, so we need to think about how we vote on that (5) and (6). Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can we handled the other one first? Chairman Liakakis said,

at this time, but anyway let's do this. Let's go on the board now to hold off on (5) and (6) under Item 2, and then we'll get back to (5) and (6). The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Under item (5) appropriate \$1,112,165 Special Service District fund balance for Transfer Out to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund, and then under (6) increase revenue and expenditures in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund \$1,112,165 for the transfer in from the Special Service District fund.

Ms. Cramer said, I just wanted to state that this is just to set up budget authority to pay expenditures in that fund up to the actual amounts that are incurred. What we're dealing with right now is when you adopted a budget in June of last year, we had about a million dollars budgeted for this fund, which was really a half year budget. So we don't have right now is enough money to meet payroll and other expenditures associated with the fund on a going-forward basis. So regardless of what you do in terms of policy, we do need some funding to meet the payroll and other expenses of the fund until such time as your policies are implemented.

Commissioner Odell asked, how much is that? Commissioner Kicklighter asked, how much monies would get a month? Ms. Cramer said, a month would be \$200,000, I suppose. You know, just about —. Commissioner Odell asked, are you taking just one-sixth of the —. Ms. Cramer said, yes. Commissioner Odell asked, and so all of this is for payroll? Ms. Cramer said, most of these services provided, they are payroll related. Commissioner Odell asked, so the answer to my question is yes?

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any other discussion? We have a situation that's just from our Finance Director talking about meeting payroll and then we can make adjustments from there.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, my motion would be to appropriate \$200,000, which — and instruct staff to bring back an alternative plan within one month. Chairman Liakakis asked, and a second? Commissioner Gellatly said, I'll second it.

Commissioner Odell said, discussion. Chairman Liakakis said, discussion. Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, I've just got a serious concern about — my concern is whether or not 30 days is sufficient time. If \$200,000 is 30 days, the equivalent to 30 days, I think staff has a ton of things to do and I don't want our people to be in a — performing work and there's no budgeted compensation. I would like to hear from our two engineers, to [inaudible] on this, because they've got a closer feel for this than —.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, the thing about it is, we've heard and they need the money there and they'll be looking at other things that they'll bring forth to us so that we can address them. So it's important how we vote on this. Do you have anything —.

Commissioner Shay said, I'll just say that for us to — not to not do something today to make sure that we have, you know, a funded and functioning building inspections department would be a disaster. I mean, this is our, you know, — I realize that times are slower than they have been in past years, but we have to have a functioning inspections department and Building Safety and Regulations Department, not only for building permits, but for a whole lot of other functions that we rely on in order to be part of the public safety network that people look at. These aren't people that wear blue uniforms and have gold badges, but it's important stuff that they do.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, from my experience of being Mayor of a smaller government, I'm well aware that there are individuals out there that can be subcontracted in on a per inspection type basis to handle inspections. I'm not recommending a layoff of employees. I'm recommending a look at this situation right now and potentially shifting these employees to other departments which are actually in need of employees at this moment, and I think, no, it's not fun rocking the boat, but I think if we don't start rocking it now, I think it's going to sink pretty soon. We're facing some major financial problems coming up in the very near future, especially when homes actually sell for the amazing low, just super low prices, and the [inaudible] come in and property values actually are reduced countywide. And that's coming very soon, and each penny right now we have to start guarding or we're going to face a sinking ship in the very near future. So rocking it is not fun, but if it will help prevent it from sinking, then it might be the right thing for us to do is just guard a little bit tighter at this point. And again I'll stress, I think Russ Abolt is a wonderful Manager, I think he's the best around, and I admire the loyalty he has for the staff here, and I appreciate it. He's a — does an outstanding job, but we are also the stewards of the taxpayers' monies and we have to look at that as well as show our appreciation for the employees of this County. And just approving something short term asking staff to take a look at alternatives is not going to hurt a thing. It's just prolonging, and if he can come back and show that that is something we have to do, then we have to do it. But taking a longer look in my opinion can't hurt.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Again, I appreciate all your remarks, particularly Commissioner Kicklighter and Commissioner Shay. We have an issue here of not being able to reach out and contract as one might hope in other times. We've got talented people, we've got certifications that they have had. We've also got commitments in zoning enforcement and code enforcement, but more importantly, you know, this — and not to throw it back to y'all — y'all are telling me and I respect it and encourage it, that you want to do a better job of our issuing permits. That includes Building and Safety, Engineering and MPC. Later on you have on the agenda, and it's taken a long time to get here, a recommendation to award a contract of \$80,000 to look at this process. Down substantially because we're going to

use some inspectors to help out. You're on the brink, you're on the cusp of actually doing what you'd hoped we would do a year ago, and I'm saying we've got the resources now. I am not one to idly or unnecessarily ask you to do certain things. I think this is an acceptable risk given your goals, given the fact that I firmly believe that it's going to turn around, and when it turns around we have to have the capacity. And the reason why you hear this discussion coming from County staff versus reading about it in other municipalities, by and large other municipalities over the years have subsidized their building and inspections operations from general taxes, and there was a time not that long ago, ladies and gentlemen, when the building and safety operations subsidized the SSD. There were years in which we kept taxes to the general taxpayer down lower because we were taking money from Inspection revenue and using it to fund police. Those were the glory days. That's not longer there, but you've got what I look to as a short term risk. I think it's worth taking. I think month to month would create a difficult problem from the standpoint of just being able to get work done because, for example, some of those inspectors who Mr. Anderson wanted to commit to do predictable permitting would then be looking from month to month as to whether or not they're going to be employed.

County Manager Abolt asked, why don't we do this? Why don't — I will commit to you that within three months, certainly by the time you get your third quarter financial report, if there are problems here, we will present a course of action to you. I would counsel against hurting the situation that might do damage to something that you all want in predictable permitting and also lose certified licensed individuals who, when they're not there, we know so well, we've got problems. Commissioner Farrell came to me a long time ago and said we've got to do something to get permits moving, and we did an awful lot. We had an intern program, we did a lot of neat things. I just don't want to throw out that talent at a time when possibly in the short term that move would be very ill-advised when we didn't have that capacity when we needed it.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to say that we're all good stewards of the funds that we are responsible for and definitely we do not take anything lightly, but I do have the highest respect for the County Manager's recommendations and that's where I'm heading towards at this time.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, you know, this is nothing compared to what we're going to be facing a few months down the road and I try to be optimistic and think it's going to turn around, but if it's turned around we'd still be in deep trouble six months from now. I do have a problem with the funding of any organization, any department, having a fully funded and staffed group that doesn't have a full amount of work to do, and maybe I missed it but I think when Commissioner Kicklighter asked the question if temporarily, you've got to have some people in that department that are sitting down there twiddling their thumbs. No? Okay. County Manager Abolt said, they're not, sir. I'll guarantee you that and the report we gave you on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December shows it. I would never allow that to happen nor would Mr. Anderson. Commissioner Gellatly said, and I have every confidence of that, Russ [Abolt], but as we move along I don't see why some of these people can't be temporarily transferred to other units. We need to save money wherever we can. If we spend that money, that money is gone forever and always, you know, and we're doing it on a gamble. There has to be another way to do that. County Manager Abolt said, there is. Commissioner Gellatly said, I have full confidence in you, Russ [Abolt], that there are other ways to do this and that you can come up with it. I really do. I do have problems with staff in any government body with people that don't have any work. County Manager Abolt said, I would just ask that —. Commissioner Gellatly said, under any circumstances. County Manager Abolt said, that you please understand —. Commissioner Gellatly said, particularly now when this is just the tip of the iceberg. You know, we're going to look back at this I think unfortunately six months from now and we could be doing something really dumb. County Manager Abolt said, I don't disagree with you, sir. All I would ask, and I know Mr. Curl is back there writing like crazy, I don't want anybody to think that people are just sitting around twiddling their thumbs. In the report we gave you in early December, we can guarantee you they're not.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I will —, Mr. Chairman, if I may state just —. Chairman Liakakis said, no, it's Harris [Odell]. Commissioner Kicklighter said, sorry. Chairman Liakakis said, he was next.

Commissioner Odell said, I think reasonable people can hear the same thing and come to different conclusions, and my conclusion is different. I think that this is something based on the recommendation of the County Manager and based upon our prior workings and dealings, I think we go with the six months. I personally plan to vote against the motion that's on the floor. Hopefully it will fail. Upon it's failure, I offer the alternate motion and that alternate motion would be approval for six months with a three month review and report by the County Manager back to this Commission. There are no guarantees and with that I call for the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, this is to approve one month, \$200,000 worth. Chairman Liakakis said, the first one — \$200,000 for one month on there. Let's go on the board. Commissioners Holmes, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of three to six. Commissioner Odell said, it fails. Chairman Liakakis said, defeated.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, fellow Commissioners, and I share Dean [Kicklighter] and David's [Gellatly] concern and although we all voted together, I don't think we have to in every step be in unison, and we have proven that we can disagree without being disagreeable. I make a motion to approve (5) and (6) as submitted. Commissioner

Shay said, with the stipulation that —. Commissioner Odell said, with the stipulation that we have a three-month report —. Commissioner Gellatly asked what does a three-month report mean if three-months come back and everything's really terrible? Commissioner Odell said, we've got to make the hard decision and make an immediate —. Commissioner Thomas said, second the motion, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Gellatly said, at three months. Commissioner Odell said, at three months. I think that's the only option.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to approve the following budget transfers and amendments: (1) transfer \$110,182 from the Detention Center operating budget to salaries and benefits to implement salary adjustments in a) the Sheriff's department \$1,470, b) the Detention Center \$108,380, and c) the Counter Narcotics Team \$332, (2) transfer \$7,000 within the Court Administrator's budget for salaries and wages, (3) increase revenue and expenditures in the General Fund M&O \$2,894 for a reimbursement to the Construction Apprentice Program, (4) transfer \$5,012 from M&O Contingency to Parks and Recreation for the Community Baseball League expenditures, and (7) appropriate \$120,000 in the 2005 DSA Bond Fund from contingency to the SABHC facility project, excluding subsections (5) and (6), which will be addressed individually. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to 2(5) appropriate \$200,000 Special Service District fund balance for Transfer Out to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund, and 2(6) increase revenue and expenditures in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund \$200,000 for the transfer in from the Special Service District fund, and instruct staff to bring back an alternative plan within one month. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion. Commissioners Holmes, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of three to six.
- c. Commissioner Odell made a motion to approve the following budget transfers and amendments: 2(5) appropriate \$1,112,165 Special Service District fund balance for Transfer Out to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund, and 2(6) increase revenue and expenditures in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund \$1,112,165 for the transfer in from the Special Service District fund and instruct staff to submit a report in three months. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-2**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**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) transfer \$110,182 from the Detention Center operating budget to salaries and benefits to implement salary adjustments in a) the Sheriff's department \$1,470, b) the Detention Center \$108,380, and c) the Counter Narcotics Team \$332, (2) transfer \$7,000 within the Court Administrator's budget for salaries and wages, (3) increase revenue and expenditures in the General Fund M&O \$2,894 for a reimbursement to the Construction Apprentice Program, (4) transfer \$5,012 from M&O Contingency to Parks and Recreation for the Community Baseball League expenditures, (5) appropriate \$1,112,165 Special Service District fund balance for Transfer Out to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund, (6) increase revenue and expenditures in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund \$1,112,165 for the transfer in from the Special Service District fund, and (7) appropriate \$120,000 in the 2005 DSA Bond Fund from contingency to the SABHC facility project.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- (1) The Board of Commissioners has approved salary adjustments for entry level law enforcement personnel. Transfers from the Detention Center budget will provide funding. The savings in the Detention Center budget are the result of amendments to rental contracts. A total of \$110,182 will be transferred to the Sheriff's department \$1,470; the Detention Center \$108,380; and the Counter Narcotics Team \$332. Board approval is needed for increases in the salary appropriations.

- (2) The Superior Court Administrator has requested a transfer of \$7,000 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 of \$3,200 was approved by the Board at their December 19, 2008 meeting. A transfer from an operating line item to salaries is requested.
- (3) The Construction Apprentice Program has received a reimbursement of \$2,894 from the Savannah Technical College. An amendment to recognize the revenue and increase the program budget has been prepared. A resolution and a copy of the reimbursement are attached.
- (4) The Public Works and Parks Services Director requests \$5,012 for game officials for the Community Baseball League. A General Fund contingency transfer is requested.
- (5) Revenues in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund are not sufficient to cover projected expenditures during the current fiscal year. A budget amendment authorizing transfers of \$1,112,165 from the Special Service District Fund to the enterprise fund is requested. Transfers will only be made as needed, based upon actual operating shortfalls. Resolutions are attached amending the budgets for the Special Service District and the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Funds.
- (6) Additional funding is requested associated with the SABHC facility project. The funding is available in the contingency account within the 2005 DSA Bond Fund.

**FUNDING:** Funds are available in the Detention Center and Court Administrator's budgets for the transfers. The budget amendments will establish funding in the General Fund M&O, the Special Service District Fund, the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund and the 2005 DSA Bond Fund.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

**GENERAL FUND M&O**

- (a) transfer \$110,182 from the Detention Center operating budget to salaries and benefits to implement salary adjustments in the Sheriff's department \$1,470, the Detention Center \$108,380, and the Counter Narcotics Team \$332,
- (b) transfer \$7,000 within the Court Administrator's budget to salaries and benefits,
- (c) increase revenues and expenditures \$2,894 for a reimbursement to the Construction Apprentice Program, and
- (d) transfer \$5,012 from Contingency to Parks and Recreation.

**SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT**

increase revenues from fund balance \$1,112,165 and expenditures \$1,112,165 for Transfer Out to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund.

**BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES ENTERPRISE FUND**

increase revenue and expenditures \$1,112,165 for the transfer in from the Special Service District fund.

**2005 DSA BOND FUND**

transfer \$120,000 from contingency to the SABHC facility project.

- (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.

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE ALLOCATIONS OF PROCEEDS FROM THE 2003-2008 SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTIONS SALES TAX (SPLOST) COLLECTED BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2003, AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, WHICH WERE ABOVE THE AMOUNT PROJECTED FOR THE REFERENDUM HELD ON MARCH 18, 2003, AS LISTED ON THE PROJECT SCHEDULE ATTACHED TO THE STAFF REPORT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, I need a motion on the floor. Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, I have a motion on the floor and a second to approve this item. Go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve allocations of proceeds from the 2003-2008 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) collected between October 1, 2003, and September 30, 2008, which were above the amount projected for the referendum held on March 18, 2003, as listed on the project schedule attached to the staff report. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**4. TRANSMITTAL OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY 2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WORKBOOK. WORKBOOKS WILL BE IN DISTRIBUTED ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009.**

Chairman Liakakis said, you have that in front of you now.

County Manager Abolt said, just as you prepare yourself for your goals sessions and then going into the budget in a month, we always give this to you in advance. It's good reading. It shows you consistently that you were excellent stewards of CIP expenditures. In fact, we're extremely healthy in our CIP funds for M&O.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. I need a motion on the floor. Commissioner Holmes said, so moved. County Manager Abolt said, it's just information, sir. Chairman Liakakis said, it's just information. County Manager Abolt said, you're receiving them. Chairman Liakakis said, for those projects.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The Board received the CIP Workbooks as information. No vote was required.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-4**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:** To transmit the Chatham County 2009 Capital Improvement Projects Workbook to the Board for Consideration.

**BACKGROUND:** In October 2008 capital budget packages were distributed to all departments. Submitted projects were rated by the CIP Committee in mid November. The 2009 Capital Improvement Projects Workbook provides summary detail on submitted projects with priority ratings.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Capital Improvement Projects Workbook represents a listing of capital requests and cost estimates provided by County Department Heads. Except for the Westside Precinct, funded capital projects are not included in the document unless current funding is insufficient. The cost threshold for projects is \$25,000.
2. The 2009 Capital Improvement Projects Workbook lists 129 projects for consideration totaling over \$123 million. Summary lists are provided that sort the projects three ways within fund sources: i) by Rating Score, ii) by Service Level Priority, and iii) by Department/Agency. Further detail on each project is provided on a separate project detail sheet.
3. The CIP Committee scored each project and assigned a rating. Projects were scored based on six categories: Service Level Priority, Policy Priority, Expected Useful Life, Number of Board Goals Met, Effect on Revenues, and Grant Availability. The maximum available score is 160 points. A sample rating sheet is attached.

4. Some projects listed in the workbook are eligible for funding under the 2003-2008 SPLOST referendum. A revised project list for the SPLOST IV Fund will be provided to the Board separately.

**FUNDING:** Limited funding for capital improvement projects is available in the CIP Fund M&O and SSD Contingency Accounts. The Board may also consider transfers of designated fund balance to provide additional resources.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** In their October 2005 bond ratings, the rating agencies encouraged the County to provide consistent funding for its capital project needs. Adopted financial policies encourage funding to maintain asset quality and service levels.

**ALTERNATIVES:** N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:** For Board Consideration.

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**5. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM MOUNTAIN OF HOLINESS CHURCH, INC., FOR THE COUNTY TO FORGIVE OR ABATE ANY PREVIOUSLY ASSESSED TAXES FOR PARCEL 2-0099-16-001 FOR TAX YEARS 2004, 2005, 2006 AND 2007.**

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, this I'll defer to the County Attorney, but you have a situation where an applicant missed an opportunity to have their taxes abated, and we in effect are giving it to the Board for consideration. I believe their recommendation would be to forgive.

County Attorney Hart said, yes, this is a situation in which you have the Mountain of Holiness Church. There's not much question it was a piece of property in which the church activities fully dedicated to the faith of the church. It is exempt under our Ad Valorem Tax Law. Apparently, they did not apply for 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 for an exemption. They have applied and now have received the exemptions. They're requesting a rebate for those years in which they paid when they may have in fact been technically legally exempt.

Commissioner Odell asked, Jon [Harris], what district is this in? County Attorney Hart said, I think it is in Commissioner Holmes' district. Commissioner Holmes said, my district. Commissioner Odell said, I will second Mr. Holmes' motion to approve if he makes it. Commissioner Holmes said, definitely. I've already spoke with them.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to approve the request from Mountain of Holiness Church, Inc., for the County to forgive or abate any previously assessed taxes for Parcel 2-0099-16-001 for tax years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM:** *IX-5*  
**AGENDA DATE:** January 16, 2009

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

**ISSUE:**

To consider request of Mountain of Holiness Church, Inc. to forgive or abate any previously assessed taxes for parcel 2-0099-16-001 for tax years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

**BACKGROUND:**

This is a request by Mountain of Holiness Church, Inc. to forgive or abate any previously assessed taxes for parcel 2-0099-16-001 for tax years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. The property was purchased by the Church on September 7, 2004. However, the

Church did not file for an exemption until January 9, 2008. The Board of Assessors granted an exemption for tax year 2008 on February 19, 2008.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. Mountain of Holiness Church, Inc. is a non-profit organization and a church.
2. O.C.G.A. 48-5-154 provides the County governing authority shall have jurisdiction and the power to correct all errors in the digest to order abatement or cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to make other adjustments in the digest of a similar nature and to reflect the same in the account as stated.
3. The location of the above PIN is 1901 Linnhurst Street.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Mountain of Holiness Church, Inc. is exempt from ad valorem property taxes. Any taxes that have been paid should be refunded or in the alternative, an order and abatement of cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and appropriate adjustment to the digest should be made.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The Commission should authorize the refund of \$5,501.46 ad valorem taxes including penalties and interest<sup>1</sup> or order an abatement and cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to correct and adjust errors in the digest for tax years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

2. The Commission should not authorize the refund of \$5,501.46 ad valorem taxes including penalties and interest or order an abatement and cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to correct and adjust errors in the digest for tax years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Board consideration.

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- 6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POSITION CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:**
- A. DELETE ONE (1) ADA IV POSITION IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND CREATE TWO (2) ADA I POSITIONS**
  - B. CREATE ONE (1) EIP DIVISION WARRANT CONTROL CLERK**
  - C. CREATE ONE (1) PIO/GRANT WRITER**
  - D. CREATE ONE (1) CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION CLERICAL ASSISTANT**
  - E. CREATE ONE (1) ENTRY LEVEL ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY I**

Chairman Liakakis said, and from what I understand — well, go ahead, District Attorney, Larry Chisholm, our new district attorney.

District Attorney Larry Chisholm said, good morning. It's already — it's been outlined to you, this is a proposal to change five positions within the district attorney's office, and I think what the Chairman was about to make you aware of, this change is being requested within the current 2009 fiscal year budget. I'm not asking for any additional funds. This is just creative utilization of the funds within the current district attorney's office to increase the efficiencies within the office, and this is a part of a larger reorganizational plan that I've already started implement within the district attorney's office and it doesn't require any additional funds from the Chatham County Commission.

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<sup>1</sup>Penalties and interest amounts include the following: 2004 (\$26.60); 2005 (\$125.69); 2006 (\$146,42 and other fees: \$250); and 2007 (\$48.41)

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, let's go on the board.

Commissioner Stone said, I have a question. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone. Commissioner Stone said, no additional funds are required now, but what does that mean for next year's budget? District Attorney Chisholm said, from the cash flow analysis that I've seen, I think that we possibly will be able to absorb it within the next fiscal year. If not, then I'll have to make some adjustments within any of the positions that I think that I can get away with not having within that money. County Manager Abolt said, if I may —. Commissioner Stone said, I mean, I just have a concern based on the prior conversations we've just had of hiring people. I understand the money's in this year's budget, but going forward if the money is not going to be there, I just want to be cautious of that.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, I appreciate the new District Attorney's partnership and cooperation. He's worked very closely with Mr. Kaigler and he fully understands that he has to absorb this within his budget both this year and next.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and before the vote, that's what my motion was actually based on is the fact that it is absorbed within the current project, not to come across hypocritical.

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

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

Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to approve the following position changes in the office of the district attorney: (a) delete one (1) ADA IV position and create two (2) ADA I positions; (b) create one (1) EIP Division Warrant Control Clerk, (c) create one (1) PIO/Grant Writer, (d) create one (1) Criminal Investigation Clerical Assistant; and (e) create one (1) entry level Assistant District Attorney I, based upon the cost of the positions being absorbed within the district attorney's budget for fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Commissioners Holmes and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-6-A**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**Thru:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**From:** Larry Chisolm, District Attorney

#### **Issue:**

To request Board approval to delete a District Attorney IV position and create two (2) Entry Level Assistant District Attorney I, positions.

#### **Background:**

The District Attorney's Office has currently an Early Intervention Program (EIP) that has been in existence for a number of years, which has been instrumental in bringing savings to the County by speeding the processing and evaluation of felony cases in the Criminal Justice System, and commensurately relieving the jail stays and post indictment caseloads in Superior Court. The new District Attorney's, Office however, is being redesigned to increase the speed and efficiency of the warrant processing procedure by strengthening and concentrating more resources in EIP as a front-end criminal processing system emphasizing early evaluation, early charging and early discovery provided to the defense. This is especially important in light if the current decision by the Recorder's Court of Chatham County to reduce greatly the number of Preliminary Hearings in felony cases.

Larger jurisdictions have created successful "Complaint Rooms" that radically increased the speed in which warrants are processed. Some examples are Fulton County, Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Chicago. The EIP in Savannah will be converted to a hybrid of this model that includes the redirection of all existing clerical functions impacting warrant intake, grand jury and discovery to the EIP unit and increasing the number of lawyers to be concentrated in EIP under the leadership of one veteran EIP lawyer— who will not only review cases more extensively, make more plea offers, but will get discovery and initial police reports in the hands of the defense attorneys at a greatly increased speed and draft accusations and indictments in the non-capital cases, before forwarding the case to the Superior Court trial teams.

#### **Facts and Findings:**

1. The increased personnel in the EIP program will accelerate the final disposition of felony cases, which saves the County financial and manpower resources.

2. The increased personnel in the EIP program will reduce the number of cases on Superior Court and Grand Jury Dockets.
3. The increase processing speed will positively impact the Chatham County Jail population issues.

**Funding:**

After the deletion of the existing ADA IV position, the funding for the two Entry Level ADA I position, \$67, 394, for the remainder of FY2009 will come from the existing DA's FY2009 budget.

**Alternatives:**

1. The Board approve the deletion of a District Attorney IV position and create two (2) Entry Level Assistant District Attorney I, positions.
2. The Board deny request.
3. The Board provide other direction.

**Policy Analysis:**

In the past, the Board of Commissioners has approved resource reallocation within existing fiscal budgets when justified.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board fund this position.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-6-B**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**To:** Board of Commissioners

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

**From:** Larry Chisolm, District Attorney

**Issue:**

To request Board approval to create a State Court Warrant Control Clerk (EIP) position in the District Attorney's Office.

**Background:**

The District Attorney's Office has currently an Early Intervention Program (EIP) that has been in existence for a number of years. This has been instrumental in bringing savings to the County by speeding the processing and evaluation of felony cases in the Criminal Justice System. Also, commensurately relieving the jail stays and post indictment caseloads in Superior Court. The new District Attorney's Office, however, is being re-designed to increase the speed and efficiency of the warrant processing procedure. By doing this it strengthening and concentrates more resources in EIP as a front-end criminal processing system. This emphasizes early evaluation, early charging, and early discovery provided to the defense. This is especially important in light of the current decision by the Recorder's Court of Chatham County to greatly reduce the number of Preliminary Hearings in felony cases.

The Office of the District Attorney in Chatham County has the responsibility to fulfill a primary function of processing misdemeanor cases from arrest to completion in the State Court. The Assistant District Attorneys assigned to the State Court are assigned to handle all case activity within that Court, including specialty cases such as DUI and Domestic Violence. The State Court section of the office is also responsible for handling transferred cases from the Superior Court, misdemeanors and violations handled in the Recorder's Court and assisting in three (3) of the six (6) municipality Courts within the County.

To manage the large volume of cases classified as misdemeanors or violations, the District Attorney's Office has traditionally assigned two (2) Assistant District Attorneys (ADA) to each State Court Judge in the form of a trial team. There are currently three (3) judges in State Court. Each ADA, although assigned to a team, maintains an individual caseload. Additionally, there has been an ADA assigned to handle misdemeanor cases involving Domestic Violence and in the last six (6) years, to the DUI Court established by this County. Further, of that number assigned to the previously mentioned tasks, ADAs are also required to go out to the three partnered municipality Courts, namely Tybee Island, Bloomingdale, and Thunderbolt, on a bi-weekly or monthly basis, depending on the Court.

Currently, each ADA supports a caseload on average of anywhere from 400 to 600 “active” cases,<sup>1</sup> and between 300 and 500 “pending” cases.<sup>2</sup> Within the last year, as a result of increased case numbers, each ADA has been assigned an administrative assistant in an attempt at more efficiency. Despite this large caseload and the increased number of administrative assistants, there is still no centralized supervision or guidelines in place for any function performed by ADAs assigned to the State Court.

In the past, the State Court function has not been a real priority for the District Attorney’s office. Due to the current model, significant concerns and issues have surfaced. Some of these issues include, but are not limited to, State Court ADAs serving as an office within an office; a lack of specified job descriptions, creating fluid tasks among ADAs and the administrative assistants assigned to them; no formal training for new ADAs<sup>3</sup>; inconsistent decisions about sensitive issues; lack of efficient case management, including a lack of a uniform and comprehensive internal database<sup>4</sup>; no uniformity in decision-making or case action; lack of communication between State Court ADAs and the State Court Clerk’s Office; lack of shared institutional knowledge among ADAs and staff; limited or no communication between State Court ADAs and the rest of the District Attorney’s office; and calendar conflict with regard to Court assignments.<sup>5</sup> Without supervision, centralized advocacy for the State Court function, or increased and consistent interplay and communication within the entire office, a continued lapse in the ability to have the most efficient and optimal work environment and productivity will occur.

The new District Attorney’s proposed plan for restructuring the office will provide a clear and organized model that will serve to alleviate much of the current backlog, inefficiency and disorder.

An office structural model that includes leadership positions over various aspects within the office is not a new concept. There are other jurisdictions within Georgia as well as outside of Georgia that follow this model and run well-organized District Attorney offices. Some of the offices within the state, although they do not handle misdemeanors,<sup>6</sup> include Fulton County and DeKalb County. Outside of Georgia, the Kings County District Attorney’s office in Brooklyn, NY, handles all of the misdemeanor arrests in that county and is one of the largest District Attorney’s offices in the nation. That office, like those in Fulton County and DeKalb County, uses a model where there are deputy chiefs in designated divisions to maintain accountability and efficiency in a large and high paced office. All of these examples have been examined closely, and there are many aspects that provide valuable guidance to this office. Most importantly, creating more supervisory positions over designated areas within the office is a model that a rapidly growing office like Chatham County should replicate where appropriate.

A new Warrant Control Clerk is essential to controlling the flow of warrants and to maintain accurate databases, statistics and time management.

In sum, this Commission should recognize that there is a great need to reorganize, centralize and streamline the State Court function in the District Attorney’s office of Chatham County. This newly proposed model is essential in the effort to create a better functioning District Attorney’s office in Chatham County. One of the first steps in moving toward this goal is the creation of a position of leadership within the State Court Division to reign in all of the areas that need support, which will begin to create a foundation from which effective and positive change can stem. A second significant step is the creation of Warrant Control Clerk to work on rebuilding and centralizing the database and case management functions.

**Facts and Findings:**

1. The increased personnel in the State Court Division will accelerate the speed with which misdemeanor warrants are processed in the State Courts of Chatham County, which saves the County financial and manpower resources.
2. The reorganization of the State Court Division will eliminate the lack of uniform databases and provide more uniformity within the misdemeanor functions.
3. The increase processing speed will positively impact the Chatham County Jail population issues.

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**Funding:**

The funding for the State Court Warrant Control Clerk position (\$21,982 for FY2009), in the District Attorney's Office, for the remainder of FY2009 will come from the existing DA's FY2009 budget.

**Alternatives:**

1. The Board approve the creation of a State Court Warrant Control Clerk (EIP) position in the District Attorney's Office.

**Policy Analysis:**

In the past, the Board of Commissioners has approved resource reallocation within existing fiscal budgets when justified.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board adopt alternative 1.

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<sup>1</sup>Active cases are cases where the District Attorney's office has filed formal charges against the defendant and other Court actions are being scheduled and taken. These numbers do not include caseload numbers for specialty areas including DUI Court and Domestic Violence.

<sup>2</sup>Pending cases are cases that have been transferred to the District Attorney's office from the State Court Clerk's office after the defendant has an initial appearance following an arrest. These numbers do not include caseload numbers for specialty areas including DUI Court and Domestic Violence.

<sup>3</sup>ADAs in State Court have traditionally been trained by another State Court Attorney, who is also someone with limited trial experience.

<sup>4</sup>There is a significant amount of outstanding cases in the case tracking system that have not been updated. This is due to a breakdown in the relationship between the DA's office and the State Clerk of Court's office and lack of adequate centralized case management and supervision within the office. This has also resulted in dismissals due to statutory time limitations, extremely slow warrant movement and processing, lack of clarity about where ADAs report, no reviews of performance, varied attention to detail, relatively inefficient output and an overall interoffice frustration and burnout.

<sup>5</sup>Scheduling conflicts occur due to State Court, Recorder's Court, and Municipality Court needs.

<sup>6</sup>These counties have created what they term Solicitor's Offices within each county to handle misdemeanors, which arguably was needed to the special supervision and attention that misdemeanor cases require.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-6-C**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**To:** Board of Commissioners

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

**From:** Larry Chisolm, District Attorney

**Issue:**

To request Board approval to create a Public Information Officer/Grant Writer position for the District Attorney's Office.

**Background:**

District Attorneys and DA's offices are limited in the comments that can be made to the public and the media pertaining to pending cases and pending investigations. Nationally and in Savannah, more specifically, high profile cases have been impacted negatively by public statements in the past. (Ex: *State of Georgia v. Jim Williams*, which was sent back for retrial by the Court of Appeals on this issue and is still taught in legal training as a precedent-setting decision.) While information regarding pending criminal cases must be safeguarded in order to ensure effective prosecution, this need must be balanced with the public's right to know. Given the large size of the District Attorney's Office and the wide-range of professional experience within the office, effective management of public and private information is critical.

The Public Information Officer/Grant Writer will help to ensure not only the accuracy of information released to the media from the DA's Office, but will also facilitate the ease and timeliness that this information is made available, and, as well as, will facilitate feedback

from the public on critical issues. The officer will serve as the senior staff for managing, planning, developing and executing effective internal and external communications, public relations and community affairs programs, activities and outreach. Daily activities will include: managing media calls, interviews and press events; preparing media materials; managing web site content; managing newsletter content; interfacing with the media. This officer will also be responsible for maintaining performance and statistical data and make such data available for grant writing and reporting, as well as, accessible to the public through the media and up-graded websites.

**Facts and Findings:**

1. Public Information Officers are commonly found in larger District Attorney Offices throughout the country and the state, e.g., Fulton and DeKalb.
2. The District Attorney's Office in Chatham County now has more than 34 lawyers and growing and combined staff, including child support, in excess of 120.
3. Finding and securing grant funds and efficiently managing statistical information for existing grants is in the economic best interest of the citizens of Chatham County.

**Funding:**

The funding for the Public Information Officer/Grant Writer position \$41,429 for the remainder of FY2009 will come from the existing DA FY2009 budget.

**Alternatives:**

1. That the Board authorize the creation of a Public Information Officer/Grant Writer position for the DA's office.
2. The Board deny this request.
3. The Board provide other direction.

**Policy Analysis:**

In the past, the Board of Commissioners has approved resource reallocation within existing fiscal budgets when justified.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board adopt alternative 1.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-6-D**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**Thru:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**From:** Larry Chisolm, District Attorney

**Issue:**

To request Board approval to create a Criminal Investigation Clerical Assistant, position.

**Background:**

The current District Attorney's Office maintains a staff of the 12 sworn, law enforcement investigators, which includes one Chief Investigator that supervises the entire division. The Criminal Investigation Section has no clerical assistance at all currently. These investigators perform tasks that sometimes involve risk to their personal safety. They are required to carry handheld radios to facilitate constant contact and communication with the office. Currently, there is no one designated with the task of regularly monitoring the radio traffic and the location of the personnel in the field.

**Facts and Findings:**

1. The employment of a clerical assistant will provide much needed clerical assistance in this division of the office.
2. The establishment of this position will eliminate a clear liability and safety risk involving the sworn investigating officers in the DA's Office by providing someone to monitor the radio traffic and location of officers.
3. The establishment of this position will enhance the efficiency and reporting of the investigative function.

**Funding:**

The funding for the **Criminal Investigation Clerical Assistant, \$21,982**, for the remainder of FY2009 will come from the existing DA FY2009 budget.

**Alternatives:**

1. That the Board approve the creation of a Criminal Investigation Clerical Assistant.
2. The Board deny this request.
3. The Board provide other direction.

**Policy Analysis:**

In the past, the Board of Commissioners has approved resource reallocation within existing fiscal budgets when justified.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board adopt alternative 1.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-6-E**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**Thru:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**From:** Larry Chisolm, District Attorney

**Issue:**

To request Board approval to create an Entry Level Assistant District Attorney I position.

**Background:**

The Office of the District Attorney of Chatham County, within its growing caseload handles a number of specialty cases. These cases primarily involve a special kind of victim or victimization. Some of the primary areas of prosecution include domestic violence, crimes against children, elder abuse, and Georgia sex offender registry violations.

Currently these specialized areas are handled by individual Assistant District Attorneys (ADA) within the office. There is, however, like other areas in the office, no centralized division or section that handles these cases, creating isolated and scattered prosecution. Of primary importance, and what requires special attention, is the distinct nature of the victims involved in these areas of prosecution. Additionally, as a result of the current individualized approach to prosecuting these cases, there has been little or no shared institutional knowledge within the office. This poses a tremendous problem if the individual who is handling a specialized or sensitive caseload is no longer available for any reason to continue.

The newly proposed restructuring model for the District Attorney's office sets out a plan to create a separate division/unit to address these cases more closely and effectively. To understand what makes these cases unique, some understanding of the issues underlying these types of cases must be gained. What makes these kinds of cases atypical and what makes it necessary to create a division within the currently proposed model, at its most basic level, is recognition that the victims are primarily children, elderly persons, or vulnerable battered persons. Further, the court system in general, for those who are not accustomed, can be intimidating for the average victim of a crime, but for someone with one of these additional status', and where the defendant is often someone within the immediate realm of association of the victim, there can be added problems not only for the victim, but also for the court system.

Inevitably, extra care and time must be given to special victims. Some of the issues that might be faced by the District Attorney's office and the courts include, but are not limited to, the need for more thorough investigations, the need for more witness prep time, more medical/hospital reports and investigations, issues of witness competency (especially in elder cases and child cases), family impact issues, DFACS considerations, counseling needs, added security, and more careful and strategic witness preparation. It is also important that the District Attorney's office recognizes and appreciates that the highly unique nature of these cases requires tremendous interoffice support and a number of ADAs with adequate knowledge of all of the issues involved. Essentially, it is extremely important that there be more than one person who can maneuver and manage sensitive needs cases, to add continuity and consistency in prosecution.

Ultimately, by creating a division to solely handle special victim cases, creates that very continuity. It creates an environment where the attention needed can be given from the initial investigative level up. The proposed new model would create a Special Victims unit, headed by a lead attorney, and staffed with ADAs who specialize but also share knowledge of the other specialty areas. It not only creates more consistency and support throughout

these prosecutions but it also provides a more diverse and multidimensional skill set among assigned attorneys.

Like some of the other proposed changes in the new model, the creation of specialty divisions is a common theme in District Attorney's offices around the state and nation. Some offices such as DeKalb County and Fulton County have created specialty divisions for these cases for the very reasons cited above. Overall, creating a specialty bureau creates greater accountability and allows for better monitoring of these areas.

**Facts and Findings:**

1. The additional attorney in the Special victims unit will provide in-court support for specialty attorneys who are required to appear in multiple court rooms at one time because each specialty attorney manages cases before more than one judge – which often causes delays on the Superior Court dockets. The floating lawyer will be able to handle motion and pretrial functions with the primary lawyers are in other proceedings and to prep witnesses and other case management functions
2. Placing the most experienced special victims lawyer in a supervisory position is integral to staff training and maintaining institutional knowledge and memory within this sector of crimes
3. The reorganization will bring the Savannah office in line with best practice for special victims prosecution around the country and will additionally track the reorganization of this sector of crimes in the Savannah Chatham Metro Police Dept.

**Funding:**

The funding for an Entry Level Assistant District Attorney I position for the remainder of FY2009 will come from the existing DA FY2009 budget.

**Alternatives:**

1. The Board approve the creation of an Entry Level Assistant District Attorney I position.
2. The Board deny request.
3. The Board provide other direction.

**Policy Analysis:**

In the past, the Board of Commissioners has approved resource reallocation within existing fiscal budgets when justified.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board adopt alternative 1.

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**7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE MONTGOMERY STREET COURTHOUSE MASTER PLAN, INCLUDING A MAJOR CHANGE WHICH LEADS TO DEMOLITION OF THE OLD JAIL AND NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A REPLACEMENT BUILDING, AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY APPROVAL FOR DESIGNATING EXISTING BOND FUNDS FOR THE NEW PROJECT. STAFF REQUESTS THAT THIS ITEM BE PULLED FROM THE AGENDA FOR THE TIME BEING.**

Chairman Liakakis said, staff requests that this item be pulled from the agenda for the time being. We need a motion on the floor to —.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we remove Item 7 from the agenda today and take it up at some point in the future, although this is not specifically a motion to table. Commissioner Stone said, I'll second that motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. And in that report that comes back for us on Item 7, there we've taken it off and there won't be any discussion, but bring back to this Board so that we fully understand that the master plan was set up that everybody in that courthouse had into that and they basically approved the program. Correct? So bring that back to us, you know, when this comes up again.

County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, I think that's very well said, sir. I would also, as you are aware, to ask Mr. Monahan to set a meeting with all the elected officials who have offices in the Montgomery Street Courthouse to go over options at that meeting. I'll be there and hopefully, if the Chairman's schedule allows, we'll have the Chairman with us, too.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay made a motion to remove from the agenda a request to amend the Montgomery Street Courthouse Master Plan, including a major change which leads to the demolition of the old jail and new construction of a replacement building, and providing the necessary approval for designating existing bond funds for the new project. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-7**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:**

To amend the Courthouse Master Plan, including a major change which leads to demolition of the Old Jail and new construction of a replacement building, and provide the necessary approval for designating existing bond funds for the new project.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the April 25, 2008 meeting, the Board authorized a design contract with Phase A and Phase B on the Courthouse plan. Phase A of the design contract provided a review of the current plan in comparison to other alternatives, including construction cost updates, to determine whether the approved Courthouse plan still provided the best course to meet 20-year needs. A review of eight alternatives shows that within a \$45 million budget, the plan adopted by the Board in September 26, 2003 meeting, would not be feasible because of cost. The renovation of the old jail into an office building for relocation of non-judicial services would leave little funding to expand and renovate the Courthouse. A review of the alternatives shows that because of limited funds, an affordable solution would be demolishing the old jail and replacing it with a new building, which would also eliminate the planned Courthouse expansion, require amending the schedule on the remaining Courthouse improvements and delay other renovations pending capital funding. This represents a major shift in the Courthouse plan, including approval of redirecting the existing bond fund for the revised project.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. Attached is a copy of an analysis of the Master Plan which the Board approved September 26, 2003, in comparison to the other alternatives which the project committee reviewed with the architects. The project committee includes staff, a Superior Court judge and State Court judge, and the Superior Court administrator. The analysis considered eight alternatives, including a cost comparison (please see the attachments starting on page 6 for summary details on the options—full cost details on each are available in the County Manager's Office).
  - 1.1 Option 1: Approved Courthouse Master Plan. Option 1 would renovate the old jail for non-judicial services, add a 5<sup>th</sup> floor (funded by bonds) for the Public Defender and other offices, construct a 35,000 SF addition to the Courthouse and renovate the existing Courthouse in phases. Total square footage: 290,113. Total cost: \$95,079,509.
  - 1.2 Option 2: Expanded West Expansion. Option 2 follows Option 1 except to provide a 60,000 SF addition to the Courthouse. In comparison to Option 1, Option 2 offers a different sequence in moves. By this option, the addition would provide sufficient space for the Courts to relocate to the addition, and the remaining space would be backfilled. Total square footage: 316,110. Total cost: \$91,039,627.
  - 1.3 Option 3: West Expansion—Relocate During Construction. Option 2 follows Option 1 except that during construction of the addition, all courts and offices would be relocated from the Courthouse during construction to leased space (undetermined but 120,000 SF would be needed). This would avoid the inconvenience of construction. Total square footage: 316,110. Total cost: \$107,155,075.
  - 1.4 Option 4: New Building. Option 4 would demolish rather than renovate the old jail, which enables a replacement building with a larger footprint. A new court building of 132,000 SF would be constructed in its place. No addition to the Courthouse would be needed, but the existing space would be renovated in phases. Total square footage: 314,566. Total cost: \$111,188,782.
  - 1.5 Option 5: New Location. Option 5 would provide construction of a new Courthouse and parking garage at a location out of downtown Savannah. Option 5 became considered only for comparing new construction and

- avoiding the inconvenience of continuing court sessions through construction.  
Total square footage: 298,400. Total cost: \$97,706,058
- 1.6 Option 2A: 5-Story West Expansion. Option 2A adds additional floor to Option 2 to increase court capacity but leaves minimal improvement to old jail (first floor only). Total square footage: 285,111. Total cost: \$78,020,225.
- 1.7 Option 4A: New Building (Smaller than Option 4) with Phased, Future Renovation of Courthouse. Option 4A would demolish rather than renovate the old jail, which enables a replacement building of 135,000 square feet for a trial courts building (Superior Court and State Court). No addition to the Courthouse would be needed. Limited funds would be allocated to Courthouse renovation based on existing funds, but completing the Courthouse renovation would be dependent upon future capital funds. Total square footage (new building): 135,000 SF. Total cost (new building): \$45,900,000. Total square footage and cost (Courthouse renovation): TBD. Future capital funds would be needed for complete Courthouse renovations.
- 1.8 Option 4B: New Building (Smaller than Option 4 and Option 4A) with Phased, Future Renovation of Courthouse. Option 4B would resemble Option 4A except that the new building would be reduced to about 110,000 square feet and would likely house Superior Court (i.e. courts, judges chambers, Superior Court Administrator, jury services) and another judicial office (e.g. District Attorney) but probably not State Court. No addition to the Courthouse would be needed. Limited funds would be allocated to Courthouse renovation based on existing funds, and completing the Courthouse renovation would be dependent upon future capital funds. Total square footage (new building); 110,000 SF. Total cost (new building): \$35,919,370 with balance of \$45 million project budget for Courthouse renovations. Total square footage and cost (Courthouse renovations): TBD. Future capital funds would be needed for complete Courthouse renovations.
2. The analysis of options evolved into Option 4B because of funding constraints. With a project budget of \$45 million, the review narrowed the options. Option 4B provides the following advantages and disadvantages.
- 2.1 Advantages:
- 2.1.1 Based on available funds, work begins immediately with design requiring about 12 months and construction requiring about 24 months. Construction starting in a year should take advantage of competitive pricing.
- 2.1.2 New building provides larger footprint (space) than old jail and easier construction; thus, Superior Court, Superior Court Administration, jury selection services and other judiciary office (e.g. District Attorney's Office) can be accommodated. A total of six courtrooms will be created initially, which meets Superior Court's 2020 needs but two additional ones can be planned as needs expand.
- 2.1.3 The old jail would be demolished, which provides advantage of new construction rather than adaptive reuse of a difficult building to renovate (i.e. 12" thick concrete walls, limited windows).
- 2.1.4 New construction of 110,000 square feet would cost less than 135,000 square foot new building (Option 4A) estimated at \$46 million. The balance of the project budget would be used for critical needs at the Courthouse.
- 2.1.5 Vacated space at Courthouse can be back-filled with courtrooms and to meet other courts' and departments' space needs through 2020 (pending confirmation). Superior Court's vacating courtroom and chamber space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor would enable Recorders Court and Magistrate's Court to relocate there with minimal changes.
- 2.1.6. A complete project (dependent on additional capital funding) would provide a total of 278,000 square feet.
- 2.1.7 A complete project (dependent upon additional capital funding) allows for full development of the Courthouse campus plan, which includes renovation of the Courthouse interior and exterior and re-establishing part of Liberty Square.
- 2.1.8 Future potential remains available of westward Courthouse addition, which would provide long-term expansion 40,000 to 60,000 square-foot to meet 2050 needs.
- 2.1.9 Based on preliminary discussions with staff from the Historic Review Board, the intended plan of five-story new construction and attention to treatment of identifying the York Street lane should be acceptable.

- 2.2 Disadvantages:
  - 2.2.1 A clear plan and budget will not be known until schematic design (25% completion). In essence, this takes an \$80 million project, funds about half of it, and defers the balance based on future, undetermined funding (SPLOST funding would not be available until after 2015). At this point, the only known will be Superior Court's move to the new building with another judicial office, and Superior Court's vacated space in the Courthouse can be used at minimal expense for other courts and offices consistent with the 20-year needs.
  - 2.2.2 Of particular concern will be space in the Courthouse for Public Defender and the Child Support Recovery Office within existing funding. The existing budget must also fund previous commitments in the Courthouse, including ADA compliance, data center, 10 year on-campus records storage (Superior Court), HVAC duct replacement and temporary records relocation.
  - 2.2.3 The split judicial services into two buildings would require a revised plan for a single entrance with security to serve the two buildings or a duplication of entry security.
  - 2.2.4 The schedule will be revised for completion of Courthouse renovations, but depending upon funding, it would likely extend until at least 2015.
  - 2.2.5 Public Defender does not move to the Courthouse for three to four years. Chatham County would need to continue lease space at an average cost of \$200,000 annually. The Public Defender would likely assume the 6<sup>th</sup> floor space now occupied by the District Attorney's Office.
  - 2.2.6 The budget must include project expenses such as water and sewer connection fees (City of Savannah) and independent testing fees as well as County expense for project management and best value contracting. The proposed project budget does not include these expenses.
3. The Superior Court Administrator has reviewed Option 4 B with judiciary representatives and most administrative offices in the Courthouse. She relates their concurrence with Option 4B.
4. The amended Courthouse Master Plan as presented in Fact & Findings #2 would not detract from any work completed to date. At the Courthouse, the two north tunnel connectors, sallyport for inmate transfer, inmate holding cells, and Sheriff's Office Court Services Division offices, as well as consolidation and relocation of records, are needed before the old jail could be demolished.
5. Staff consulted with the County Attorney's Office on use of SPLOST funding for the project as well as the County's Bond Counsel about the redirection of the \$2.75 million in bond proceeds planned for the old jail renovation. Because the bond funds will be used for the same capital purposes within the structure of the same project, the Board will need to authorize the redirection of the bond proceeds consistent with bond covenants. Most importantly, the bond funds will ensure that the Public Defender's Office will be relocated to the Courthouse campus.

**FUNDING:**

Total Courthouse project funding includes 2003-2008 SPLOST, \$12 million; 2003-2008 SPLOST (Supplemental), \$3 million; 2008-2014 SPLOST, \$25 million; DSA Series 2005 Bonds, \$2.75 million; DSA Series 1999 Bonds: \$2.2 million, Jail Re-Use Fund; \$573,000, records storage.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board adopt the amended Courthouse Master Plan and authorize proceeding with Option 4B (110,000 square foot new building and minimal renovation of existing Courthouse) with the balance of the project deferred pending capital funding. This approval includes authorization to redirect the 2005 DSA Bond funds for the 5<sup>th</sup> floor addition for the Public Defender's Office to the Courthouse project (the Public Defender's Office will relocate to the Courthouse). The project committee, including a Superior Court judge and State Court judge representing the judiciary, recommends this alternative.
2. That the Board authorize design services to provide an update of the proposed changes to delineate specific impact on all judicial and non-judicial offices, including space allocation and location, as well as provide a detailed budget, as the next step.

3. That the Board delay adoption of the amended plan pending further review.
4. That the Board take no action.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The amendment to the previously-approved Courthouse Master Plan becomes necessary since it would be infeasible to continue based on available funding. The amended plan provides a rational basis for proceeding but leaves completion of most of the future plans dependent upon additional capital funding. Georgia law specifically authorizes the Board to assign spaces within the Courthouse, but more importantly, as the trustees for the property that provides services on behalf of citizens, the Courthouse should be safe, functional, user-friendly, aesthetically pleasing consistent with the notion of civic architecture that represents Savannah's heritage.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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## **8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF COUNTY EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM.**

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to again, but this time on the record, publicly thank Commissioner Odell and certainly Dr. Bradley and Mr. Kaigler and others who really as Mike Kaigler said so well, particularly when it came to Dr. Bradley, they listened to the comments of you in months past when it was patently obvious and very disappointing that our insurance carrier was not providing a real wellness program. They have stepped forward. At your last meeting in November you gave us the opportunity — to use my term — put wheels on the proposal from Dr. Bradley. He created a very ambitious wellness program. That's what this does. It is a pilot project. It's very impressive to me. It looks as if we're getting at the major problems identified of prescriptions — prescription coverage and expense borne by both the employee and the employer, Chatham County, plus we've got a great disincentive of against smoking, plus an opportunity at the same time for those who do smoke to kick the habit, and then we're going through a very thorough health risk assessment for all employees required to be complete by the end of this calendar year. I turn to Mr. Kaigler and Dr. Bradley with my appreciation.

Mr. Michael Kaigler said, thank you, Russ [Abolt]. Just a few brief comments. I think Russ has summed it up quite well. When Dr. Bradley gave the results of his pilot program, it really showed and proved the suggest of some of the recommendations that staff has made to the Board previously. It not only improved the health of our employees, but we also saw a significant decrease in the amount of money that those 34 employees were spending on drugs. One of the things that we came away from as a result of that pilot program was the medical adjudication program we feel is really necessary and something we need to implement within our plan. Just by reference, the report that Blue Cross gave us for the last fiscal year showed that we spent about \$4.9 million on drugs. First it was a little over \$4.5 million for inpatient and outpatient hospitalization. This is the first time that I can remember that we spent more on drugs than we spent putting people in the hospital for inpatient/outpatient hospitalization. That shows us that we really need to do something to get our drug cost in line. We feel that that drug adjudication program will go a long way to doing that. We also recommended to the Board previously, and y'all have given us a consensus vote on that, that we're going to want to provide health risk assessments to all of our employees. We're requesting that we incorporate the medical adjudication program as a part of our health risk assessment. We're also requesting that as a prerequisite for having the health plan that employees, all employees participate in the health risk assessment. What that will mean is by the end of the year, by December 31<sup>st</sup>, every employee will have filled out the questionnaire, they will have blood work and they will sit down with a healthcare provider to go through the drug adjudication program. We're not requiring that they do anything, but they must fulfill that step in order to have health insurance. That will allow us to stratify employees. We've got a lot of folks out there that don't have a primary care physician. They don't go to the doctor regularly. They don't know what's wrong with them. The first time that they find out something's wrong with them was in the emergency room or when they get so ill that they have to go to the doctor, and these are things that could have been prevented if they had had treatment or if they had had a primary care physician that they see on a regular basis. So we're requesting that you implement a policy that will require all employees to go through that. We're opening up and we're covering all employees now. If this is successful, we'll roll this out to the spouses and dependents and our retirees, but right now we're just asking for all employees covered under the health plan, and right now that's approximately — a little over 1,400 people that are covered under our health plan currently.

We're also asking that you approve implementation of the smoking sensation program similar to what the State of Georgia has that cover their employees. And we're asking for approval of that now because there are requirements that we have to give smoking sensation classes. We need to provide other smoking sensation aids for employees coming up to July 1. So we're asking that you also approve that. Staff is also, as you can see in the staff report, we're giving you a heads-up that because we feel that our drug utilization is so high that we'll be working with our physician advisory group, come back in in the next few months with a restructuring of our prescription drug program. The Board took a proactive step in approving the zero dollar co-pay and we're starting to see some results from that, but we need

to structure it in a way that incentivize more employees to take advantage of the zero dollar co-pay drugs or the generic drugs. So we're asking that — your approval of that today and we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, one of the things we want the public to know, that the pilot program that ended here just a little while back, that it saved over \$100,000. It saved over \$100,000 of taxpayers' money because the way that our insurance is set up, the formula is that the claims, the more claims you have, the more the cost factor is on the health insurance, and we've got to control that and this wellness program that Dr. Bradley came up with and, you know, working in this, the only thing in this new program is the County will not be supplying the food items, but they will overall be in this wellness program that could substantially reduce the cost factor in the not too distant future. So hopefully we want everybody, you know, all of our employees to get involved in it as soon as possible and we'll see a big difference. The main thing is to keep our employees and their families healthy and the second thing then is to reduce the cost factor on our insurance that we have.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we approve the employee wellness program consistent now with the medical adjudication, the smoking sensation program, and the pharmaceutical piece as outlined by Mr. Kaigler. Mr. Kaigler said, and also we want to stipulate it is mandatory that, and that's a real important piece. In order to get people to go through the health risk assessment, take the test, we're requiring that they take that between now and December 31<sup>st</sup>. If they don't complete those requirements prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, January 1 they will not have health insurance.

Commissioner Stone said, second. Commissioner Gellatly said, I second it and I have questions.

Commissioner Odell said, and I have just a couple of comments. The program that we started changes the dynamics of providing healthcare. For too long healthcare has been a product of large insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies that make money off of people being sick. Physicians have been removed from the picture, as well as employers. This time this program, which I'm very pleased to announce that ACCG has taken credit for, although I didn't see them there when we were working on it, but they did take credit for it — Commissioner Farrell said, that's because we're members of ACCG. Commissioner Odell said, I knew there was a reason. But there's some other things that we will be doing concurrently that we — will not cost a penny. It will be cost neutral. We have a lot of opportunities and one of the byproducts from all of this is that unfortunately nutrition has been sidestepped as to taste and advertisement. What is nutritionally good for the average person has been sidestepped based upon advertising of the big burger and a whole host of other things. And in the pilot program we literally determined that people really want to eat nutritionally, but there's such a void as far as knowledge and that void costs us money for two reasons. One is 70% of all illnesses are self-induced — 70%, either lack of exercise, either food or other bad habits, i.e., smoking, alcohol, drugs, on and on and on, and I think that we have an excellent workforce. We had hit the 19,000,000 mark as far as benefits. We wanted to look dramatically — and, Mr. Abolt, I personally thank and Michael [Kaigler] don't get the thanks, but I personally thank Mr. Kaigler. We spent a lot of time on this with Dr. Bradley and the goal was it's a two benefit program. We wanted to benefit our employees and we wanted us to benefit by saving money, and we devoted a lot of time to this and, Mr. Kaigler, I compliment you and your staff. You did an excellent job and I appreciate — and I made some requests like contact the American Heart Association and see if they have a video on nutrition that we can purchase or lease and run on our TV program so that employees can see, contract the American Diabetes Association for the same thing. Those kinds of things and they fulfilled them and done much more, and I'm really grateful. I think this is a good thing and I urge all of my fellow Commissioners to join me in voting to change the trend of our health insurance, which has been growing at the rate of 12% per annum — 12% per annum. That's a lot to me, and hopefully we're going to see a change and we're going to monitor this change so that it's not just rhetoric or — and this is not an election year. People can't say, wow, this is an election year and you're just doing this — occasionally people do things because it's the right thing to do. And this is the right thing to do and I urge all of my fellow Commissioners to join me in our vote in supporting this program and supporting our employees. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I certainly support this program and I just got through seconding the motion, and I have a lot of respect for Dr. Bradley and his program. One of the things that I want to really emphasize, we keep on, lots and lots, employees, retirees, and just the casual mention of dependents, yet dependents are probably more than 50% of the people that are covered by this medical program, I want to see more and more emphasis — I mean, whether we spend a dollar of medical money on an employee or their dependent, it's still a dollar gone, and I want to make sure that we include these. I rather suspect that we've got some dependents out there that really, really could use this program. It also concerns me the trends, we're talking about medical trends. Private industry is scaling back their medical insurance drastically to include how they cover dependents and government is a little slow to do that sometimes, and I'm not saying that they should. I'm just saying that I read in the paper about 10 days ago where there was another government employee that was featured in the paper for another reason. He had artistic abilities and he was a member of our school district, a recent employee, and he was featured in there, but in that he made mention that he could qualify for a much better job than working for government, but he had a wife that had serious, serious medical problems so he decided to go to work for the school board. I would assume that the school board that their medical services come out of the tax dollars also, and I would want to make sure that as we go along that we take a look if we need to tighten at all that — it's my understanding that generally in government if you come to work, why, you're going to have a physical as a new employee, but your wife and six kids are just put on the medical insurance, right, regardless of pre-existing conditions or anything else, and we need to take a look at that. I tell you, our money's going out the door

through the dependents and probably as we go along less and less through the employees because we give them a physical before we come to work. So it may be with the expense of medical you're going to have to take a hard look at it and maybe when you hire an employee, you've got to give their wife and six kids a physical, too, you know.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to commend Commissioner Odell, Dr. Bradley and the Chatham County staff. I think you've definitely now come forward with a realistic wellness program that's not actually trying to force people into working out, but what you've come through with is a class — a program that understands that not everyone is going to be a fitness guru, but a program that actually will offer weekly classes that will teach people about cooking and how to diet at three different sites, I believe. It's at the Sheriff's Department, the Courthouse and as well as here weekly? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and \$15 memberships offered for all employees for all employees to right now I believe Hourglass and Memorial is participating. Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and other fitness centers, it's my understanding, or if they want to —.

Mr. Kaigler said, we have a number of different fitness facilities that if they go and they sign up and they prove that they've attended the required number of times during the month, they get the \$15 reimbursement. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Mr. Kaigler said, so we're paying you only if you go.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, good, good. Alright, and mandatory health risk assessment, which is just wonderful. I mean, that part right there alone will help people as far as discovering the medications and everything they're taking, so — and then they're going to actually connect people with family doctors, which is a wonderful thing because they'll take a comprehensive look at their overall health, and basically what will happen here is I believe it will help save millions and, more importantly, hopefully it will help save some lives. And good job all of you. This is what I was hoping would come forward. It's great. I think it's going to save a lot of money and help a lot of people.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I just want to say ditto to everything that has been said, and I'm very proud and pleased that I had an opportunity to participate in the pilot program. And for those of you who didn't see me before and you are seeing me now, I am a new me because of that. I dropped three dress sizes, I'm off one pressure medication along with some other things. My doctor, Dr. Bradley, is so proud of me, and I'm proud of me, too. And I'm continuing with the program doing the therapy of exercises on a weekly basis because it helps you to maintain what you're doing, plus the fact it also, when you go, like you say, they assist you with your meal planning and stuff like that. So, I mean, this is a win/win. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you've even got feistier, too. Commissioner Thomas said, oh, yes. It's a win/win. Oh, I'm right. I am ready, I am ready. It's a win/win program, and I do plan to continue with the program. As a matter of fact, I've already exercising more now and everything now and watching the way I prepare my meals and et cetera. I've also put my husband on it.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, following up on Commissioner Gellatly's concerns about dependents being a part of the program, my wife is on the County health program by virtue of my being a County employee. She was formerly known around our household as Janice, but she's now called Madam Chairman because she's the Chairman of the Chatham County Democratic Committee, and if you thought about your job and you thought you had a stressful job, I want you to imagine trying to bring organizational structure to the Democratic Party. It's highly likely that she needs one of these health assessments, too. Will that be a requirement that not only the employees have the health assessment but that also the dependents would as well? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. We initially want to do everybody, but it was just too much, we thought, to do the first year. So when we roll it out this time, we're doing just employees. In subsequent years we're going to require that the dependents and retirees participate in order to have health insurance. But if Madam Chairman wanted to volunteer to get an assessment she might be able to have access to that? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. Commissioner Shay said, I am worried about her health now.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kaigler, first of all I want to thank all of you and Dr. Bradley for making — and certainly Commissioner Odell — for making this a reality. I wanted to extend this, as I mentioned in the pre-meeting, the Lieutenant Governor has started a Georgia Children's Healthcare Alliance for the State and they are very interested in what we're doing, and I want to give you this gentleman's information. I think that this is targeting obesity in children and what we can do, so they have been monitoring what we're doing in Chatham County. So I want to give you the contact numbers of this gentleman because they are very interested in the program. So ultimately this could effect a lot of the children statewide. Mr. Kaigler said, yes ma'am. Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, we had to stop Dr. Thomas because she was losing so much weight in this program. We were just worried she was going to disappear. It's really important that the general community knows that the seeds of this program comes from our Chairman, our Chairman who is a health fanatic and who convinced me to stop smoking, and I had smoked since I was in law school, and I stopped and I've been smoke-free now for three years and I'm really proud about that, but our Chairman set in motion this program. I simply acted at his direction and worked with — we have an excellent relationship with Dr. Bradley and Mr. Kaigler is topnotch, and you're going to see some great

things from this program. I'm just — but I had to give the — we have an excellent Chairman and I have no political aspirations. I want to do nothing. I have no political aspirations. I'm not trying to do anything, but I am telling just my personal opinion and I think the calmness, the health consciousness that Mr. Liakakis brings to the organization and his ability and willingness to work with all of us, we don't have the stress that these meetings used to create and this program is going to filter down to our employees and going to be a good thing, and we will save money that we will need. I'm just very grateful to be a part of it and I thank you. I thank the Chairman, who — he didn't know I was going to say this because he's a modest man. If you saw him in that dance movie, you wouldn't believe it, but he's a modest man. Because of Pete [Liakakis] we got this started and, you're going to be proud of this, and I personally warrant this year as far as monitoring these kinds of things that I will devote a lot of my time to monitoring, looking at the factors to make certain that we save money and hopefully save lives.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just wanted to ask Mrs. Stone, did we not say that we want to include the Youth Commission as well in the Lieutenant Governor's —. Commissioner Stone said, and I will get the information —. Commissioner Thomas said, very good. Commissioner Stone said, — tied together. Commissioner Thomas said, so we want to include the Youth Commissioners with that.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, great job. I call for the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, 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 approve the employee wellness program consistent with the medical adjudication, the smoking sensation program, and the pharmaceutical program as outlined by Mr. Kaigler, and stipulate that it is mandatory for all employees to go through the health risk assessment between now and December 31, 2008, and, failing that, on January 1, 2009, those employees will not have health insurance. Commissioners Stone and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM:** *IX-8*  
**AGENDA DATE:** January 16, 2009

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**Thru:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**From:** Michael A. Kaigler, Director  
 Human Resources and Services

#### **Issue:**

To request Board approval of expansion of the Wellness Program.

#### **Background:**

In September 2008, the Board of Commissioners approved a 12-week pilot wellness program that was administered by Dr. Paul Bradley. Thirty four employees were selected based on medical criteria established by Dr. Bradley, to participate in this intensive pilot program. Employees received meals, personal training, nutrition counseling, and medication adjudication while participating in this program. The program proved to be successful and resulted in annualized prescription drug savings for both the County and employees participating in the program. For these 34 employees, the annualized projected savings are \$105,092.00 for the County and \$7,608.00 for the employees.

#### **Facts and Findings:**

1. At the December 19, 2008 meeting, Dr. Bradley presented a variation of the pilot program which will include only medication adjudication for all employees. Upon completion of his presentation, the Board instructed the Human Resources Staff to develop recommendations for the expansion of the Chatham County Wellness Program with projected costs.

2. A report provided to us by Blue Cross Blue Shield, shows that based on our FY 2008 medical claims, the County spent approximately \$4.9 million on pharmacy, compared to \$4.5 million for inpatient and outpatient hospitalizations. This is the first fiscal year that the pharmacy costs have exceeded the combined inpatient and outpatient hospitalization expenses.

3. Based on this information, it is believed that a medication adjudication program can have an immediate impact on healthcare costs. Staff recommends expanding medication adjudication to all employees. If the Board approves moving forward with this program, quarterly reports on the progress of the program will be provided to the Board.

4. At the February 19, 2008 Board meeting, the Board approved the implementation of the Employee Wellness Program, which included the goal of making HRAs mandatory in FY 2009. (See attached.) HR staff is requesting an expansion of the current Wellness Program to include three major components. Those components are as follows: Mandatory Health Risk Assessments, a Smoking Surcharge, and changes in co-pays for prescription drugs.

5. The Human Resources Staff is requesting that the Board adopt a policy that requires employees to complete a mandatory comprehensive Health Risk Assessment (HRA) by December 31, 2009. If this HRA is not completed prior to this date, then medical coverage will be terminated as of January 1, 2010. The HRA will include a health questionnaire, along with the standard screenings and measurements for blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index, and cholesterol. Additionally, employees will be required to meet with a healthcare professional to go through the medical adjudication process and to review the results of the HRA. While Chatham County understands that medical decisions are made by the employee and their physician, it is important to note that these recommendations may help reduce employee and employer future healthcare costs.

6. The health questionnaire and the screenings will be administered by St. Joseph's/Candler (SJ/C). Upon completion of the questionnaire and standard screenings, employees will be able to go online to a highly secure website to receive their results. Aggregate data and an Executive Summary will be provided to Chatham County. SJ/C will also provide a one-page summary for each employee which will be forwarded to the healthcare provider. Funding for HRAs is in the current budget.

7. The Board previously expressed a desire to institute a smoking surcharge similar to the State of Georgia's program. Staff is recommending that effective July 1, 2009, a surcharge of \$20 per pay period will be added to premiums for those employees and dependents who use tobacco. The surcharge will automatically be added. To have the surcharge removed, an employee will have to sign a form indicating that they do not use tobacco.

8. To support employees in their efforts to quit smoking, Chatham County will offer 4-week smoking cessation classes. Additionally, Chatham County will work with Blue Cross Blue Shield to add Chantix (smoking cessation drug) to the prescription plan and to make some provisions for the following smoking cessation aids: Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) such as lozenges, gum, and patches.

9. Employees can have the surcharge removed once they complete the 4-week smoking cessation class. They will be asked again in one year on the health risk assessment if they use tobacco. If they no longer use tobacco products, then there will not be a surcharge. However, if they indicate again that they use tobacco, then the surcharge will be added and they will have to go through the 4-week smoking cessation classes again.

10. County staff will work with BCBS, the Physician Advisory Group, and ACCG, to revise the current co-pay structure for prescription drugs. Current co-pays are \$4 for generic, \$12 for brand, and \$25 for formulary. At the September 19, 2008 meeting, the Board approved the implementation of a new drug benefit that will allow employees to obtain certain generic medications from Kroger, Target, and Wal-Mart at no cost to the employee. For this \$0 co-pay to be most effective, changes need to be made to the co-pay structure in an effort to incent employees to participate in the \$0 co-pay or generics program.

**Funding:**

The annualized cost of the program is \$300,000. Funding will come from the Employee Health fund.

**Alternatives:**

1 a. The Board approves expansion of the Wellness Program to include completion of mandatory health risk assessments by December 31, 2009.

b. The Board approves expansion of the Wellness Program to include medication adjudication for all employees.

c. The Board approves the tobacco use surcharge.

2. Provide staff with other direction
3. Board takes no action

**Policy Analysis**

As a policy, the Board of Commissioners strives to maintain the best possible healthcare program for its employees and retirees at the most economical cost. Implementation of an expanded wellness program will help provide the structure for healthcare cost containment and provide for a healthier and more productive workforce.

Prescription drug costs represent a significant part of the health fund. The recommended changes to drive employees to use generic drugs and implementation of the medication adjudication program are the most cost effective measures and are most likely to provide an immediate reduction in prescription drug costs.

**Recommendation:**

The Board of Commissioners adopt Alternative 1.

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**9. STATUS ON CURBSIDE RECYCLING FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREA.**

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, another one of your priorities we're pleased to give you a status report with expectations that by your next meeting we'll have more specifics in our negotiations and discussions with the one proposer after the RFI went out to provide this service. We have one very legitimate proposer. Mr. Drewry has outlined in his staff report all the expectations. We also solicited the involvement of the County Attorney's office and I provided some preliminary sensing from Jon [Hart] on that yesterday, but we plan to bring this back to you on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February with the full analysis of what your options are and what we can do in the unincorporated area.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much because, as we know, the City is in full operation with their recycling. A number of the County Commissioners, we have been talking about this for a period of time now, and as soon as we can get our recycling on the street, but of course we've got some things of how it's going to be paid for, and that information as soon as you can, Mr. County Manager, bring that to this Board so that we can implement it. And one good thing that the County is in partnership with the City for a recycling area on Eisenhower and joining up with the City we can save money possibly if some way it can be worked out between the County's operation to combine with the City's operation, too, as far as the cost factors go.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

No action was taken on this item.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-9**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Robert W. Drewry, Director of Public Works and Park Services

Issue: To provide Board update on solid waste recycling program.

Background: On April 11, 2008, the Board was presented with options to improve recycling opportunities for the unincorporated areas of Chatham County that included a curbside program. The Board directed staff to solicit interested waste haulers to develop a cost of providing a curbside recycling program.

Facts and Findings:

1. Staff drafted a Request for Interest (RFI) aimed at waste haulers who may be interested in providing a single stream curbside program for the County. The RFI outlined the County's goals for a curbside recycling program as well as service requirements, operational requirements and performance requirements.
2. It is the County's plan to contract with a waste hauler who has significant experience in a single stream curbside recycling program. Staff is looking for a hauler that provide at a minimum the following:

- weekly routes to serve approximately 32,000 single family and duplex residential units
  - demonstrate the ability to collect from County facilities and small businesses if requested in the future
  - 64 gallon or larger containers with large wheels
  - Chatham County and Chatham County Recycling logo, schedule, along with examples of collectables permanently burned, screen printed, or affixed to container
  - deliver recyclables to a material recycling facility (MRF) or to the highest yielding market or buyer designated by the County
  - ability to independently continue the program if a local MRF is no longer available
  - service in gated communities that meet standard collection requirements
  - excellent and reputable customer service from a local office staffed during normal office hours
  - monthly performance ratings of satisfactory grade
  - demonstrate financial stability
  - provide special need service for documented residents
  - all equipment and manpower
  - financial contribution to curbside recycling education and staff to assist with scheduled school visits and educational events
  - trucks marked with County logo
  - provide customer complaint tracking service
  - financial deductions for repeated poor performance
3. The County received only one proposal and staff is currently negotiating fee services. Staff expects to present Board with costs and an implementation plan at the next Board meeting.
  4. Staff is negotiating with the owner of the material recovery facility Pratt Industries. Pratt has recently opened their facility to accept recyclables from the City of Savannah.
  5. Implementation of a curbside program will require amendments to current solid waste ordinances.

Funding: Not known at this time.

Policy Statement: N/A

For Board Information Only

**Related to AGENDA ITEM: IX-9**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

DATE: January 15, 2009  
TO: R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
SUBJECT: Franchise fee and Recycling Program

Based on your memo, it would appear the County is looking at options concerning the ability to deliver recyclable waste in unincorporated Chatham County. The structure and method of delivery of the service is yet to be determined, but will require a funding source. Given the County has relied on private sector waste haulers for the collection of residential and commercial waste, I would assume the County system for recyclables would continue to involve private sector waste handlers.

Your inquiry as to whether the County could impose a "franchise fee" to cover the cost of granting to a private entity an exclusive service area would be problematic. As you are aware, counties, unlike municipalities, are not granted the power under Georgia law to enter traditional franchise agreements.<sup>1</sup> Hence, the ability to enter a true franchise agreement is beyond the County's legislative power.

However, this does not mean that the County is prohibited from entering into a contract with a private waste hauler for purposes of providing regulatory services pertaining to the collection of recyclables. This contract would be pursuant to the Home Rule powers under the Georgia constitution. Ga. Const. Art. IX, § 2, ¶ 1. The award of the proposed contract would have to be bid in accordance with the Purchasing Ordinance.

The more difficult question yet to be decided would be the structure of the program. By way of example, would the program be mandatory or voluntary. Assuming, without deciding, that the program were voluntary, would there be sufficient participation to perform the service and recover reasonable costs? I would expect that the cost of this program on a per resident basis would be greater than that of the City of Savannah's program, since collection and hauling would cover a greater geographical area and there is less clustering of user than in an urban environment.

Assuming the program were mandatory (or for that matter voluntary) how would the funds to support the services be collected? Would the funding method be paid for by a direct tax assessment, added to the ad valorem tax bill. In the alternative, would the cost of service be recaptured by a "fee for services" charged and collected by the County or would the service provider be responsible for the collection of the service fee?

Should the County impose a fee for service by ordinance, the County would have the alternatives of:

1. Set up the mechanics for direct billing and collection.
2. Place the fee on the ad valorem tax bill (Tax Commission would need to be consulted as to feasibility and method.)
3. Allow the service provider to be responsible for collection.

Conceptually, the County could enter into a contract with the appropriate service provider, the terms of which would be addressed in the contract's scope of services which would allow for a specified service fee to individuals or the County could contract for a fixed amount and use funds received for services to offset the contracted cost amount.

Traditionally, the County may only contract for a term that is not longer than the term of the sitting Commission. The contract with the service provider would be in agreement constituting a series of one year terms with automatic roll over renewal, unless the Commission were by official action elect to terminate. It should be noted that any service provider will have to make a substantial capital investment in collection vehicles and recyclable bins and the limitation of one year contracts with roll overs would be a concern of the service provider being able to ensure that they can make a profit and recapture the initial capital investment. Perhaps the contract would require the County to purchase the service provider's capital assets for early termination or pay a negotiated scheduled fee amount for early termination. The user fee could not exceed the actual cost of the service and its administration.

In order to provide more detail, it will be necessary to have a complete outline of the proposed structural options. We will also need direction from the Board.

RJH/jr

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<sup>1</sup>The Georgia Legislature has created one exception to allow County franchising in the area of cable tv. See O.C.G.A. § 36-76-2 et seq.

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## **10. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY LT. RUSTY SMITH.**

Chairman Liakakis said, Rusty [Smith] is going to do that now. The Commander is unable to do that today, so we will have that report from Rusty [Smith].

Lt. Smith said, good morning. I'll be brief. I'll go by our monthly report for December of '08. I'll start with doing some Significant Events. December 9<sup>th</sup> of last year CNT worked a joint case with ICE. This led to the seizure of a kilogram of cocaine in Pooler. This was on the heels of another case we did in Garden City with four Hispanic males and

received a quarter kilogram of cocaine. After this case we seized again a kilo of cocaine and arrested four subjects, all who were in the U.S. illegally.

The second case we worked was on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December we worked a case at the Alamo Hotel on Bay Street here in Savannah. We had a lot of complaints about I guess people were at the Alamo getting cocaine from various people inside the hotel in various rooms. We found during our investigation that this was really done by one male who was living off-site. We executed numerous buys and ended up doing two search warrants, one on the seller's house and one at the hotel room at the Alamo, seven arrests, seizure of drugs, pills, and the subject was on probation at the time as well.

Another event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November — excuse me, December. We worked with CID at Fort Stewart. We had some information from an informant that this guy, who's an MP by the way, was coming to Savannah to sell firearms that were stolen from on base. Working with CID we identified the target, stopped the car in Pooler and seized all four weapons, which were later found to be stolen from Fort Stewart.

We go to — that's pretty much it for the events for the month. Turn to page three, I'll go over some specific items. Number one, we did 27 undercover buys within the month, that includes undercover and using informants. We had 6 joint investigations. Those were with Immigration, CID, DEA, ATF, IRS. We also seized over three pounds of powder cocaine during the month, just during one month, three pounds of cocaine. That totals about \$136,000 street value. Marijuana, we had again about three pounds of marijuana. That's roughly about \$5,600. We had 71 grams of crack cocaine, 37 dosage units of Ecstasy, and over 200 pills, pharmaceutical grade drugs.

Go to page four. We also seized 14 firearms during the month. That's a significant number for the month. That's a lot of firearms taken off the streets of Savannah. Looking at the numbers of arrests of persons arrested, we had a total of 53 arrests in the month. Pay attention to possession with intent and sales. The number is 19. That's pretty high. We're concentrating our efforts on sellers as opposed to just possession. We're gearing our investigations toward mid to upper level, which is obviously demonstrated by these numbers.

Go to page five. We had some seizures during the month. We seized approximately \$10,000 from drug dealers. We also seized three motor vehicles.

And I will skip to page seven. Especially go with the Hours Worked By Zone. In the City of Savannah, we had 617 hours in the Central Precinct area. That was by far the most within the area for a total of 1,434 hours in the City of Savannah. In the outlying municipalities, we had a pretty close tie. Garden City and Pooler were close — 78 hours in Garden City, 75 in Pooler, for a total of 231 hours in the outlying municipalities. We have a total hours worked for the whole month as 2,087. We also had 29 hours rendered help to outside agencies.

Lt. Smith said, that is the monthly report. Any questions?

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Lieutenant, we thank you very much. One of the things, Mr. County Manager, what I'd like for you to do, have our PI Officer, our Public Information Officer, we've been given this information now and the last number of months it's been distributed, of course, to the County Commission and City Council, and then we have our Commander that comes up, who was unable to be here today, but like Lt. Smith came up and gave us this information, and it's really important, but I think the general public needs to see what has happened since 1994 that the Chatham — that the Counter Narcotics Team has arrested well over 12,000 people, you know, for drugs in Chatham County, the majority of them, more than the majority of them in the City of Savannah. But I would like this information from now on, direct him that when we get this monthly report to run it several times on a monthly basis so that the people can see that on our government channel.

County Manager Abolt said, that's an excellent suggestion and according to your previous discussion you might remember that Mr. Nichols is working with Commander Harris to do what amounts to a briefing by the Commander on Channel 16 about key issues. Very important.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, and that's good. He's been doing a real good job with that, but with all of this right here it's broken down and people can see the numbers and how many arrests and how many seizures there were. I think it's important because the general public doesn't know what job the CNT has been doing. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

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

Lt. Rusty Smith gave a report on CNT for the month of December 2008. No action was taken by the Board.

Chatham Savannah  
Counter Narcotics Team  
Monthly Report  
December  
2008

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

1. On 12/09/08, Investigations along with the Tactical Team and ICE conducted a buy/bust operation in Pooler. Following up from another investigation, agents made contact to a suspect in Atlanta, Georgia and ordered up a kilogram of cocaine. Both parties agreed to meet in Pooler to complete the transaction. Upon Confirmation of the cocaine, agents moved in and arrested four (4) subjects that were involved in the pending transaction. Three of the four subjects were Hispanic males who were in the US illegally and had previous drug arrests. Two of the subjects were currently on bond for trafficking in cocaine (over 400 grams) in South Carolina in November, 2008. The kilogram of cocaine was found in their vehicle and was seized along with the vehicle.
2. On 12/10/08, Investigations concluded a joint investigation with the Tactical Team involving several subjects from the Alamo Hotel located on Bay Street. The Alamo Hotel has been the subject of numerous complaints and is a known drug distribution point. Numerous undercover purchases were made from several rooms to include a residence located on Damon Street. Agents executed search warrants at the Alamo and on Damon Street. As a result, agents seized three firearms, packaging materials, additional cocaine, numerous prescription pills, and arrested seven persons associated with the operation. Agents also spoke with management at the Alamo to put them on notice concerning the obvious drug activity. Agents also met with the US Attorney's office in reference to seizing the property if the activity continues.
3. On 12/11/08, agents executed a search warrant on Atlantic Avenue after a series of controlled purchases from the residence. A search of the residence revealed approximately 1.5 pounds of marijuana, a loaded firearm and various packaging materials. In addition, agents seized approximately \$2,400 in currency. The target of the investigation was on probation stemming from a previous drug offense.
4. On 12/22/08, Investigations received information from an informant that a subject in the Army (stationed at Fort Stewart) would be traveling to Savannah in possession of a large amount of weapons to include an AK-47 to sell. Based on the information, agents located the vehicle and had the vehicle stopped with a marked unit in Pooler. The driver denied that he had any weapons in the vehicle and gave consent to search the vehicle. Agents found 3 long guns (AK-47, Marlin .22 rifle, and a Russian 7.65 caliber rifle) under the blanket on the back seat. The driver stated he forgot he had the weapons and stated there were no more weapons in the vehicle. However, a loaded Walther .40 caliber handgun was found under the driver's seat. A warrant check revealed that the driver had an active probation warrant for his arrest from Bryan County. Agents made contact with Army CID who later confirmed that the weapons were reported stolen on Fort Stewart.
5. Agents executed a search warrant on Packard Avenue in the Tremont Park neighborhood. A subject was identified as a distributor of marijuana and had made several transactions with an undercover agent. The search warrant resulted in the recovery of several ounces of marijuana and a firearm. The subject is also a convicted felon.
6. Agents conducted an operation targeting a subject after receiving information about him supplying cocaine and marijuana. Agents began surveillance and approached the suspect and his brother at the Oaks of Brandlewood Apartments. Both subjects ran and were apprehended. Both were charged with multiple drug violations. One of the subjects is a suspect in at least 2 homicides.
7. Agents served 3 search warrants (Pooler, Tybee, and East 70<sup>th</sup> St.). The East 70<sup>th</sup> Street search warrant was a project log. The search warrant resulted in 3 arrests and one firearm. The search warrant in Pooler resulted in 1 arrest, 5 guns and \$4,000.00. The Tybee warrant resulted in 1 arrest.

| <b>BUYS</b>                 |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Buys                        | Number |
| Undercover Buys             | 12     |
| Confidential Informant Buys | 15     |

| <b>SHORT – LONG TERM NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS*</b>  |        |
|---|--------|
| Investigations  | Number |
| Investigations Initiated During the month   | 15     |
| Active Investigations from prior months   | 97     |
| Active <b>Joint</b> Investigations with other agencies (DEA, AFT, IRS, etc.)<br>- Immigration, Customs Enforcement<br>- US Army Criminal Investigative Division | 6      |
| Total Number of Active Investigations   | 98     |
| Total Number of Active Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)   | 14     |

\* Not including on-view arrests

| <b>DRUGS SEIZED</b> |                  |                |                     |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Drug Type           | Value            | Approx. Weight | Approx. Total Value |
| Powder Cocaine      | \$100 per gram*  | 48.1 Ounces    | \$136,364           |
| Crack Cocaine       | \$100 per gram*  | 71.1 Grams     | \$7,110             |
| Methamphetamine     | \$100 per gram** | N/A            | N/A                 |
| Marijuana           | \$140 per ounce* | 40.1 Ounces    | \$5,614             |
| Ecstasy             | \$25 Dosage Unit | 37 D/U         | \$925               |
| Misc Pills          | Various          | 215 D/U        | N/A                 |

\* 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) | 14 |

| <b>PERSONS ARRESTED*</b>   |    |
|--|----|
| Powder Cocaine – Possession  | 1  |
| Powder Cocaine – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale | 2  |
| Powder Cocaine – Trafficking   | 4  |
| Crack Cocaine – Possession   | 4  |
| Crack Cocaine – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale  | 19 |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Crack Cocaine – Trafficking   | 0         |
| Marijuana – Possession  | 8         |
| Marijuana – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale | 3         |
| Marijuana – Trafficking   | 0         |
| Methamphetamine – Possession / Manufacture / Sale                     | 0         |
| MDMA / Ecstasy Sales / Possession / Trafficking                       | 0         |
| Prescription Drugs – Fraud / Forgery / Possession / Sale              | 5         |
| Heroin Possession/Sales   | 0         |
| Criminal Attempt to Possess Controlled Substances                     | 0         |
| Non-Drug Related Offenses**   | 7         |
| Possession of Drug Related Objects                                    | 0         |
| Distribution of Cocaine-Conspiracy (Federal Indictments Served)       | 0         |
| <b>Total Arrests</b>  | <b>53</b> |

\* Characterized by the highest charge filed, **NOT** total charges.

\*\*Non-drug related offenses include firearms violations, Obstruction, Simple Battery, etc.

| <b>ADOPTION CASES FROM OTHER AGENCIES</b> |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>AGENCY</b>                             | <b>OFFENSE</b>                  |
| 12/22/08 - SCMPD                          | Possession of Marijuana, Felony |

| <b>ASSET FORFEITURES</b>                                 |            |
|--|------------|
| US Currency Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)    | \$9,897.00 |
| US Currency Awarded                                      | \$4,432.00 |
| Motor Vehicles Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings) | 3          |
| Motor Vehicles Awarded                                   | 2          |
| Personal Property Awarded                                | N/A        |

| <b>DRUG COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED</b> |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Drug Complaints</b>              | <b>Received</b> | <b>Assigned</b> |
| Project Log/Official Complaints     | 2               | 2               |
| Green Sheets/ Outside Agencies      | 3               | 3               |
| Hot line/ Call-In Complaints        | 7               | 7               |
| Crime Stopper Complaints            | 16              | 14              |

| COMMUNITY MEETINGS   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Sergeants and/or agents attended the following Community Meetings:</b>  |  |
| 1. On 12-09-08, Commander Harris spoke at a Kiwana's Club meeting held at the Mulberry Inn and spoke on current drug trends.   | <b>**In addition to these monthly meetings and activities the following are done every month:</b><br><br>-Every Monday Commander Harris or Captain McBurney attends the SCMPD Command Staff meeting at headquarters.<br><br>-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. |
| 2. On 12-17-08, retired GBI supervisor John Edwards conducted a class at CNT on numerous drug enforcement topics to include search and seizure, informants, 4 <sup>th</sup> amendment strategy, probable cause/consent searches, and other areas that are related to joint task force drug agencies. |  |

| TRAINING STATISTICS            |                |                        |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Course Title                   | Agents Trained | Course hours per Agent |
| 2-Day Block                    | 1              | 16                     |
| Search & Seizures              | 33             | 6                      |
| Firearms/Deadly Force          | 3              | 2                      |
| Basic Narcotics Investigations | 1              | 40                     |

**DRUG INVESTIGATION**

**HOURS WORKED BY ZONE**

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| SCMPD – West Chatham Precinct | 341         |
| SCMPD – Downtown Precinct     | 236         |
| SCMPD – Central Precinct      | 617         |
| SCMPD – Southside Precinct    | 97          |
| SCMPD – Islands Precinct      | 143         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>1434</b> |

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Garden City     | 78         |
| Port Wentworth  | 11         |
| Bloomingtondale | 0          |
| Pooler          | 75         |
| Thunderbolt     | 4          |
| Tybee Island    | 63         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>231</b> |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.) | 47         |
| Assistance Rendered to Outside Agencies     | 29         |
| Training                                    | 260        |
| Court Hours                                 | 86         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>422</b> |

**Total Hours Worked 2087**

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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 have Items 1 through 17-J and, let's see, pull Item 7 from that. Commissioner Gellatly would like to pull that to discuss it. Does any other Commissioners have items they would like to pull from the Action Calendar?

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to have Item 17-J pulled.

Chairman Liakakis said, pull 17-J. Got it. And, let's see — Helen [Stone].

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to have to not vote no on the minutes. I wasn't able to finish them last night. It's 72 pages, so I don't feel comfortable voting on them.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Alright. Any other items? Let's see, Dean [Kicklighter] had a particular item. Well, we can come back and discuss that when he gets here.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I would make a motion that we approve Items 2 through 6 and Items 8 through 17, including A through I. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board. Commissioner Shay said, and that way, Mr. Chairman, we can vote on Item 1, the minutes, separately so that Commissioner Stone — Chairman Liakakis said, right. Commissioner Shay said, okay. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve Items 2 through 17-I, except Items 7 and 17-J. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

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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 19, 2009, AS MAILED.**

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, approval of the minutes of our last meeting in December. I need a motion on the floor.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Stone voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the minutes have been approved.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2009. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Stone voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 11, 2008, THROUGH JANUARY 7, 2009.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period December 11, 2008, through January 7, 2009, in the amount of \$15,984,161. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

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### 3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 BUDGET ADOPTION AND MILLAGE LEVY CALENDAR.

#### ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 budget adoption and millage levy calendar. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM:** *IX-3*

**AGENDA DATE:** January 16, 2009

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

**ISSUE:** To request board approval of the Fiscal Year 2009 / 2010 Budget Adoption and Millage Levy Calendar, and set a date for the Budget Goals Session/Retreat.

**BACKGROUND:** The Budget Adoption and Millage Levy Calendar are approved by the Board each fiscal year to facilitate timely adoption of the budget and the millage levy.

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

(1) The FY 2009/2010 (July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010) Budget Adoption and Millage Levy calendar is shown in completion on page 3-5 herein and contains the following major target dates:

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| January 26, 2009 | - | Distribution of budget packages   |
| May 8, 2009      | - | Presentation of proposed budget to Board of Commissioners                       |
| May 22, 2009     | - | Public hearing at regular Commission meeting                                    |
| June 26, 2009    | - | Adoption of the FY 2009 / 2010 Budget   |
| June 26, 2009    | - | Year 2009 Tax Digest and 5-year history to Board as information                 |
| July 10, 2009    | - | Adoption of Year 2008 M&O, SSD, and CAT Millage Levy by Board of Commissioners  |
| July 23, 2009    | - | Adoption of Year 2008 Board of Education Millage Levy by Board of Commissioners |
| July 27, 2009    | - | Tax Digest to Atlanta   |

(2) Budget workshops with the Board are scheduled for May 11, 2009 through June 12, 2009.

(3) The Board may elect to hold a Budget Goals Session/Retreat in late January or February 2009 where the Board's goals and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year can be developed. Stated goals and priorities will be utilized by the County Manager to develop the FY 2009/2010 proposed budget. The Board could also have a series of workshops on CIP needs concurrent with the goal session.

(4) Approval of the calendar does not preclude the Board scheduling additional workshops prior to budget adoption or amending the target adoption date.

(5) The State of Georgia may enforce penalties against counties who do not submit their digest by August 1st.

#### **FUNDING:**

N / A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) Approve the FY 2009 / 2010 Budget Adoption and Millage Levy Calendar, and set a date for the Budget Goals Session/Retreat.
- (2) Amend the calendar.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

State law requires that an annual budget be adopted by the Board for the General Fund and all Special Revenue and Debt Service Funds while a project-length budget should be adopted for construction-in-progress funds. The calendar also provides for levy of millage rates to allow for timely submission of the tax digest to the Department of Revenue.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1 and set a date for the Budget Goals Session/Retreat.

PREPARED BY: *Rusheda Adeshina*

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**4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHATHAM-SAVANNAH YOUTH FUTURES AUTHORITY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Chatham-Savannah Youth futures Authority. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:** To request board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1) The adopted FY2009 General Fund M&O budget includes an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority.
- 2) The County Attorney has reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority which is attached and submitted for Board approval.

**FUNDING:** Funds are available in Special Appropriations (1009975 57.30101)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1) That the Board approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.
- 2) Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Approval is consistent with Board action requiring a contract or Memorandum of Understanding with agencies receiving funding.

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

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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5. **REQUEST FROM HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG, ENGINEER FOR GREEN WAY DEVELOPERS, INC., FOR THE COUNTY TO ACCEPT THE DEDICATED IMPROVEMENTS AND RELEASE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE FOR THE LAKES AT COTTONVALE, PHASE 4.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the request from Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, engineer for Green Way Developers, Inc., for the County to accept the dedicated improvements and release the financial guarantee for The Lakes at Cottonvale, Phase 4. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** A. G. Bungard, P.E., County Engineer

**ISSUE:** To accept the dedicated improvements and release the financial guarantee for The Lakes at Cottonvale, Phase 4.

**BACKGROUND:** The engineer, Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, for the developer, Green Way Developers Inc., requests that the County accept the dedicated improvements and release the financial guarantee for The Lakes at Cottonvale, Phase 4.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Lakes at Cottonvale, Phase 4 is a single family residential development. This is the final phase of The Lakes at Cottonvale and it contains 65 lots on 21 acres.
2. The paving and drainage improvements are being dedicated to Chatham County for ownership and maintenance. The water and sewer improvements are owned and maintained by Consolidated Utilities, Inc. The storm water detention ponds will be maintained by the Lakes of Cottonvale Homeowners Association.
3. The constructed improvements have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.
4. The streetlights in this phase are being dedicated to Chatham County for ownership and maintenance. This phase includes 35 100W lights and 35 wooden poles, with an annual estimated cost of \$2,852.
5. The developer submitted a letter of credit issued by Richmond Hill Bank in the amount of \$192,506. This financial guarantee will be returned to the developer upon acceptance.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Accept the dedicated improvements and release the financial guarantee for The Lakes at Cottonvale, Phase 4.
2. Do not approve the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** The request is in accordance with the Chatham County Subdivision Regulations.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 7

**PREPARED BY:** Nathaniel Panther

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**6. REQUEST BOARD ACCEPT AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT (PARCEL 24) BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SAVANNAH FOR A HARDIN CANAL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve an Easement Agreement (Parcel 24) between Chatham County and the City of Savannah for a Hardin Canal Drainage Improvement Project. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** A. G. Bungard, P.E., County Engineer

**ISSUE:** To accept an Easement Agreement (Parcel 24) between Chatham County and the City of Savannah for a Hardin Canal drainage improvement project.

**BACKGROUND:** The Hardin Canal drainage improvement project includes constructing new crossings for the canal under S.R. 307 (Dean Forest Road) and widening a portion of S.R. 307. A portion of the canal and the western side of S.R. 307 are on property owned by the City of Savannah for the landfill.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Easement Agreement conveys to the County the easements necessary to construct the crossings for the Hardin Canal under S.R. 307 and to construct S.R. 307 along a new alignment. The project provides access to the City of Savannah for its facilities off of Dean Forest Road.
2. The acquisition from the City of Savannah consists of 22,723 square feet of permanent drainage easement and 22,203 square feet of temporary drainage easement.
3. The City of Savannah is waiving any compensation to convey the easement rights.
4. The Easement Agreement was approved by the City Council on December 16, 2008.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To accept an Easement Agreement (Parcel 24) between Chatham County and the City of Savannah for the Hardin Canal drainage improvement project.
2. To not accept the Agreement.

**FUNDING:** No funding is required to accept the Easement Agreement.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** The Board approves agreements involving conveyances of property.

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

District 7

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**7. REQUEST BOARD CONFIRM THE PURCHASE OF A 641.01-ACRE TRACT FOR GREENSPACE ON THE OGEECHEE RIVER AS PART OF THE LOWER OGEECHEE RIVER CONSERVATION CORRIDOR.  
[DISTRICT 6.]**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yes. Pat Monahan is going to go ahead and explain what this is all about.

Mr. Monahan said, this action confirms the purchase of a 640-acre tract we call the Blue Sky Tract from International Paper. It culminates the acquisition of about 1,100 acres of greenspace within the past four years, and when you look at the map this particular purchase serves two important purposes. First, it's part of our Greenspace Program. It is a valuable eco-system that serves as a buffer between all the surrounding developments. This is the Ogeechee River and this is I-95, so as you leave Chatham County going into Bryan County on I-95, about a mile before the County line start looking to the right because that's the property that the County acquired. What I think is more important with this is when I started taking a look at the other properties that this Commission has acquired in this particular area, as well as some previous Commissions, it's an assemblage of a major tract of property. When you look at this property, you think of two sets of colors. Of course, green because of the greenspace, but also think of red, white and blue. We don't think of it, but this area along the Ogeechee River serves as the flight line for Fort Stewart, so of course Fort Stewart plotted this purchase of what we call the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor, and what's interesting is you see this property is 640 acres. This is the Litchfield Tract that the County Engineer is developing into a Wetlands Mitigation Bank that I think is the subject of a plaque somewhere in this room. The Commission bought the Litchfield property. This property is 500 acres. The adjoining property is 120 acres that this Commission bought two years ago. King's Ferry, of course, this is 100 acres, which 10 acres is developed into the boat ramp, but also you can see the relationship with the Bamboo Farm, and in addition to that the Commission two years ago through, actually through the County Engineer bought this property, and it's 85 acres that's off I-95, and the rest of it is about 200 acres held in a restrictive covenant that's part of the Henderson Golf Club. So it's a major acquisition. The assemblage of land in this area probably at least within the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor totals about 1,400 or 1,500 acres, which would be equal to the Pritchard purchase that led to the development of Bacon Park in the late 1880's. So it is a significant holding and you're to be congratulated.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any questions. Okay —.

Commissioner Shay said, just another quick comment and, you know, during the last campaign season there were some people that were intent upon painting this County Commission as being something other than red, white and green, and this is an example of how much we've done as a group to make sure that habitat are protected and that we have an everlasting legacy for the people of Chatham County in the Lower Ogeechee River Basin. It's a very remarkable accomplishment and I don't want for anybody that's out there to doubt for a second but what this Commission has been as green as any in the past and I would be willing to wager greener than any in the history of Chatham County.

Mr. Monahan said, I do want to mention one other one. I put a little star by it because it's actually off the map. This Commission knows about it, but maybe the public doesn't know about it, but there was another property that the County closed in December. The County acquired 106 acres which will become the first Salt Marsh Mitigation Bank in the State of Georgia so it will allow for the creation and the restoration of wetlands. It happens to be an old rice plantation that was developed some time during the settlement when Oglethorpe landed here and it was a Scottish family that developed it, a husband and wife and a child was born. Apparently there was some struggles in the labor. The wife died, the husband died soon after, and the moral of the story is his attorney inherited it. So be careful of who writes your will.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I just want to say that I'm very proud that these purchases also happen to be the majority of them right in the middle of the Sixth District. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, and that proves to the community that our Commissioner David Gellatly is in accord with this and supports it, and we want the entire community to know that we just didn't start talking about this or working on this a few months ago because some others who said that we weren't environmentally friendly, but things have been put in place now for a few years and this County Commission wants to be the greenest county in the entire State of Georgia, and the way it's moving right now it looks like not in the too distant future that that will occur. And I would also on behalf of the Chatham County Commission to really thank Patrick Monahan, our Assistant County Manager, for putting this together and the great work that he does, not only in the environment but many other things in our County, you know, just a great individual and we really appreciate that. We want you to know that, Patrick [Monahan]. I mean, a lot of times our County Manager and yourself and other staff people just really don't receive a thanks, but we know the hard work that y'all are putting in. Okay.

Commissioner Farrell asked, vote on it? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Commissioner Gellatly asked, did we? We haven't. Commissioner Farrell asked, you want to make a motion? Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion.

Commissioner Shay said, I'd like to second Commissioner Gellatly's motion. Commissioner Gellatly said, yes.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Gellatly moved to confirm the purchase of a 641.01-acre tract for greenspace on the Ogeechee River as part of the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor. Commissioner Shay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-7**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:**

To confirm the purchase of a 641.01-acre tract for greenspace on the Ogeechee River as part of the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor.

**BACKGROUND:**

During the September 19, 2008, meeting, the Board authorized in Executive Session a contract to negotiate purchase of a tract of land, which extends west of I-95 from the Ogeechee River to State Route 204, as part of the County's greenspace program. At the December 19, 2008 meeting, the Board in Executive Session confirmed final details of the acquisition. The property, which was rated among the top 5 properties for protection by the Resources Protection Committee, includes 71.39 acres of uplands (29.8 developable) and 569.65 acres of bottomlands. The property also remains of interest to the U.S. Army because it remains along the southern edge of the flight route for Fort Stewart in an area called the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor (LORCC). In May 2008, the Board adopted a resolution to acknowledge the County's partnership on the ACUB (Army Compatible Use Buffer). Since then, staff has worked with Fort Stewart and the State's Georgia Land Conservation Program on a proposal which would allow the County to acquire the property and the State to reimburse half of the cost.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. In accordance with Board authorization, the County executed a purchase agreement for the property and closed in late December. The purchase of the 641.01 acres achieves two important goals. First, it supports the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB), which helps protect Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield from the Base Alignment and Closure plan. Second, as part of the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor, it maintains a natural asset of vegetated, bottomland along the Ogeechee River. With this acquisition, Chatham County owns approximately 1,500 acres within the corridor (see Attachment 1). Not only will this area become a conservation corridor, but the extension of the East Coast Greenway from the Bamboo Farm to Bryan County will make it among the highlights of the national trail system.
2. Chatham County acquired the property from Blue Sky Properties, a subsidiary of International Paper. It is Property Identification Number 2-1033-01-001 and a legal description (recorded plat attached) of "641.04 Acres of the Southern States Tract." An appraisal showed the value as \$750,000 for wetlands and \$900,000 for development uplands (71.39 total but only 29.8 developable). A review appraisal by a County-selected appraiser concurred in this value (the Assessor's Office places a value of \$1,875,500) on the tract. Chatham County acquired the property for \$1,500,000 plus closing costs.
3. While the State Georgia Land Conservation Program fund remains frozen with other state capital revenues, the director of the program has encouraged the County to apply for \$300,000 in state funds to offset the cost (assuming release of state funding program). The State of Georgia applauds the purchase consistent with its greenspace goals and the ACUB program.

**FUNDING:**

SPLOST 2003-2008, Greenspace.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board confirm the acquisition of the "641.04 Acres of the Southern States Tract." Staff will apply in Spring 2009 for \$300,000 in Georgia Land Conservation Program funds to help offset some of the acquisition cost.

2. That the Board take other action, as appropriate.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Georgia law requires that the Board in open meeting confirm purchase of properties authorized in executive session. Chatham County has already recognized the environmental importance of the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor by its previous acquisition of more than 1,000 acres in this area. This latest acquisition demonstrates the County's support for the value of the corridor as environmentally-significant land and as a natural buffer to the Ogeechee River from surrounding development. The corridor also helps to protect Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The assemblage of the 1,500 acres which Chatham County now owns in this area represents the single largest assemblage of property since the 1887 acquisition of the 1,400 acres which comprises Bacon Park and the surrounding properties.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO TERMINATE LEASING 17 MINIS AVENUE IN GARDEN CITY TO SAVANNAH BEHAVIORAL COUNSELING SERVICES AND EXTEND LEASE TO SABHC THROUGH MARCH 30,2009.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the termination of leasing 17 Minis Avenue in Garden City to Savannah Behavioral Counseling Services and extend the lease to SABHC through March 30, 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-8**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

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

**ISSUE:**

To terminate approval of leasing 17 Minis Avenue in Garden City to Savannah Behavioral Counseling Services and extend lease to SABHC through March 30, 2009.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the December 19 meeting, the Board approved leasing 17 Minis Avenue to Savannah Behavioral Counseling Services, one of three agencies which has contracted with the State of Georgia to provide public mental health services. The agency found a different location and opted not to execute the lease. Meanwhile, Savannah Area Behavioral Health Services (SABHC) needs to close out client files and complete its corporate dissolution. SABHC has requested to remain in the building through March 30, 2009.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. Since Savannah Behavioral Health Services did not execute any lease agreement with Chatham County, the Board needs only to approve extending the lease through March 30, 2009, with SABHC. This will enable SABHC to complete close-out of client files and dissolve its corporate structure.
2. The three month period will also enable the County to locate other possible tenants. In 1993, Chatham County developed and obtained bond financing on behalf of Tidelands for 17 Minis Avenue, a 7,615 square-foot building.
3. Based on 7,615 square feet, the rate will be \$9 a square foot, or \$5,711.25 paid monthly.

**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 terminate approval of leasing 17 Minis Avenue in Garden City to Savannah Behavioral Health Services and extend the lease period to SABHC through March 30, 2009. Rate will be \$5,711.25 monthly.
2. That the Board opt not to lease the building to SABHC and notify the agency that it needs to vacate the property.
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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**9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO REFUND STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT FEES TOTALING \$2,948 TO THE CURRENT PROPERTY OWNERS OF SEVENTEEN PARCELS FROM THEIR DATE OF ACQUISITION AND INTERPLEAD \$1,236 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT REGISTRY FOR FUTURE REFUND REQUESTS BY PREVIOUS OWNERS OF THESE SAME PROPERTIES.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the request to refund Street Lighting Assessment Fees totaling \$2,948 to the current property owners of seventeen (17) parcels from their date of acquisition and interplead \$1,236 in the Superior Court Registry for future refund requests by previous owners of these same properties. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-10**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**Thru:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**From:** Daniel T. Powers, Tax Commissioner

**ISSUE:**

Refund Street Lighting Assessment Fees totaling \$2948.00 to the current property owners of seventeen parcels from their date of acquisition and interplead \$1236.00 in the Superior Court Registry for future refund requests by previous owners of these same properties. Prior owners of these properties may seek refunds through Superior Court by providing proper proof to the Court and the Court will issue a refund from the interpled funds.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Street Light Assessment fee for Brandlewood Phase 2 was approved on the January 13, 1989 Agenda. 1996 was the first year that Street Light Assessment fees were billed on the Final Installment tax bills for any of the seventeen parcels.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

The Tax Commissioner's Office was contacted by the Engineering Department with a request to credit/refund Street Light Assessments that were billed on Final Installment tax bills for the seventeen parcels in Brandlewood Phase 2 back to the inception of the fee as the correct Street Light Assessment should be zero. A meeting was held with the County Attorney to discuss the proper handling of the refunds. A memorandum from the County Attorney with his findings is attached.

**FUNDING:**

Funding will be provided by the Finance Department from Claims and Judgments. The Finance Director will provide the Tax Commissioner’s Office with \$2948.00 to fund the refunds and will work with the County Attorney’s Office for interpleading \$1236.00 to the Superior Court Registry to cover refund requests by prior owners of these properties.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the request to refund Street Light Assessments fees totaling \$2948.00 to the current owner of the seventeen parcels from the date of their acquisition and interplead \$1236.00 to the Superior Court Registry for future refunds requests.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to approve refunds to taxpayers where errors by County staff have created a situation where the taxpayer paid fees in error.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.



# INTER-OFFICE MEMO

DATE: December 15, 2009

TO: Daniel T. Powers, Tax Commissioner

FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

SUBJECT: Possible Street Light Refunds

As a result of our meeting, the consensus was that 17 parcels that were not part of the Street Lighting District were billed in error. My understanding is that bills were collected from 1996 through 2007. The matter was corrected in 2008. The total amount of refunds in question is slightly more than \$4,000.

My recommendation is that since this was an “error” that this matter go to the Board of Commission in January with request for direction from the Board for refund of monies as per code section §48-5-380. The County would refund back payments to current owners of the property from the date of their acquisition. Given the stability of this neighborhood, this would cover most of the residents. Since we do not have good records as to the location of prior owners, we would interplead any remaining amount into Superior Court. Should prior owners surface and seek a refund, upon proper proof to Superior Court, the Court would fund a refund from the interpled funds.

I would recommend that your department, upon completion of the appropriate calculations, prepare a staff report requesting direction to refund the money pursuant to §48-5-380. The source of funding as to this matter would have to come from claims and judgments. Linda Cramer is in agreement.

You may attach this memo to the staff report for consideration.

RJH/dc

cc: Chairman Pete Liakakis and Board of Commissioners  
R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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**10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE REFUND OF \$204.65 FOR OVERCHARGE IN AD VALOREM TAXES ON A 1997 ACURA TO DEBBIE W. AND DOUGLAS WALKER. THIS AMOUNT REPRESENTS THE OVERCHARGE FOR TAX YEARS 2001 THROUGH 2004.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a request to refund \$204.65 for overcharge in ad valorem taxes on a 1997 Acura to Debbie W. And Douglas Walker, representing an overcharge for tax years 2001 through 2004. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-10**

**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**Thru:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**From:** Daniel T. Powers, Tax Commissioner

**ISSUE:**

Refund in the amount of \$204.65 for overcharge in Ad Valorem taxes on a 1997 Acura #03975 to Debbie W. Walker and Douglas Walker. This amount represents the overcharge for tax years 2001 through 2004.

**BACKGROUND:**

My office overcharged Ad Valorem taxes beginning in tax year 2001 at each annual renewal of the registration of the 1997 Acura. My office has already issued refunds for tax years subsequent to 2004.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

The Walkers were charged Ad Valorem taxes based on the situs of the vehicle being located in the City of Savannah. Ad Valorem taxes should have been charged based on the vehicle being located in the County tax district.

**FUNDING:**

Monthly disbursement of motor vehicle tax collections made by the Tax Commissioner's Office.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve request to refund \$204.65 to Debbie W. And Douglas Walker.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve refunds where a clerical error has resulted in an overcharge to the taxpayer.

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

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**11. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CHATHAM COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN AT THE REQUEST OF THE GEORGIA COASTAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a Resolution to Adopt the Chatham County Solid Waste Management Plan at the request of the Georgia Coastal Regional Development Center. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-11****AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**Thru:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**From:** Robert W. Drewry, Director of Public Works and Park Services

**Issue:**

Request Board approval of resolution to adopt the Chatham County Solid Waste Management Plan at the request of the Georgia Coastal Regional Development Center.

**Background:**

The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act requires county and municipal governments to prepare a local solid waste management plan and periodic update.

**Facts and Findings:**

1. Chatham County has completed an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan. The Board authorized transmittal of the plan to the State on May 9, 2008.
2. The resolution to adopt is a step in the process after our plan is approved by the RDC and DCA.
3. Chatham County has complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements that were held on February 11 and April 25, 2008.

**Funding:**

N/A

**Policy Statement:**

Board approval of resolution is requested by the State.

**Alternatives:**

1. Board approves resolution
2. Board not approve

**Recommendation:** Board approves Alternative #1.

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT**

**WHEREAS**, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act requires county and municipal governments to prepare a local solid waste management plan and periodic update: and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Chatham, Georgia has compiled, reviewed and modified an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan for the County of Chatham; and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Chatham, Georgia has complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County of Chatham Board of Commissioners that the document entitled Solid Waste Management Plan 2008 – 2018 be officially approved and adopted.

SO RESOLVED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairman – Pete Liakakis)

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness)

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement between Chatham County and Peggy Blood at 918 Penn Waller Road. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-12**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**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.

**FUNDING:**

Not applicable.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Encroachment Agreement.
2. Do not approve the Encroachment Agreement

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Section 12-1107(5) of the Right-of- Way Encroachment Ordinance allows for a variance to encroach into the public right-of-way and to appeal any denial of staff. The Board of Commissioners has agreed to grant a license in the form of an Encroachment Agreement to allow the fence to remain in place. The granting of this Encroachment Agreement avoids the destruction of an expensive fence and would benefit this citizen of Chatham County.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

RJH/dc  
enclosure

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**13. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2009. PETITIONER: ROBERT MCLAURIN BURCH, D/B/A DIAMOND GIRL, LLC (DIAMOND GIRL) EXCURSION VESSEL, TO BE LOCATED AT 8010 TYBEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the petition of Robert McLaurin Burch, d/b/a Diamond Girl, LLC (Diamond Girl) Excursion Vessel, to be located at 8010 Tybee Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-13**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**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 renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2009, Robert McLaurin Burch, d/b/a Diamond Girl, LLC (Diamond Girl) excursion vessel, to be located at 8010 Tybee Road.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Burch requests renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and alcohol pouring license in connection with an excursion vessel that will use docking facilities at the Williams Seafood Restaurant dock on Bull River.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The applications were reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and separation requirements and approved.
2. The applicant meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The County Fire Marshall inspected the site for compliance with fire safety codes and approved the facility.
3. This application is in compliance with all requirements.
4. The applicant has been notified of the hearing date and time.

RECOMMENDATION

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department 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, CBO

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

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**14. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2009. PETITIONER: SCOTT ROBERT JACKSON, D/B/A SICILIANO'S, LOCATED AT 4700 HIGHWAY 80 EAST. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the petition of Scott Robert Jackson, d/b/a Siciliano's, located at 4700 Highway 80 East, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: ~~X-14~~**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**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 renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2009, Scott Robert Jackson, d/b/a Siciliano's, located at 4700 Highway 80 East.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Jackson requests approval for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license in connection with an existing restaurant.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

- 1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.
- 2. This returned application was reviewed by Regulatory Services. The County Fire Marshal inspected the site for compliance with the commercial kitchen requirements and approved the facility.
- 3. This application 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 Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 4

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

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

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**15. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2009. PETITIONER: HEIDI ZHANG, D/B/A SAKURA PLACE, LOCATED AT 1190 KING GEORGE BOULEVARD, UNIT A-4. [DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the petition of Heidi Zhang, d/b/a Sakura Place, located at 1190 King George Boulevard, Unit A-4, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-15**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**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 renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring for 2009, Heidi Zhang, d/b/a Sakura Place, located at 1190 King George Boulevard, Unit A-4.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Zhang requests approval for renewal of Sunday sales license in connection with an existing restaurant.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

District 6

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

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

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**16. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2009. PETITIONER: DAVID D. OSBORNE, D/B/A OZZY'S GRILL, LOCATED AT 7403 SKIDAWAY ROAD. [DISTRICT 1.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the petition of David D. Osborne, d/b/a Ozzy's Grill, located at 7403 Skidaway Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-16**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**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 renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for 2009, David D. Osborne, d/b/a Ozzy's Grill, located at 7403 Skidaway Road.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Osborne, requests approval for a renewal of Sunday sales license, in connection with an existing restaurant. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage and Sunday Sales Ordinance.

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 hearing date & time.

RECOMMENDATION

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

District 1

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

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

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**17. 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. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to provide inmate supplies   | Detention Center                        | •Justice Packaging (WBE)<br>•Tabb Textiles Company<br>•Bob Barker | Varies by item    | General Fund/M&O - Detention Center   |
| B. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to provide maintenance and repair of two (2) drawbridges located within the County | Bridges                                 | Alloy Industrial Contractors, Inc. (WBE)                          | Varies by service | General Fund/M&O - Bridges  |
| C. Change Order No. 1 to the annual pest control contract to add to the scope of service for the Drug Court building  | Court Administrator                     | Cox Termite and Pest Control                                      | \$300             | General Fund/M&O - Court Expenditures   |
| D. Night vision goggles   | Mosquito Control                        | Lunsford Air Consulting, Inc.                                     | \$14,542          | General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control   |
| E. One (1) 2008 Ford Taurus   | Human Resources                         | J.C. Lewis Ford   | \$21,473          | CIP - Vehicle Replacement   |
| F. Two (2) used non-typical replacement vehicles and authorize disposal of two (2) vehicles that will be used as trade-ins  | C.N.T.                                  | Fairway Lincoln Mercury   | \$32,000          | CIP - Vehicle Replacement   |
| G. Change Order No. 1 to the contract to perform design improvements of various County roads for changes to the Bond Avenue and Betran Street paving project                    | Engineering                             | EMC Engineering Services, Inc.                                    | \$8,500           | SPLOST (1993-1998) - Various County Roads   |
| H. Various heavy duty kitchen equipment   | Detention Center                        | Citisco Food Service  | \$158,543         | CIP - Detention Center Expansion  |
| I. Privacy wall extension for Courthouse holding cells  | Special Projects                        | CCG Group   | \$15,400          | SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction  |
| J. Contract for the "Business Process Redesign" for Permitting and Inspection Approval process for Chatham County   | Building Safety and Regulatory Services | Orion Development Group   | \$80,000          | Building Safety and Regulatory Services (pending Board approval of restoring Building Safety 2009 operating budget) |

**As to Items 17-A through 17-I:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve Items 17-A through 17-I, both inclusive. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

**As to Item 17-J:**

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I asked for this to be pulled and the reason I did is, I know it's been a long meeting already so I don't want to belabor it for too long, but last year at our annual retreat the idea was put forward that we would embark on a process of trying to make building permitting and land development in Chatham County a lot more predictable. That doesn't mean to say easier necessarily in the sense of relaxing of any of the regulations, but looking at the process itself to try and find ways of improving that process from beginning to end so that regardless of how you entered into the system, whether as a developer or as somebody who is engaging in good planning activity or a builder, that there would be a way to predict what the steps were that were necessary to get from the beginning to the end. At the time that it was originally proposed, which was even some time before that, we were slammed to be quite honest with you in the development community. There were more building permits being pulled than ever in the history of Chatham County.

In the last six to eight months we've seen a downturn in the permitting activity, and that was one of the subjects earlier today in dealing with that from a fiscal standpoint. The plan that was put forward was to engage an outside consultant because having an independent third-party look at the process is usually helpful since everybody else that's involved in the process is kind of already invested in it and already embedded in the current paradigm. One of the things I believe that the Manager came up with was redirecting some of the staff that were in the permitting department to redirect their efforts to work on this and thereby save taxpayer dollars by reducing the costs that were originally proposed by the outside consultant. So just an example of how we are already implementing ways to make sure that the highly qualified people that our Building Inspections Department has been able to recruit over the past several years can be retained and redirected into an effort so that when the lull is over, however long that takes, that we are fully prepared to catch the next wave and make sure that we're adding appropriate investment in our County to the tax rolls. We are evermore reliant on an increasing tax base as an alternative to raising the tax rates and, although we're in a lull right now, I think this will help us to be more fully prepared for the time when that circumstance turns around and we want to get back in the business of adding value to our County in a way that doesn't require us to raise the tax millage rate.

Chairman Liakakis said, I need a motion.

Commissioner Shay said, I would make the motion that we adopt Item 17-J and encourage the Manager and his fully-able staff to move forward aggressively with implementing a program. Commissioner Stone said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, you've had two experiences. I'm going to clarify the second one. Where citizens who didn't have to come forward to do good for the citizens of Chatham County, you're well aware of Dr. Bradley. One you're not aware, and I am very much appreciative of what Commissioner Shay has done and he introduced me to this gentleman, Andrew Feiler. Andrew Feiler is the one that is very successful, very accomplished and extremely bright in this whole area was the agent of change that Commissioner Shay introduced me to along with my staff. Over a year ago we began working on this process. He has not been officially recognized yet, but I do want to take this occasion with Commissioner Shay's permission to make sure you understand that a citizen, Andrew Feiler, is a very exceptional person. Commissioner Shay said, amen.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved to approve Items 17-A through 17-I, both inclusive. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]

Commissioner Shay moved to adopt Item 17-J and encourage the Manager and his staff to move forward with implementing a program. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM : X-17 A thru J**  
**AGENDA DATE: JANUARY 16, 2009**

**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 to award an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to provide inmate supplies with Justice

Packaging, Pooler, Georgia, Tabb Textiles Company, Inc., Opelika, AL and Bob Barker, Fuquay-Vernia, PA., for the Detention Center.

**BACKGROUND:** This annual contract is for the delivery of “as needed” inmate supply items.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- Specifications were developed for 17 inmate supply items (see attached pages 13-18 for detailed items and pricing offered). An Invitation to Bid was properly advertised, mailed to nine (9) prospective bidders and opened 3 December 2008. The following firms submitted bids:

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| ** | Justice Packaging<br>Pooler, GA                | Georgia Correctional Industries<br>Decatur, GA    |
|    | I.C.S.<br>Waco TX                              | Bob Barker<br>Fuquay-Vernia, NC                   |
|    | Charm Tex<br>Brooklyn, NY                      | Robinson Textiles<br>Gardenia, CA                 |
|    | Wesvic’s Clothing<br>Pembroke, GA              | Carolina Textiles<br>Charlotte, NC                |
|    | Uniforms Manufacturing, Inc.<br>Scottsdale, AZ | American Associated Companies<br>Fayetteville, GA |
|    | Textile Sales, Inc.<br>Baltimore, MD           | ** ATD American Company<br>Wyncote, PA            |
| ** | OD Taragin & Bros., LLC.<br>Baltimore, MD      | Tabb Textile Company, Inc.<br>Opelika, AL         |
|    | Acme Supply Company, LTD.<br>Glen Cove, NY     |   |

\*\* WBE Firm

- On 27 March 1998, the Board approved a “local preference” policy which, when a firm from outside Chatham County submits the “lowest quote” the policy allows the lowest local vendor to match the “lowest” quote. If the local firm does match the “lowest” quote, the local firm is awarded the purchase. As indicated above, a non-Chatham County firm offered the “lowest low” quote. The Chatham County firm was asked if they would match the outside firms’ quote. As indicated Justice Packaging did match the “lowest” bid.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O - Detention Center  
(1003326 - 53.17009)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- Board approval to award an annual contract with automatic renewals options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to provide Inmate Supplies with Justice Packaging, Pooler, Georgia, Tabb Textiles Company, Inc., Opelika, AL and Bob Barker, Fuquay-Vernia, PA., for the Detention Center.
- Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve contracts that offer the best value to the County.

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

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

**ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Alloy Industrial Contractors, Inc. of Savannah, Georgia, a WBE firm, to provide maintenance and repair of two (2) drawbridges located within the County.

**BACKGROUND:** The County has the Causton Bluff Bridge (with separate East and West bound mechanical spans) crossing the Wilmington River located on President Street, and the Skidaway Bridge crossing Skidaway Narrows located on Diamond Causeway that require repair and maintenance that are beyond the scope and ability of bridge staff. There is also a need to be able to respond to mechanical or structural failures on the bridges after hours and in emergency situations, such as damage resulting from accidents or storms. As with all bridges, these two (2) bridges are subject to inspection by the Georgia DOT, and as a result of such inspections, the bridges may require repairs that are more extensive or require repairs that are above and beyond the skill level of bridge staff. The services of Alloy Industrial Contractors, Inc. would then be used to provide DOT repair work that exceeds the skills and abilities of Bridge's staff.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The bridges provide a critical transportation link for a large segment of the population residing in Chatham County and 24-hour operation of the bridges is absolutely critical for public health and safety. The mechanical draw bridges are getting older and increased maintenance and repair issues can be anticipated. In recent years, there has been an increasing need for after hours work and emergency repair work.
2. Staff developed specifications to address three (3) levels of response services for welding, repairs and maintenance and fabrication work. First, work that would be performed during normal business hours, then work that can only be performed after hours or during nights/weekends; and finally emergency response call-outs. Having a long-term pricing agreement with a vendor assures the County of having a vendor who will respond and also prevents costs from escalating.
3. A Request for Quotation was sent to nine (9) prospective firms and quotes were received 09 December 2008 from three (3) firms. See attached matrix on page 19. The initial intent was to award to a primary and a secondary. Due to the large difference in price between the quotes, it is staff's recommendation to make a single award.
4. Staff believes the bid from Alloy Industrial Contractors, Inc. to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Bridges  
(1004230 - 52.22001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Alloy Industrial Contractors, Inc. of Savannah, Georgia, a WBE firm, to provide maintenance and repair of two (2) drawbridges located within the County.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

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

**ITEM C**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Change Order 1, in the amount of \$25 per month, to the annual contract with Cox Termite and Pest Control, to include in the scope of services for pest control service at the Drug Court Building located at 1607 Skidaway Road.

**BACKGROUND:** On 21 November 2008, the Board approved a pest control services contract with Cox Termite & Pest Control.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Drug Court Building has been receiving pest control service from a non-contract vendor in the amount of \$40 per month.
2. Cox Termite & Pest Control quoted staff a monthly fee of \$25 to provide service at the Drug Court Building. Service will become effective in January 2009.
3. Staff believes the cost of \$25 per month to provide pest control service to the Drug Court Building to be fair and reasonable.
4. Contract history is as follows:

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Original Contract Amount (11-21-08) | \$18,740/Year |
| Change Order 1 (Pending )           | \$ 300/Year   |
| Revised Contract Amount             | \$19,040/Year |

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Court Expenditures  
(1002110 - 52.39001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of Change Order 1, in the amount of \$25 per month, to the annual contract with Cox Termite and Pest Control, to include in the scope of services for pest control service at the Drug Court Building located at 1607 Skidaway Road.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to issue Change Orders to essential service contracts to recognize changes in scope of services.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
GLORIA SAUGH

**ITEM D**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$14,542 purchase of Night Vision Goggles for the MD 500E helicopter program from Lunsford Air Consulting, Inc., for Mosquito Control.

**BACKGROUND:** Mosquito Control's helicopter pilot is flying an increasing number of evening and night missions under low ambient light conditions. These operations include: adult mosquito control missions, Chatham Emergency Management Agency evolutions, and Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department support. Night vision goggle technology has now advanced to a point where it has an appropriate and practical application in our helicopter operations. Most important, night vision goggles would significantly improve the safety of our evening and nighttime missions.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Chatham County's MD 500E helicopters are an essential component of our Mosquito Control program, and an invaluable asset to other County departments.
2. The timing of our aerial adult mosquito control operations has shifted to a later time closer to sunset to more effectively control the mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus, as well as other nuisance mosquitoes.
3. Without the aid of night vision goggles, helicopter night operations are limited by the amount of ambient light (moon, street lights, etc). Previous night vision goggle models had serious shortcomings for use in urban areas where bright urban lighting could impair a pilot wearing these devices. Newer models incorporate technology that prevents sudden momentary blindness caused by exposure to bright light sources.

4. While conducting post hurricane recovery operations, there will likely only be natural light (moonlight, etc.) available with no supplemental building or streetlight.
5. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) have investigated helicopter accidents and found that "Controlled Flight into Terrain" was the most significant risk encountered by pilots and the related accidents can be attributed to "Pilot Loss of Situational Awareness." Controlled flight into terrain is an aviation accident caused by pilot disorientation under low light conditions rather than a mechanical failure or other type of pilot impairment.
6. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Helicopter Association International (HAI), National EMS Pilots Association (NEMSPA), and Airborne Law enforcement Association (ALEA) have made a commitment to lower helicopter accidents. They have determined that night vision goggles are the best and most cost effective tools to increase pilot situational awareness, thus lowering the risk of "Controlled Flight into Terrain."
7. Night vision goggles will enhance the safety of the present operations, allow operations during power grid failures, and remove some limitations on night operations.
8. Staff has solicited quotes for ANVIS 9 Unfilmed, Autogated, Night Vision Goggles and has received quotes from three (3) vendors: Lunsford Air Consulting, Inc., NightLine, Inc., and Own The Night (LCEO, LLC). All quotes, for the goggles only, were identical in price, \$13,500. Only Lunsford Air Consulting, Inc. offered the two (2) additional required helmet mounting brackets for a final total cost, with shipping, of \$14,542. Lunsford Air Consulting, Inc. is the regional distributor and can best provide the associated training.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control  
(1005144 - 54.25001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of the \$14,542 purchase of Night Vision Goggles for the MD 500E helicopter program from Lunsford Air Consulting, Inc., for Mosquito Control.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to support safe, cost effective, and environmentally responsible operations.

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

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

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$21,473 purchase of one (1) 2008 Ford Taurus from J.C. Lewis Ford for Human Resources and Services Department.

**BACKGROUND:** This purchase will replace one (1) vehicle that is beyond economical repair.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Staff obtained pricing from J.C. Lewis Ford for the purchase of the replacement vehicle. J.C. Lewis Ford stated the vehicle was in stock and ready for immediate delivery.
2. Staff, realizing the urgent need to replace the vehicle (see page 20 for justification), requested J.C. Lewis Ford to provide staff a cost on the vehicle.
3. J. C. Lewis Ford quoted staff a total cost of \$21,473. Staff believes this cost to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** CIP - Vehicle Replacement  
(3501567 - 54.22001 - 35030040)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of the \$21,473 purchase of one (1) 2008 Ford Taurus from J.C. Lewis Ford for Human Resources and Services Department.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

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

**ITEM F**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$32,000 purchase of two (2) used non-typical replacement vehicles for C.N.T. from Fairway Lincoln Mercury and authorize the disposal of two (2) vehicles that will be used as trade-ins.

**BACKGROUND:** These vehicles are no longer suitable for department operation. The trade-ins will simplify disposal and maximize the available funds.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. To meet C.N.T.'s needs, staff requested quotes to only the local car dealers that normally respond to bids. Specifications required each firm to submit pricing on appropriate vehicles. This provides C.N.T. with maximum flexibility in selecting the vehicles best suited for their needs.
- 2. The Fleet Manager and representatives from C.N.T. selected the following vehicle based on utility and value.
- 3. The vehicles selected are:
 

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fairway Lincoln Mercury           | \$38,800          |
| Less trade-in on two (2) vehicles | <u>(\$ 6,800)</u> |
| Total Purchase                    | \$32,000          |

**FUNDING:** CIP - Vehicle Replacement  
(3501567 - 54.22001 - 35030650)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of the \$32,000 purchase of two (2) used non-typical replacement vehicles for C.N.T. from Fairway Lincoln Mercury and authorize the disposal of two (2) vehicles that will be used as trade-ins.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of replacement vehicles for law enforcement activities.

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

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

**ITEM G**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$8,500, to the contract with EMC Engineering Services, Inc. (EMC) for changes to the Bond Avenue and Betran Street paving projects.

**BACKGROUND:** On 11April 2003, the County selected EMC to perform Design Improvements of Various County Roads which included Bond Avenue and Betran Street. Additional services were required to complete the construction plans dealing with

stormwater drainage and to add plan sheets that were outside the scope of the original contract.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Change Order #1 includes the following items:
  - a. Additional plan sheets to comply with new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.
  - b. Additional cross section plan sheets as directed by staff.
  - c. Additional stormwater drainage design for Bond Avenue.
  
2. Contract History:
 

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Original Contract (04/12/03) Design Improvements for Various<br>County Roads | \$153,571    |
| Change Order No. 1 (pending)   | <u>8,500</u> |
| Revised Contract Amount  | \$162,071    |

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (1993 - 1998) - Various County Roads  
(3214220 - 52.12003 - 32156273)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$8,500, to the contract with EMC Engineering Services, Inc. (EMC) for changes to the Bond Avenue and Betran Street paving projects.
  
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve Change Orders that are necessary for the completion of projects.

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

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

**ITEM H**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$158,543 purchase of various heavy duty kitchen equipment items from Citisco Food Service, Gainesville, GA., for the Chatham County Detention Center.

**BACKGROUND:** The Chatham County Detention Center has experienced an increased in inmate population over the past several months. The short and long term projections indicate that the inmate population will continue to increase. The current kitchen equipment was purchased in May 1999. The Detention Center's inmate population which increases demand and wear and tear on the kitchen equipment. There have been numerous machine failures and makeshift repairs over the last several months.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Request for Quotes were faxed to four (4) prospective bidders for the equipment needed (see attached page 21 for complete listing). Responses are as follows:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Citisco<br>Gainesville, GA                  | \$ 158,543  |
| J & C Restaurant Equipment<br>Ft. Myers, FL | No Response                                       |
| Restaurant Equipment Co.<br>Savannah, GA    | Non- Responsive<br>(Could not quote on all items) |
| Restaurant Equipment World<br>Orlando, FL   | \$ 177,775  |

2. Staff believes the total cost of \$158,543 from CITISCO to fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** CIP - Detention Center Expansion  
(3800335 - 54.25001 - 38060407)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of the \$158,543 purchase of various heavy duty kitchen equipment items from Citisco Food Service, Gainesville, GA., for the Chatham County Detention Center.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve purchases to the lowest responsive bidder.

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

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

**ITEM I**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approve the privacy wall extensions on inmate holding cell systems (truss wall) in the Courthouse basement with CCC Group in the amount of \$15,400.

**BACKGROUND:** Extensions will be needed for the inmate holding cell systems to provide privacy panels.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Cost will be \$15,400 for fabrication and installation of the privacy panels.
2. CCC Group, which is constructing the truss wall system for the holding cells, can order and install the privacy panels.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Project  
(3234980 - 52.12003 - 32360427)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approve revised pricing of the contract with CCC Group for ordering the fabrication of the privacy panels and installing them.
2. Board direct staff to bid the project.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** Georgia law and *The Chatham County Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual* provide authority for the Board to award contracts and amendments.

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

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

**ITEM J**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of an \$80,000 contract with Orion Development Group, Rockaway Park, NY., for the "Business Process Redesign" for Permitting and Inspection Approval Process for Chatham County.

**BACKGROUND:** On 9 June 2008, a "Letter of Interest" was issued for "Business Process Redesign" for Permitting and Inspection Approval Process for Chatham County.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Board approved at their 21 November 2008 meeting the "shortlist" of the following four (4) firms. Interviews were conducted with each firm on 12 December 2008.

- 2. The evaluation committee consisting of the Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services, Executive Director of Metropolitan Planning Commission, a Senior Engineer from the Engineering department and a community representative who has prior expertise in business process redesign. The following firms and their respective scores are listed below:

| <u>Firm Name</u>                             | <u>Total Score</u> | <u>Fees</u> |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| KMPG, LLP<br>Atlanta, GA                     | 108.40             | \$ 64,486   |
| North Highland Group<br>Atlanta, GA          | 101.90             | \$ 75,000   |
| Orion Development Group<br>Rockaway Park, NY | 109.25             | \$ 80,000   |
| TATC Consultants<br>Bethesda, MD             | 109.50             | \$ 53,073   |

- 3. Staff is recommending the award of the contract to Orion Development Group. They had the greatest understanding of the project overview based on the information submitted. While Orion’s fees were higher than KPMG, LLP, they received the highest technical points in terms of the expertise and interview. (See the matrix on the attached page 22). The committee is in agreement with Orion Development Group’s project understanding and methodology presented in the interview process.

**FUNDING:** Building Safety and Regulatory Services  
(5707210 - 52.11001) - Pending Board approval of restoring Building Safety 2009 operating budget

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of an \$80,000 contract with Orion Development Group, Rockaway Park, NY., for the “Business Process Redesign” for Permitting and Inspection Approval Process for Chatham County.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contract in the best interest of Chatham County.

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

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

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. AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY DAMAGE PREVENT ORDINANCE (FDPO) TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF “NEW CONSTRUCTION.”**

County Attorney Hart said, I would like to have a comment. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. County Attorney Hart said, we passed this, required by FEMA, and the Homebuilders raised some legitimate issues in regard to the ordinance. We put this on first reading in order to buy some time with FEMA to work out some definitional issues. We met this week with the Homebuilders and their attorney, Mr. McCorkle, and we have made some modifications to the ordinance and first reading, which we have inserted. So the one you originally got in your booklet has a couple of little modifications and I wanted to make sure that for the record that the amended version of that is being read on first reading.

County Manager Abolt said, that is in your packet.

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

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

=====

## **XII. SECOND READINGS**

### **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.]**

Chairman Liakakis said, under Item 1 for the LaRoche Avenue item, I received an email for Rob Brannen, who is representing the property owners. He is out of town on a legal matter and has requested that we table this until he can come back, he'll be in town, so that he can speak on this.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, before we act on that, this has been something that has been on my radar screen, thanks to concerned citizens, for several months now, and I don't know if there are people here in the audience that would wish to speak to this, but given the fact — they're waving at me right now — that they've been here for many hours waiting for an opportunity, if we could at least let them speak briefly to the subject on the record, then that might also help Attorney Brannen and those that are coming forward to have an idea of what the concerns are. I would ask, if you're willing to recognize them, that they be brief, but I think it would be frankly rude to them after waiting for three or so hours not to at least give them a chance to speak to this just because the attorney has asked for it to be pulled.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, if you'd like to come forward to the podium.

Mr. Michael Butler said, my name is Michael Butler. I live in the area. First of all, I'd like to say that the Gaston Properties have bought several properties in the neighborhood and so far they've been a good neighbor. My concern is the new zoning allows to where a bar could be placed in that building, and basically that's my concern. The neighbors — I've talked to the neighbors and we don't want a bar period. I understand they're going to put commercial buildings there. That's fine, but I also understand there's other zonings that can happen that would not allow a bar that they could still do what they want to do, but I'm not sure on that. But I just — that's my concern and —

Chairman Liakakis said, actually in that property now there is a bar there, the Eagles Club. So there is a bar there and has been for many, many years.

Mr. Butler said, that building where the Eagles is has a functional bar that will seat 30 to 40 people, has a full kitchen, has a room in it that will sit up to 150 people, and Gaston Properties are in the bar business. They have properties in the bar business. They have amusement — they put stuff in the bars, and, you know, you spend \$400,000 on a building, you know, I foresee somewhere down the line that they're going to want to put a bar in there, and I feel like we need to do something now to stop that, or look at other ways of doing something.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Alright. Thank you very much. Appreciate very much y'all coming.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, just as a follow-up remark. I mean, I'm not a member of the Eagles Club. I'm not sure they would want their club to be described only as a bar. There's a private club that there now and they do consume alcoholic beverage on the premise. I think Mr. Butler's concern is that under this zoning category, it would be possible if, for example, the Eagles Club chose not to stay there, for it to become a commercial bar. And I think that's a valid concern and I think that's something that when we hear this matter fully when Mr. Brannen is ready, we were just asked that they be prepared to help us to understand if there were any use restrictions or if there were any other conditions that we might need to consider in this area so that it doesn't become, you know, just a nightclub. I think that Attorney Brannen and his clients are prepared to address that subject, but Mr. Butler has been in contact with me for months now with his concerns about this and I think it's valid. In this neighborhood, it's a residential neighborhood, and I think there's concern that if it turns into a, you know, just a bar that would be a negative impact on the neighborhood.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We need a motion on the floor to —.

Commissioner Shay said, I make a motion to table the matter — Attorney Brannen said to the next meeting? Is that —? Chairman Liakakis said, yes, the next meeting. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

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

Commissioner Shay moved to table to the next meeting the petition of Robert B. Brannen, Jr., Agent (for Gaston Properties, LLC) 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. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM:** ~~XI-1~~

**AGENDA DATE:** ~~December 19, 2008~~

**AGENDA ITEM:** *XII-1*

**AGENDA DATE:** January 16, 2009

**TO:** BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
**THRU:** R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER  
**FROM:** THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

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**

**ISSUE:** At issue is a request to rezone, for the purposes of redevelopment, a parcel of land located at 5406 LaRoche Avenue

**BACKGROUND:** The petitioner is requesting to have the current I-P / EO (institutional professional) zoning classification amended and changed to a B-N (neighborhood business) zoning classification for a 1.25 acre parcel. The property is currently occupied by a one story concrete block structure that serves as a private club. Concept drawings submitted by the petitioner indicate that the redevelopment will continue to house the private club and it will add square footage to the existing footprint in order to develop a small neighborhood retail center.

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

1. **Public Notice:** As required by the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, all property owners within 200 feet of the subject property were sent notices of the proposed rezoning and postings were placed on the site. Notice was also sent to the Bacon Park Neighborhood Association.

- 2. **Existing Development Pattern:** The surrounding development pattern is characterized by single family residential, multi family apartment homes and neighborhood business.

The land uses and zoning districts surrounding the subject property include:

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Land Use</u>                | <u>Zoning</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| North           | Commercial – Convenience Store | P-B-N-1 {1}   |
| East            | Single Family Residential      | R-1/EO {2}    |
| South           | Commercial – Auto Repair       | R-B-1/EO {3}  |
| West            | Single Family Residential      | R-6 {4}       |

{1} Planned Neighborhood Business      {2} One Family Residential / Environmental Overlay

{3} Residential Business Limited Environmental Overlay      {4} One Family Residential

- 3. **Transportation Network:** The property is accessed from both Jasmine and LaRoche Avenues. LaRoche Avenue is classified as a minor arterial road with a current Level of Service ‘A’. Jasmine Avenue is classified as a local street. The average daily traffic volume of LaRoche Avenue in 2006 was 6100 vehicles.  
**Transit:** The site is located along the Chatham Area Transit # 11 Candler route

- 4. **Public Services and Facilities:** The property is served by the Metropolitan Police Department, and by City of Savannah water and sewer services.

- 5. **Existing I-P E/O Zoning District:**
  - a. **Intent of the I-P E/O District:** The purpose of this district shall be to create an area in which residential, institutional, and professional uses can be intermixed and at the same time achieve a healthful living environment with functional open space.
  - b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed within the I-P E/O district appear in the attached chart.
  - c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the I-P E/O district appear in the attached table.

- 6. **Proposed B-N Zoning District:**
  - a. **Intent of the B-N District:** The purpose of this district shall be to provide convenient shopping facilities consisting of convenience goods and personal services in neighborhood market areas
  - b. **Allowed Uses:** Uses allowed in the B-N district appear in the attached chart.
  - c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the B-N district appear in the attached table (Table 1).

- 7. **Land Use Element:** The Tricentennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designates the subject property as neighborhood commercial. The proposed rezoning is consistent with the plan.

- 8. **Site Plan:** Site plan review is not required with rezoning. Site plan review will be required as the property is redeveloped.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

- 1. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would create traffic volumes, noise level, odor, airborne particulate matter, visual blight, reduce light or increased density of development that would adversely impact the livability or quality of life in the surrounding neighborhood?

Yes \_\_\_ No X

2. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would adversely impact adjacent and nearby properties by rendering such properties less desirable and therefore less marketable for the type of development permitted under the current zoning?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
3. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate a type or mix of vehicular traffic on a street or highway that is incompatible with the type of land use development along such street or highway?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
4. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate greater traffic volumes at vehicular access points and cross streets than is generated by uses permitted under the current zoning district to the detriment of maintaining acceptable or current volume capacity (V/C) ratio for the streets that provide vehicular access to the proposed zoning district and adjacent and nearby properties?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
5. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would require a greater level of public services such as drainage facilities, utilities, or safety services above that required for uses permitted under the current zoning district such that the provision of these services will create financial burden to the public?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
6. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would adversely impact the improvement or development of adjacent and nearby properties in accordance with existing zoning regulations and development controls deemed necessary to maintain the stability and livability of the surrounding neighborhood?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
7. Will the proposed zoning district permit development that is inconsistent with the comprehensive land use plan?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the request to rezone the property from an I-P / EO zoning classification to a B-N / EO classification.
2. Deny the petitioner's request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The proposed rezoning is consistent with the Tricentennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map. The requested zoning will blend in with surrounding neighborhood and existing land uses.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The MPC and Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend Approval of the request to rezone the subject properties from an I-P / EO zoning classification to a B-N/EO zoning classification.

PREPARED BY: Jim Hansen, AICP, Director  
Development Services

November 18, 2008

Gregori Anderson, Director  
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

| Table 1: Comparison of Development Standards for the Existing I-P E/O and Proposed B-N E/O Zoning Districts |                                 |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|   | I-P E/O District                | B-N E/O District                |
| Minimum Lot Area  | n/a                             | n/a                             |
| Minimum Lot Width   | n/a                             | n/a                             |
| Front Yard Setback  | 85' from centerline of arterial | 85' from centerline of arterial |
| Minimum Side Yard Setback   | 10'                             | 15'                             |
| Minimum Rear Yard Setback   | none                            | none                            |
| Maximum Height  | 36'                             | 36'                             |
| Maximum Building Coverage   | n/a                             | n/a                             |
| Maximum Density   | n/a                             | n/a                             |

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 18, 2008  
**TO:** CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION  
**FROM:** METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION  
**SUBJECT:** MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

**PETITION REFERENCED:**  
 Gaston Properties, LLC, Petitioner  
 Robert B. Brannen, Agent  
 5406 LaRoche Avenue  
 MPC File No. Z-081029-00121-1

**MPC ACTION:** Approval of the request to rezone the subject property from an I-P/EO zoning classification to a B-N/EO classification.

**MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of the request to rezone the subject property from an I-P/EO zoning classification to a B-N/EO classification

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 7 + Chairman

Jon Todd, Chairman  
 Michael Brown  
 Ben Farmer  
 Timothy Mackey

Adam Ragsdale, Secretary  
 Doug Bean  
 Stephen R. Lufburrow  
 Robert Ray

**VOTING FOR MOTION**  
 Jon Todd  
 Adam Ragsdale  
 Michael Brown  
 Doug Bean

**VOTING AGAINST MOTION**

**\*ABSENT OR \*\*FAILING TO VOTE**  
 \*Russ Abolt  
 \*Susan Myers  
 \*David Hoover  
 \*Lacy Manigault

Ben Farmer  
 Stephen Lufburrow  
 Timothy Mackey  
 Robert Ray

FOR APPROVAL 8

FOR DENIAL: 0

ABSTAINING: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson  
 Executive Director

/cbm  
 Enclosure

MPC recommends that the following described property be rezoned from its present I-P/EO (Institutional Professional, Environmental Overlay) classification to a B-N/EO (Neighborhood Business Environmental Overlay) zoning classification.

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning on a point located at the intersection of the westernmost right of way of LaRoche Avenue and the westernmost right of way of Jasmine Avenue, thence proceeding in a southerly direction along a line South 18 degrees 26 minutes East for a distance of approximately 108 feet to a point, thence northerly along a line North 31 degrees 52 minutes East a distance of approximately 503 feet to a point, thence northwesterly along a line North 74 degrees 28 minutes West a distance of approximately 235 feet to a point, thence along a line South 65 degrees 13 minutes West to its intersection with the westernmost right of way of LaRoche Avenue, thence southerly along said right of way back to the point of beginning.

The property is further identified by the property identification number as follows:

P.I.N: 1-0367 -03-002

=====

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.]**

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a motion on the floor?

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, it's my district and I will make the motion for approval, but once it's seconded I want to make a comment. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. We have a motion on the floor and a second. Go ahead.

Commissioner Stone said, I received a phone call yesterday from not a constituent in the area but a constituent in the unaffected area who's concern was, Ms. Harris, that we had notified the residents that this would eliminate any future mobile homes. The ones that are there are grandfathered in, but it would eliminate any future mobile homes, and I want some clarification from Ms. Harris. We did make that comment at the meeting and I did not recall any objections to that. Ms. Ellen Harris said, that's correct. Commissioner Stone said, okay. Ms. Harris said, we had three meetings about that.

County Attorney Hart said, there is the possibility that those that have — what it will do is it will make approximately 12 trailers — Ms. Harris said, 19. County Attorney Hart said, 19 trailers, non-conforming use within that zoning district, and if you have a trailer and you need to substitute or make modifications to it, you would have to meet the non-conforming use requirements.

Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted for the record that — to verify that this was discussed. We had, what? 30 to 40 residents at each meeting, and there seemed to be no objection.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the request of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, at the request of Pin Point Betterment Association, to rezone property bounded by Bond Avenue to the north, Moon River to the south, Diamond Causeway to the east, and Pin Point Avenue to the 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. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

~~AGENDA ITEM: XI-2~~

~~AGENDA DATE: December 19, 2008~~

AGENDA ITEM: XII-2

AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

**FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

**The MPC initiated rezoning, per request from Pin Point Betterment Association, is requesting rezoning of property area 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**

**ISSUE:** Rezoning parcels zoned R-M-H/EO (Residential Mobile Home/Environmental Overlay) within the proposed Pin Point Historic District to R-1/EO (One Family Residential/Environmental Overlay).

**BACKGROUND:** The Pin Point Betterment Association requested the rezoning of parcels zoned R-M-H/EO within the proposed Pin Point Historic District boundaries to R-1/EO in order to move forward with their historic district designation as per the Chatham County Historic Preservation Ordinance. The MPC initiated the rezoning on October 7, 2008. The rezoning is required because both the Georgia Historic Preservation Act (O.C.G.A 44-10-29) and the Chatham County Historic Preservation Ordinance explicitly state that historic designation cannot “prevent any property owner from making use of his property not prohibited by other laws, ordinances, or regulations.” In the R-M-H zoning district, manufactured homes are allowed as a use. The proposed design standards for the Pin Point Historic District would essentially prevent new manufactured homes. It is the opinion of the County Attorney that the R-M-H zoning district would need to be changed before historic designation can occur. The 19 existing manufactured homes within the boundaries of the proposed historic district would become non-conforming.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. **Public Notice:** As required by the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, all property owners of subject properties and property owners within 200 feet of the subject properties were sent notices of the proposed rezoning and postings were placed on the site. 72 properties will be directly affected. Notice was also sent to the Pin Point Betterment Association. The Association held three neighborhood meetings specifically for the purpose of discussing the rezoning and there was only one resident at one meeting who was opposed.
2. **Existing Development Pattern:** The surrounding development pattern is characterized by residential development.

The land uses and zoning districts surrounding the subject property include:

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Land Use</u>    | <u>Zoning</u>            |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| North           | Vacant             | R-A/EO [1]               |
| East            | Vacant             | C-M/EO [2]               |
| South           | Vacant/Residential | C-M/EO and W-I/EO [3]    |
| West            | Residential        | R-1/EO and R-3-10/TC [4] |

[1] Residential Agriculture/Environmental Overlay

[2] Marsh Conservation/Environmental Overlay

[3] Waterfront Industry/Environmental Overlay

[4] Multi-Family Residential (10 units/acre)/Town Center

3. **Transportation Network:** The properties are accessed by Pin Point Road and Bond Avenue. **Transit.** The site is located along/near CAT Transit Montgomery Route #20.
4. **Public Services and Facilities:** The property is served by the Metropolitan Police Department, Southside Fire Department and by City of Savannah water and private sewer services.
5. **Existing (R-M-H) Zoning District:**
  - a. **Intent of the R-M-H District:** The purpose of this district shall be to establish a residential district in which the uses and regulations are restricted to permit the development of mobile homes and single-family residences and certain compatible nonresidential uses, and to permit the development in a manner which protects and preserved (*sic*) property values to adjacent properties. This district shall be used for areas where development is sparse and where such use will help to stabilize or to upgrade the area. This zone may be used on a lot-by-lot basis to allow mobile homes where placement of the mobile home will not adversely affect surrounding property values or impair the purposes and intent of the Zoning Ordinance.
  - b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed within the R-M-H district appear in the attached in the attached chart.
  - c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the R-M-H district appear in the attached table (Table 1). The development standards will be the same in the R-1 zoning.
6. **Proposed (R-1) Zoning District:**
  - a. **Intent of the R-1 District:** The purpose of this district shall be to create an environment in which one-family dwellings, and certain nondwelling uses, are permitted in order to promote stability and character of low-density residential development with adequate open space. A maximum density of five dwelling units per acre of net residential land area shall be permitted in this district.
  - b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed within the R-1 district appear in the attached chart.
  - c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the R-1 district appear in the attached table (Table 1). The development standards will not change from the R-M-H zoning.
7. **Definitions:** At the October 7, 2008 MPC meeting which initiated the rezoning, there was some discussion regarding the definition of “manufactured” versus “mobile” versus “pre-fabricated” housing. The following definitions from the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance are provided for reference.

**Manufactured Home**– A factory built structure transportable in one or more sections which, in traveling mode, is eight body feet or more in width, 40 body feet or more in length, or, when erected on the site, is 320 or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling, with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities and includes the plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems contained therein; except that such term shall include any structure which meets all the requirements of this definition except size requirements, and with respect to which the manufacturer voluntarily files a certification required by the secretary of Housing and Urban Development and complies with the standards established.

**Factory Built Home (Industrialized Building)**- A structure or component thereof which is wholly or in substantial part made, fabricated, formed, or assembled in manufacturing facilities for installation or assemble and installation on a building site and has been manufactured in such a manner that all parts or processes cannot be inspected at the installation site without disassembly, damage to, or destruction thereof and is in compliance with the requirements of O.C.G.A 8-2-112 and is certified by the Commissioner of Community Affairs.

**Mobile Home**- Any non-certified structure, designed as a dwelling unit, transportable in one or more sections, which is not certified as meeting the standards established under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Rules and Regulations for Manufactured Housing (HUD Certified), and manufactured prior to June 15, 1976.

8. **Land Use Element:** The Tricentennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designates the subject property as Residential Suburban Single Family. The proposed rezoning is consistent with the plan.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

1. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would create traffic volumes, noise level, odor, airborne particulate matter, visual blight, reduce light or increased density of development that would adversely impact the livability or quality of life in the surrounding neighborhood?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
2. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would adversely impact adjacent and nearby properties by rendering such properties less desirable and therefore less marketable for the type of development permitted under the current zoning?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
3. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate a type or mix of vehicular traffic on a street or highway that is incompatible with the type of land use development along such street or highway?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
4. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate greater traffic volumes at vehicular access points and cross streets than is generated by uses permitted under the current zoning district to the detriment of maintaining acceptable or current volume capacity (V/C) ratio for the streets that provide vehicular access to the proposed zoning district and adjacent and nearby properties?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
5. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would require a greater level of public services such as drainage facilities, utilities, or safety services above that required for uses permitted under the current zoning district such that the provision of these services will create financial burden to the public?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
6. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would adversely impact the improvement or development of adjacent and nearby properties in accordance with existing zoning regulations and development controls deemed necessary to maintain the stability and livability of the surrounding neighborhood?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X
7. Will the proposed zoning district permit development that is inconsistent with the comprehensive land use plan?  
Yes \_\_\_ No X

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the request to rezone the property from a R-M-H/EO zoning classification to a R-1/EO classification.

- 2. Deny the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The proposed rezoning is consistent with the Tricentennial Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and will establish a zoning district that is more compatible for the surrounding neighborhood than the zoning that presently exists.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The MP C and Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend Approval of the request to rezone the subject properties from an R-M-H/EO zoning classification to an R-1/EO classification.

PREPARED BY: Jim Hansen, AICP, Director  
Development Services

NOVEMBER 18, 2008

Gregori Anderson, Director  
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

| <b>Table 1: Comparison of Development Standards for the Existing R-M-H and Proposed R-1 Zoning Districts</b> |                                |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | <b>R-M-H District</b>          | <b>R-1 District</b>            |
| <b>Minimum Lot Area</b>  | 15,000 square feet             | 15,000 square feet             |
| <b>Minimum Lot Width</b>   | 75 feet                        | 75 feet                        |
| <b>Front Yard Setback</b>  | 55 feet                        | 55 feet                        |
| <b>Minimum Side Yard Setback</b>   | 7 feet                         | 7 feet                         |
| <b>Minimum Rear Yard Setback</b>   | 25 feet                        | 25 feet                        |
| <b>Maximum Height</b>  | 36 feet                        | 36 feet                        |
| <b>Maximum Building Coverage</b>   | 40 percent                     | 40 percent                     |
| <b>Maximum Density</b>   | Dependent on Health Department | Dependent on Health Department |

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 18, 2008  
**TO:** CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION  
**FROM:** METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION  
**SUBJECT:** MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

**PETITION REFERENCED:**  
 MPC Initiated Rezoning of the Proposed Pin Point Historic District,  
 As Requested by the Pin Point Betterment Association  
 MPC File No. Z-080925-32671-1

**MPC ACTION:**

**Approval of the request to rezone the subject property from an R—H/EO zoning classification to an R-1/EO classification.**

**MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approval of the request to rezone the subject property from an R—H/EO zoning classification to an R-1/EO classification.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 7+ Chairman

Jon Todd, Chairman  
Michael Brown  
Ben Farmer  
Timothy Mackey

Adam Ragsdale, Secretary  
Douglas Bean  
Stephen R. Lufburrow  
Robert Ray

**VOTING FOR MOTION**

Jon Todd  
Adam Ragsdale  
Michael Brown  
Doug Bean  
Ben Farmer  
Stephen Lufburrow  
Timothy Mackey  
Robert Ray

**VOTING AGAINST MOTION**

**\*ABSENT OR \*\*FAILING TO VOTE**

\*Russ Abolt  
\*David Hoover  
\*Susan Myers  
\*Lacy Manigault

**FOR APPROVAL 8**

**FOR DENIAL: 0**

**ABSTAINING: 0**

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson  
Executive Director

/cbm  
Enclosure

**MPC/Pin Point Betterment Association, Petitioner  
Pin Point Historic District  
November 18, 2008**

MPC recommends that the following described property be rezoned from its present R-M-H/EO (Residential Mobile Home Environmental Overlay) to a R-1/EO (One Family Residential, Environmental Overlay)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Beginning on a point located at the intersection of the centerline of Pin Point Road and Bond Avenue, thence proceeding easterly along the centerline of Bond Avenue to its intersection with the centerline of Diamond Causeway, thence proceeding in a southeasterly direction along the centerline of Diamond Causeway a distance of approximately 1482 feet to its intersection with the high water line, thence westerly along said high water line a distance of approximately 2640 feet to appoint on the centerline of Pin Point Road extended, thence northwesterly along Pin Point Road extended thence Pin Point Road back to the point of beginning.

The property is further identified by the property identification numbers as follow:

P.I.N: 1-0445 -01-001, 001A, 002, 003A, 003B, 003, 005, 007 THRU 011, 014, 015, 018 THRU 023; 1-0446 -01-001A, 001B, 001E, 006, 006B, 009A, 010, 014, 017A, 023, 023A, 025, 027 THRU 030; 1-0469 -02-001, 003, 003A, 003B, 003C, 006, 007, 008, 010, 010A, 013, 014  
PORTION OF: 1-0446 -01-001C, 001D, 001F, 001G, 001H, 003, 005, 007, 008, 009, 011, 013, 015 THRU 020, 022, 023B, 026; 1-0469 -01-001, 002A, 003, 004, 005

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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). *None for this meeting.*****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

No report was attached to this agenda.

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**3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Status reports were attached for review.

**AGENDA ITEM: *XIII-3* ROADS  
AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

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

**ISSUE:** To provide information on the status of Chatham County road projects.

**BACKGROUND:** By letter dated September 16, 2008, from the GDOT, the GDOT indicated that it would not work on any County sponsored projects except for the Truman Parkway, Phase 5. By letter dated October 14, 2008 the GDOT lifted the suspension on the Whitefield Avenue Widening Project for work to resume.

**FACTS AND FINDING:**

1. Truman Parkway, Phase 5. Certification of right of way (ROW) was submitted to the GDOT on December 3, 2008. The Final Field Plan Review (FFPR) is pending scheduling by the GDOT. Funding for construction is programmed for FY 2010 in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). On December 6, 2008 the GDOT Commissioner indicated to the press that funding for the project will not be available until 2014 but no formal STIP amendments have been made at this time.

2. Diamond Causeway.

a. The GDOT is pursuing a design/build contract in FY 2009 to construct a two lane high level bridge over Skidaway Narrows to replace the bascule bridge.

b. On July 25, 2008 the Board approved a contract to construct a traffic signal with turn lanes at State Park Road and to widen the roadway to Lake Street. Scheduled completion date is March 6, 2009.

3. Whitefield Avenue. Potentially affected property owners meeting was held on December 9, 2008 at the Hesse Elementary School Gym. ROW was authorized on June 30, 2008 and the County's consultant has started the acquisition process for parcels affected by the project.

#### 4. Local Roads

a. Troy Street, Catherine Street, Adeline Street, Thomas Avenue, Billings Road, Elmhurst Road, Beechwood Road, Ridgewood Road. Being designed for paving.

b. Intersection improvements at Little Neck Road and US 17. Scheduled completion is January 25.

c. Bond Avenue, Betran Avenue. Both should be ready for bid by March 2009. Bond Avenue ROW acquisitions are complete.

d. Brandy Road. Final right of way and construction plans are complete. ROW acquisition is underway. Bid opening moved to March 10, 2009 due to easement acquisition problems.

e. Pyeland Avenue. Final right of way and construction plans are complete. ROW acquisition is underway. Expect to solicit bids for a construction contract by the end of January.

f. Wright Avenue and Fenwick Avenue. Under design.

h. Intersection improvements on Chatham Parkway at Veterans Parkway and Garrard Avenue. Being designed to install traffic signals at the interchange on Veterans Parkway and at the intersection of Garrard.

i. Intersection improvements on King George Blvd at Grove Point Road. Being designed to install turn lanes and signalize the intersection. Construction plans complete. ROW acquisitions have started.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.

Districts: All

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2009**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

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

**ISSUE:** To provide information on the status of Chatham County drainage projects.

**BACKGROUND:** For awarded construction contracts, this report provides the latest scheduled completion dates. For projects pending environmental permits, start dates are best estimates. Project scopes include varying degrees of canal widening, bank stabilization, bridges and culverts.

**FACTS AND FINDING:**

1. Pipemakers Canal. The Pipemakers Canal extends from Bloomingdale to the Savannah River (over 13 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, sluice gates and culverts. Channel improvements downstream 1.4 miles from I-95 were completed in 2000. Construction of the sluice gate structure and channel improvements from SR 21 to the Savannah River (about 1.4 miles) were completed in 2005. Design of canal improvements downstream from the Airport to SR21 are complete. The US Army Corps of Engineers permit for channel improvements downstream of I-95 is approved. Right of way acquisition is underway. Staff is considering a project to improve operation and maintenance of the sluice gate structure.

2. Hardin Canal. The Hardin Canal extends from Bloomingdale to Salt Creek near US 17 (over 12 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, bridges and culverts. Several years of delay resulted from objections by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A project to replace culverts under SR 307 with bridges is designed. Right of way acquisition is underway.

3. Conaway Branch Canal. The Conaway Canal extends from Bloomingdale at US 80 to Pipemakers Canal (about 1.6 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization and larger culverts. Except for revisions to comply with changes in State laws

on soil erosion and water quality, the design is complete. Negotiations have not been successful to secure the final parcel of right of way for the project. Staff is considering options.

4. Little Hurst Canal. Improvements consist of constructing a new culvert under the railroad east of SR 21. Work is underway to acquire easements and rights of way, and to acquire permits for construction. Design will commence after accomplishing these tasks.

5. Wilmington Park Canal. The Wilmington Park Canal extends from North Cromwell Road to the Wilmington River (about 1.4 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization and culverts. Construction of new culverts with tide gates at Wilmington Park Road was completed in 2002. Design is complete to widen and stabilize the channel in the area of Wilmington Park Road. Permitting for this phase is expected to be complete in February 2009.

6. Kings Way Canal. The Kings Way Canal extends from the Kingswood Subdivision to Whitefield Avenue (about 0.7 mile). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization and culverts. Phase 1 was completed in 2005 as a part of the construction of Truman Parkway. Phase 2 is under construction and is scheduled to be complete in early 2009.

7. Dundee Canal. This project improves the tidegate structure and concrete headwalls. The project is under construction and is scheduled for completion by March 2009.

8. Louis Mills / Redgate Canal. The Louis Mills and Redgate Canals are tributaries to the South Springfield Canal. For construction, this project was combined with the Westlake project to replace the culverts under CSX railroad. Staff is working to repackage the project for construction of channel improvements without the culvert under the railroad.

9. Ogeechee Farms Area. The Ogeechee Farms project includes improvements to canals and culverts. Phase 1 was completed in July 2005 (piping about 0.2 mile of channel south of Vidalia Road and replacing a road crossing at Waynesboro Road). Phase 2 includes improving undersized culvert along the Vidalia Canal south of Vidalia Road.

10. Fawcett Canal. The Fawcett Canal serves the Georgetown area. The drainage system includes a network of open channels, culverts and storm drain pipes. Lagoons managed by the homeowners association are a functional part of the system. Phase 1 (completed in 2002) involved about 1.4 miles of canal widening and new tide gates at Grove Point Road. Improvements to the lagoons were completed in 2005. A project to replace storm drain pipes along Red Fox Drive to relieve flooding at White Hawthorn Drive is under construction.

11. Quacco Canal. The Quacco Canal extends from the Little Ogeechee River to the Regency Mobile Home Park (about 4 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, larger road culverts, and providing access for maintenance. Completed work includes enlarging the US 17 culvert. Staff is negotiating with the construction contractor to establish the extent of additional construction costs. Design to improve road culverts along Quacco Road and construct channel improvements to protect the Regency Mobile Home park is complete. Right of way acquisition is underway.

12. Norwood Drainage Outfalls. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance. Four outfalls along Norwood, between Skidaway Road and Lester Avenue are being considered for improvements. Current work involves engineering work to identify potential improvements and define project scopes.

13. Henderson/Gateway. Drainage is provided by the Little Neck Canal and the Henderson Branch Canal (combined length about 2 miles). Development of the subdivisions led to increased rates and volumes of storm water runoff which the canals cannot handle. Design is underway to replace culverts at Little Neck Road, at Henderson Oaks Drive and at a golf path crossing.

14. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. Design is underway to replace two culverts and a storm drain pipe at Beaulieu Avenue. A preliminary design has been completed and required drainage easements have been identified. Staff intends to contact area property owners to determine the feasibility of acquiring the needed drainage easements. The extent of improvements may need to be adjusted downward if opposition is encountered.

15. Grange Road Canal. The project to relieve flooding extends from Pipemakers Canal to north of Grange Road (about 1.8 miles). The original concept identified the need for an outfall to the Savannah River within the unopened right of way of Grange Road. In 2007, the GPA requested that the right of way be abandoned for a container berth expansion.

Staff is working to coordinate the County's needs for drainage improvements with GPA's needs to expand.

16. Kim Street Drainage. A small project directed toward improving drainage in the Grays Subdivision. The southern portion of the subdivision relies on roadside drainage ditches along U.S. 80. Preliminary design and coordination with Georgia Department of Transportation is complete.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

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#### 4. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON NEW RECREATION RESOURCES (RAP).

##### ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

**FROM:** Robert Drewry Director, Public Works and Park Services

**ISSUE:** Provide Board a status update on RAP

##### **BACKGROUND:**

At the Board's request, staff has developed a Recreational Action Plan (RAP) that best utilizes the additional funds allocated to Parks and Recreation. It is staff's overall commitment to improve the visibility of the recreation facilities and the quality of recreational programs for the citizens of this community.

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

1. FY 06 staff was able to accomplish the following:
  - In-house renovation of Lake Mayer's Restrooms
  - Installed new infield mix for Ambuc Park, L. Scott Stell, and Charlie Brooks Park
  - Installed new backstop and foul line fencing for Ambuc Park
  - Hired nine Maintenance Workers
  - Replaced the scoreboards at Ambuc, L. Scott Stell, and Charlie Brooks Park
  - Replaced all roofs at Memorial Stadium
  - Purchased three new vehicles
  - Purchased material for the renovation of the restroom at Ambuc Park
  - Painted the exterior of the concession stand at L. Scott Stell, and Ambuc Park
  - Contracts were awarded to replace the roof on the large pavilion at Lake Mayer, and reconstruct/resurface eighteen tennis courts
2. FY 07 staff completed the following:
  - All eighteen tennis courts were renovated or re-constructed.
  - Tom Triplett Park Bridge is completed
  - Frank W. Spencer Boat Ramp - Renovation is completed and the restrooms were re-opened
3. FY 08 staff completed the following:
  - Westlake Neighborhood Park - Playground Equipment installation is completed.
  - Lamarville Neighborhood Park - Playground Equipment installation is completed.
  - Salt Creek Complex - Playground Equipment installation is completed.
  - Replacement of the pavilion at Grey's Subdivision is completed
  - Replacement of the pavilion at Runaway Point Park is completed
  - Replacement of the fence at Memorial Stadium is completed.

- Repaired bridges at L. Scott Stell that connects park with playground/picnic area.
  - Kings Ferry Pavilions Roofs were completed the end of July.
  - Lake Mayer - Re-roofing of Restroom, Boathouse, Administration Building is completed.
  - Ambuc Sports Lighting - Installation of new lights is now completed.
  - Installation of the playground equipment at Hodges -Turner-Young is completed.
4. Status of CIP project recently approved by the Board:
- Fred Thompson has been assigned as Project Manager to manage CIP projects for Park Services.
  - Turners Creek Boat Ramp parking lot paving - Engineering is currently working with a consultant for design.
  - Kings Ferry Park Restroom - Bid opening was held on 10/21/08. Contract awarded to Kirby Enterprising on 11/07/08. Construction is expected to begin within the next two weeks.
  - Resurfacing of the basketball court at Hodge-Turner-Young is expected to start within the next month.
5. RAP improvements identified in Park Services operating budget for FY 08.
- Jim Golden Complex backstop replacement -Field layout provided by Chain Baseball and an engineer was hired to revise the plans to bid out. Fred Thompson is preparing bid packages with the intent of making improvements before mid March.
  - Change water source at the Soccer Complex - Design completion is pending.

**FUNDING:**  
N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
For Board Information Only

[All Districts]

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Shay and seconded by Commissioner Odell, the Board recessed at 11:40 a.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 2:06 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 Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Shay moved to appoint the following persons to committees on behalf of Chatham County. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously:

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

- Reappoint Ben Farmer to a term which will expire on December 31, 2011.
- Reappoint W. Shedrick Coleman, AIA, to a term which will expire on December 31, 2011.
- Reappoint Ms. Susie Myers to a term which will expire on December 31, 2011.
- Appoint Ellison P. Cook to a term which will expire on December 31, 2011.

**SAVANNAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

- Reappoint Bert Tenenbaum to a term which will expire on January 7, 2014.

**CHATHAM URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CUTS)**

- Appoint Anthony Abbott to represent District 4 with a term to expire June 30, 2010.
- Appoint Commissioner Patrick Shay to represent District 3 with a term to expire June 30, 2010.
- Appoint Commissioner Harris Odell to represent District 5 with a term to expire June 30, 2010.

**COASTAL GEORGIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

- Appoint Chris Blaine to a term which will expire July 1, 2009.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

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

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

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SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION