



# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

## **MEETING INFORMATION PACKET**

**MARCH 26, 2025**



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**Revised**

**FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MARCH 26, 2025 - 4:00 P.M.  
AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Election of Board of Trustees Officers
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Adoption of Agenda\* Doc. #25-11
- V. AFP Library Foundation - Michelle Willis, AFPL Foundation, Vice Chair
- VI. Approval of Minutes - February 26, 2025\* Doc. #25-10
- VII. Chairman's Report
- VIII. Work Orders Report - Paul Kaplan
- IX. Director's Reports Doc. #25-14
  - Library Services and Trends
  - Monthly Financial Report Doc. #25-12
  - Monthly Usage Summary Doc. #25-13
  - FCLS Look Ahead Events/Programs
- X. Unfinished Business
  - A. Central Library - Update
  - B. AFPL Foundation M.O.U. - Update
  - C. Rental Policy - Discussion
- XI. New Business
  - A. Appeal Hearing - Discussion and Recommendation
- XII. Adjournment

\*Action is anticipated on this item

**Doc. #25-10**



**FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.**



Members Present: Bolster, Paul  
Denson, Damian J.  
Joyner, D. Chip  
Kaplan, Paul  
Piontek, Joe  
Radakovich, Nina - Vice Chair  
Rice, Beverly

Members Absent: Jordan, Linda

Also In Attendance: Holloman, Gayle H. - Executive Director  
Clary, Audrey - Assistant to the Director's Office  
Claxton, Zenobia - Assistant to the Director's Office  
Culler, Jennifer - Supervising County Attorney  
Hall, Hirshel - Assistant County Attorney (via Zoom)

Guests: Grier, Tonya - Clerk to the Commission  
Simmons, Victor - Manager, Auburn Avenue Research Library  
Staniszewski, Heather - Friends Group Liaison

Webinar Attendees: 5

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Vice Chair Nina Radakovich called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

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**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Good afternoon, everybody, I'm Nina Radakovich, Vice Chair of this committee and I'm going to chair this meeting. Because there is not a chair. So, this is a temporary thing, also – provide an election of a chair and normally that election would be today. It seems to be a little rush for us to have to make a decision today for a chair and a co-chair. So, if you all don't have any problem with it, I will be acting chair today and we will hopefully be able to vote next month at our next meeting. Is that acceptable?

**TRUSTEES:** Aye.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Thank you. So, I'm going to call this meeting to order. It's February 26<sup>th</sup>, it's 4:02. Our first item is the swearing in ceremony, Ms. Tonya Grier.

### **SWEARING IN CEREMONY - TONYA GRIER, CLERK TO THE COMMISSION**

**MS. TONYA GRIER:** Good afternoon. Ms. Rice and Mr. Bolster, if you would please, raise your right hand and repeat after me.

**MS. TONYA GRIER:** *I, state your name, [Paul Bolster and Beverly Rice] repeated in unison], do solemnly swear or affirm that I will well and truly discharge the duties as a member of the Library Board of Trustees in all matters which require my official action, to the best of my knowledge and skill, and I will so act as in my judgment will be most conducive to the welfare and best interests of the entire County. I do further solemnly swear or affirm that I am not the holder of any unaccounted-for public money due this State; and that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office, according to the Constitution of the United States of America. Thank you very much. Congratulations.*

**(Whereupon, the oath was administered for Trustees Paul Bolster and Beverly Rice by the Clerk to the Commission.)**

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Where's the cake and coffee at, is what I want? Come on, Guys.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh, God.

**MS. TONYA GRIER:** Thank you. You all have a great day.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Thank you, Ms. Grier.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Thank you, Ms. Grier. We have two guests to make presentations today, so we want to get to them as soon as possible. Zenobia, do we have any public comments today?

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** We do not have any public comments at this time.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. I think we should adopt the agenda at this point. Do I hear a motion to adopt?

### **25-06 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

#### **MOTION**

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Motion to adopt.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Second.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Any discussion? All in favor?

**TRUSTEES:** Aye.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Thank you. The agenda is adopted. Next, we have approval of minutes. Because we missed our meeting last month because of weather, we have the December 18<sup>th</sup> minutes to approve. Do I hear a motion to approve the minutes?

**25-01 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 18, 2024**

**MOTION**

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I so, move.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Second.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Chip, thank you. The minutes are approved.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Aye.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Oh, sorry.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** It's okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** All in favor of approving the minutes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Everybody does it.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** What would I do without Joe? Okay. So next we're going to hear about the impact of Friends groups. There may be others here, Paul and I were members of Friends groups for years and years and years. It's just a wonderful thing to have in your life to be a Friend, and it's very hard to leave when you have other commitments and you decide, you know, 15 years is enough. But anyway, Friends groups are good in so many ways. Heather Staniszewski is the Library's Friends Liaison, and she's going to tell us about the Friends groups with this Library System.

**IMPACT OF THE FRIEND'S GROUP - HEATHER STANISZEWSKI**

**MS. HEATHER STANISZEWSKI:** Okay. Well, good afternoon. Thank you so much for the invitation to come and speak. I've been with the library system for 11 years, and we have a team of three on the first floor of Central. Stop by any time, we're right by the cargo elevator to take you to the parking. We have 23 recognized Friends groups. So these are groups that are considered nonprofits with the Secretary of State. We have a few other interest groups that are forming but are not currently recognized or certified by the Secretary of State. Again, there's 23, some of them have two people, some of them have 30 people. It is a full range, and we were proud to work with both Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Radakovich with the Northside Friends and the Milton Friends. We have support from all of these groups, ranging from word of mouth as well as having book sales and donations to the library. They might just want us to think about all 23 a little bit longer. So, it's concentrating. So, our groups do action instead of advocacy at the Board level. These are our volunteers that are advertising for the library and library programs. They have now become Board of Commissioners -- appointees to the Board of Trustees, but they can also speak at these meetings. They're reaching an audience that we might not be able to reach. They are speaking to people in the grocery store, at their faith institutions, at their PTA meetings. They are on the ground helping us reach more



people to get into the library. This past year, our volunteers with the Friends, they don't always sign in, so this number is lower than it probably is, but they served 23,446 hours, which is 46 percent of our entire total of our 1800 volunteers at the library. We could not do what we do without our Friends groups. There is a group of the East Atlanta Friends, they're at -- they do a lot of things in the community. That was the East Atlanta Strut. So, something that the library might not have been able to be at, because they do charge for tables, but they let the Friends come and advocate for the library, come get your library card. This is a new location, because they are in the city of Atlanta. Next. Book sales, I think it was right before, yes, book sales. So, some of our groups are large enough to be able to do regular book sales. These are large sales in the meeting room. We have one group that does an annual book sale that is our only off-site book sale, that was this past weekend for the East Roswell branch. On the upper left-hand corner are the Ponce Friends. They use the meeting room, in the middle of the Cascade Friends. The bottom left is Northside, that's their storage room. Then the bottom two right pictures are Roswell. So, they advertise on the street level. They have to get permission, both from Fulton County and their city, and so they're only able to advertise while the book sale is going on. Again, the only group that's doing this off site is East Roswell, and they do it two weekends in a row, and they use an empty storefront that they get insurance on, and are able to host in a large, large area, compared to our meeting rooms. Our Friends also host bookstores on site, which is the next slide. So, some of our smaller groups, in the upper left is Adamsville-Collier Heights. So, they have one wall of shelving, and they collect books that are donated in the community or weeded from our connection, and they get them on the shelves and sell them to fund all library programs. Bottom left is the Ocee Library, they just reformed. Theirs is on an honor system. So, you see the red box on the right, and they are open every day that the library is open. That middle one is Cascade again, and the far right is Northside. Northside is in the lobby, as well as in the meeting room for book sales. Our bookstores range in size. Some of them are just a few shelves, and some are walk-in bookstores. All of our Friends are meeting monthly or quarterly at the library. They're open to the public, they're advertised. That is Northside, Palmetto, and East Point. Those are their Boards, so they are voting members to be able to approve any expenditures. In this past year, it got cut off, but 2024, 18 of those 23 groups funded \$140,000 to the Library System. These are paying for programs, both for adults and children. It's replacing supplies that might not be covered by the county, and they are all raising this through donated books and membership dues. Again, some of our groups are doing outreach. Kirkwood does not have on-site location for selling books, so they do all the community festivals. So they are at a booth, selling items and letting people know. They're very big on social media and being able to get donations specifically without selling individual books to people. On the far right is South Fulton, they have Author Talks. They also host line dancing every month. So, they are also active on social media, getting

outreach, again, into that audience that we might not be able to reach through our networks. Next. National Friends of Libraries Week is celebrated every October. It is our way to thank our Friends above and beyond what we do to thank them every day at our branches. During the National Friends Week, we do send cards and gifts to every Friends' President. We do displays at those branches. We apply for and receive a Proclamation for the Board of Commissioners. Then we host a reception and move that location every year. This year it was at Central, and we combined it with a genealogy class. So, a program that's already occurring at the library that they would be interested in, and then host a reception. This year, we had six different Friends groups come. When we moved it to Milton that was our largest amount in North Fulton. But we've done it in East Atlanta, we've done it in Palmetto, we've done it in Johns Creek. So, if you ever have an idea of a way to get the Friends excited, please let me know. We also call all of our Friends' Presidents that week to, again, thank them for going above and beyond, for the Library System. All of them are volunteers. All of them have board terms. Some of them do it over and over and over and have been doing it for 20-plus years. Some of our Friends members just started last week. Some of the groups are working with kids. They're working with both teens to complete their service hours, to do the heavy lifting at these book sales, as well as younger kids that might be helping to bag up the books and carry them to people's cars. Last but not least, our volunteer recognition; this is a picture of the volunteers as well as our staff at the Board of Commissioners meeting when we received our Proclamation from the Full Board. Our Volunteer Recognition Ceremony is going to be here at Central April 26<sup>th</sup>. You have an invitation in your notebook today, so please, RSVP, if you and a guest would like to join us, if you would like to speak, or if you would like to be in pictures with our volunteers. We have two volunteers from Alpharetta that are retiring after 33 years of service. We have three volunteers that have served over 1,000 hours in one year, which is more than 20 hours a week. Then we have teens that have completed 50 or 100 hours to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award. So, thank you again for your support, for being a Friend of the Library. If you have any questions, please let me know.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Do the volunteers and the Foundation, do they have a, like a special or a formal relationship at all?

**MS. HEATHER STANISZEWSKI:** They do. So we used to -- Karen Bearden was on the Foundation for many years. She was our appointee from Friends Council. She was a Friends member from the Roswell Library Friends. Now, we have the Foundation Director, Erin Dreiling, she presents every month. We present quarterly to the Friends Council, and she'll be presenting. We ask them to donate to the Foundation every year, specifically to support branches that do not have Friends groups. So, they are well aware. They get the links, they get the -- if they want to be on the mailing list, they're also on the mailing lists.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Thank you.

**MS. HEATHER STANISZEWSKI:** You're welcome.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** They're more than just Friends, they're very valuable. I will tell you that if you really want to know how things are going outside, you want to know how our patrons view the library, I know we have forms and people fill it out. But you know something, they get out there and they talk to people. Sometimes they don't want to talk to you because you're a Trustee, and it's a great way of finding out how well we're doing. I think it's terrific. Of course, I've been Friends for over 40 years, you know, 20-some years out in Illinois, now I'm back over here. So now it's permanently. But they're great, they do terrific things. They fund programs that we don't have the money for. They -- there are a great outreach group, they really are. I thank Heather. You're doing a terrific job, Heather. I -- as much as I've been a Friend, you've been around, you're head of Volunteer Services. I think you're doing great. But thank you for what you're doing.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** The Library System really is, I think, supportive compared to most library systems in what they do for their Friends groups. They have this institutionalized office that is there. You help all volunteers, but the Friends are the core group of volunteers for the library system. Not only do they hold hands, you know, to offer support, they provide reference information, sample bylaws, suggestions for more successful book sales. They're a complete support system for the Friends groups and for the ones that have serious cash flow problems, they encourage the other Friends groups to donate to those groups, and it works out very, very well. So, I commend the library system for all they've done to institutionalize Friends groups, because they are, if you read at other places, there's sometimes friction between Friends groups and Trustees. But we have a very good relationship here with the Foundation, the Trustees, and the Friends. So, a lot of that is due to Heather's hard work. So, we thank you.

**MS. HEATHER STANISZEWSKI:** Well, we're always looking for more Friends. So, if you know anybody, let us know.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Thanks, Heather.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Thank you, Heather.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** All right. Our next speaker is Victor Simmons. He's the manager of the Auburn Avenue Research Library. Some might say that's the crown jewel of this Library System. There is nothing like it, and there's no one like Victor.

#### **AUBURN AVENUE RESEARCH LIBRARY - VICTOR SIMMONS, MANAGER**

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you for that. I promise, I did not bribe her in any way--

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** There's not another library like the Auburn Avenue Library, is there?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Not here, not with us.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** In the US?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Oh, yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Schomburg in New York.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh, okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** What are some others?

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** There's about five, Blair-Caldwell --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes.

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** -- in Denver.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes, I know a couple of others.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Is ours still the best though?

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Yes, in my opinion, and my friends at Schomburg who constantly contact to me to tell me about how amazing the stuff that we do is. They are always curious as to how we went about doing it. So, I take that as a compliment, considering their budget is pretty much endless.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I had great tour when I first got here. It's wonderful. Yes, the Schomburg in New York -- tour all through it, I got to go through the stacks.

**TRUSTEES:** Simultaneous speakers.

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Good afternoon, everyone. I don't have a slide for you. I chose not to because I felt like this was more of a conversation. I like talking about the Auburn Avenue Research Library, as I'm there every day and love it with a passion to be there. I did create an overview of what it is that we do, and give you an idea, I will touch on most of that when I was going to start my spiel. Again, I -- my name is Victor Simmons, Jr. I am the Library Administrator at the Auburn Avenue Research Library, which is located on Auburn Avenue and Courtland Street, the left corner. We've been there for 30, 30-plus years now. 2024 was our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was an amazing accomplishment for us. I can tell you, though, our collection is much older than that. Our collection dates back to 1934. Ms. Annie L. McPheeters, who happened to be the very first African-American Librarian hired by the, then Atlanta-Public Library System, was working at the Auburn Carnegie, Auburn Avenue Carnegie Library, and decided to create a collection called the Negro History Collection. That collection still exists to this day in our building. It is now the Samuel W. Williams Collection, and it is now over 80,000-plus items, and that is solely in our reference collection. So, we're actually creeping towards 90, 90,000, but it's always changing as we continue to order more materials and bring them into the collection. So, to think, when we talked about Schomburg, we're very comparable, because they also kind of had their start with Arturo Schomburg's collection in that same -- in that same timeframe. So, our collection is nearly as old as theirs. So, what makes us special? We are one of only five institutions like this in the country. There are many different iterations of it, but for the most part, ours, our library and the Schomburg are one of the few that are specifically research libraries. A lot of the other ones pretty much act as neighborhood library branches and

have a small research collection. Ours is not that. We have -- it has allowed us to actually collect major collections. So, Andrew Young's collection is one of those collections that is not something that we -- we should ever not, you know, champion. It is a great collection. It gets used all the time. Hosea Williams' collection, Donald Lee Hollowell's collection, more recently, Reverend Dr. Barbara King's collection. We're always adding to it. We just recently got some papers over of meetings, old meeting documents, old speeches and lectures from Ebenezer. We are always working on different relationships with the churches, especially in the Sweet Auburn area. We have great relationships with them. We have great relationships with all the other different organizations in the city. So, Atlanta History Center, you know, Georgia State, the AU Center with the Woodruff Library. We've worked with Emory, we've managed to tap in so that we have these great relationships, that if there's something that's brought their way and it doesn't necessarily fit what they want to collect, they'll contact us or send people our way and say, hey, maybe Auburn Avenue Research Library is interested in that, and vice versa. So, I'll tell you about our overall building. We have broken it into divisions. So, we have a Program Division, a Reference Division, and an Archives Division. Our Reference Division, we are, again, dealing with 80,000 unique items. This is books, journals, albums, CDs, you name it, it's in there, all about the African diaspora. So, we're not solely collecting on African-Americans. We're collecting on Africans in the Caribbean, Africans in South America, Africans on the continent. So, our collection is as vast as everything that we -- everything else we do in there. So, as we go into programming, we've done, in 2024, we did 132 programs, about 5000 total attendees to those programs, and they run the gamut. We try not to focus on one aspect of the Black experience. We touch on everything from doulas and, and the idea of bringing children into the world within the Black community, and how important that is, and that -- in that tradition of the doula. We do things based, you know, whether it's about the civil rights movement or even more recently, you know, Black Lives Matter movement. We focus on so many different stories. We do screenings, we do lectures. We've had amazing individuals come through our doors over the years, and that's not going to stop. We are constantly being contacted about, you know, possibilities of bringing different organizations and groups. I just got contacted today about the Decatur Book Fair and how they want to try to expand. And so, no, we haven't agreed on anything with them, but it's that idea that they're reaching out and saying, hey, we really want to work with you. Our Archives Division, again, 15,000 linear feet. Just to give you an idea of what that is, those little archived boxes, if you get a nice sized one, that's one linear foot so within that, there's multiple papers. Our team is amazing. That's on an appointment-only basis. The get people come in, our staff has to be on an appointment basis because we want to protect Fulton County's investment in these items. So, they are there with the researcher, gives them the time to pull items for them that are searchable on a website through our finding aids. They'll give them all the

information that they want to find. They get it to them, then they basically show them how to handle them, especially if they're really rare. You know, the gloves get put on, how they might flip the pages for them just to be on the safe side. The team has been amazing. I can tell you that within the last five years, we've had some amazing events happening in our building, and we've kind of feel like we've hit our stride, and we're like, on a full run now. In 2022, we received a \$2 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, which we were allow -- which allowed us to process and digitize a huge portion of our archival collection. When -- and to give you an idea as we were to not have that grant, my staff would have to do that on their own, this would have taken over a decade to do what we're able to do within a four or five year span. The nine individuals that we have on staff now because of this grant have really been amazing. I think we've -- we've hit home runs with each one of them, and they have truly invested themselves in trying to get this stuff done, make it available to the public. I can tell you, every time I walk past one of their desk, whether it's a photo, whether it's some document. They're always showing me, Mr. Simmons, look at this, you know, and it's always so amazing, because I'm amazed by what it is that we have in our collection sometimes that hasn't been discovered by anyone because it's not processed yet. So, we've been dealing with this 20-some-odd year backlog of materials that we inherited from individuals from, you know, before we ever -- before I even had an MLS. So, we're handling that and trying to tackle that so that we can be able to move forward and take in bigger collections and process them immediately and not wait 10 to 15 years to make that happen. So, we've been blessed with that. Last year, again, was our anniversary. We did a three-day conference, which was free and open to the public. It started out as an idea for one day and became three because we had so much support from the scholars and the artists in the city who wanted to be a part of it. So, we kept coming up with different ideas of, what can we talk about, what can we have a conversation about? We had conversations about Black-owned bookstores. We had conversations about collecting Black art. We've had individuals from Fahamu Pecou who, you know, if you don't know who Fahamu Pecou is, please Google him and Google his work. He is an amazing artist. He was -- he was on board. All the bookstores were on board. All the owners of the bookstores were on board to have this conversation. We had children's book illustrators talking about what it took them to research the artwork that they were putting in these books. So, these are African-American children's book illustrators who were then talking about every step they took to make it so that the visual matched what was in that book. So, we're having these discussions that we thought people weren't necessarily thinking about, you know, and how do we present that we had film screenings? We had individuals coming from Brazil. We had a rapper from South Africa who had -- who was there because he was in the film. Then we had the director of the film, who was from California, come in for this special screening. That came through our relationships with Georgia State. So, we did this with no sponsors other

than the money that we had at Auburn. So, we were very, very pleased, the community was extremely pleased that we were able to make that happen. For a three-day conference to happen and be free, and have that many lectures, we had 17 lectures, three of them were online, 14 were in the building. We had individuals from New York who were a part of the online sessions. We've -- we were able to really leverage our relationships in that way, and it was such a success that we plan on doing it again this year in November. So that was the other, one of the other things. Lastly, we commissioned, because it was our anniversary, an original piece of art to be created to commemorate our existence on Auburn Avenue and the history of our collection. That's what you're looking at in front of you with that library card. That is a painting painted by Charly Palmer, a local artist here and award winning, just won an NAACP award for one of his books that he did with his wife. He signed -- we made 600 copies, printed 600 copies. We wanted it to be limited. We wanted it to feel special. We wanted the individual who just wanted a new library card to want to get one. But then we also wanted the person who thought of it as, this is beautiful, and this could be a piece of art. We wanted them to have that, that original piece of art for them to collect. He had signed 500 of the top of the cards themselves. So, the ones that you have in front of you are signed by Charly Palmer himself. You know, again, relationships, Charly was -- was the one who brought it forth, like, well, I'll sign 500 of them. I was like, are you sure, Charly? He said, yes, not a problem. You know, and I was like, you know, and I kept going back to him, are you sure you want to sign 500? He said, not a problem, and Charly was truly supportive. He was excited about the idea of the card, and in the person on the card is Ms. Annie L. McPheeters, again, the person who discovered and founded our collection. We wanted to make sure that we highlighted her. She's one of those people within the community, especially in Atlanta that I think is forgotten. She was not only the first African-American Librarian for the system, but she was also the first African-American faculty member at Georgia State. So, she's an important person. She helped desegregate this library system. She fought to desegregate it. She -- so we wanted to make sure that we took the time and spent that extra, you know, detail when it came to Charly painting his painting. He wanted me to produce it for him, I told him, no, I wanted it to feel like a Charly Palmer painting. So, I gave him reference photos. I said, well, you -- well, I'll tell you about her. But I want you to feel this painting. So, that's what -- that was the result of what Charly felt about Annie L. McPheeters and about the Auburn Avenue Research Library and importance. So that would probably be in the end of it. We have, as you can see with the handouts, there's a March Raffle that we have going on right now. I was gifted by Penguin Random House, I was gifted over almost 100 copies of the complete set of March, told by Random House, we can do whatever we want with them. So, my thing was, let's give them to the community. Let's make it so that each person can have an opportunity to have this complete set. I think on the market, it's about a \$50 book set. We're giving

them to them for free. It was one of those things that just felt right for us at Auburn, to be able to give back on a bigger scale. Everything that we do at -- in my building and my staff is truly on board is about giving something back to the community. So, if it's this, if it's a book, we'll give a book. We look forward to what -- what's to come in the future. We hope that we have the support, of course, of the Board of Trustees as we move forward and try to not only outdo ourselves with the next iteration of this conference that we work on. Because we, again, everything is about our relationship, so we want our relationship with this Board of Trustees to be just as good as our relationship with Charis Bookstores or whomever we're working with. So, thank you again for having me here today to speak on behalf of the Auburn Avenue Research Library. Yes, it's wonderful.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** I have two questions.

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Sure.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** I have a hundred questions.

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Okay.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** But just two. Typically, how does Auburn get its collection? How do people choose Auburn versus Schomburg versus Moorland-Spingarn, how does that happen?

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** I think, well, there's a lot of factors at play. Sometimes you get individuals who want their collection to be in a space with someone else's collection. They had a relationship with them, they want their thing to be with them. Sometimes it gets down to personal. So, in the sense of Hosea Williams' collection, they could have easily gone to Emory. We can't compete with the size of the check that they wrote to try to get that collection. But what it was, was that the family knew that their father could not go to Emory when he was in college. So, they said, well, we don't want that to be where his papers lie. We want it to be somewhere public where the people could actually see and touch these things. So, there's a lot of things at play. Sometimes it's, you know, it's conversations, we have to sometimes say no to things. We just recently got contacted by an individual in, I believe, Ohio, who worked on Andrew Young's mayoral campaign, and said, I have all of these things related to this campaign. I want to give it to give it to the Auburn Avenue Research Library. So, our -- the fact that we're a public library really helps us a lot. Sometimes it's really about a check, you know, we missed out on Jim Alexander's photography collection because he was honest with me and said, hey, Victor, I need the money, and they're offering me a lot. So, it is what it is, you know, and we understand that. But for the most part, I think we focus a lot on a lot of grassroots individuals, a lot of people that don't necessarily get their flowers. We know that within -- with time, people will want to discover those people, and we'll be the place in which they are, you know? So, we're not -- we're not missing out on anything because we have Hosea's collection. We have Donald Lee Hollowell. We have Andrew Young's. We have room in our building to grow. So, we're always looking for what the



next thing will be, you know, as we move further away from the actual civil rights movement. Anyone else? You had that hundred questions.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Just the second question, I want to be mindful and keep it short. But what do you really find in these collections that you just don't find in Google?

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** I think it's an understanding of the person. I think there's an intimacy with touching papers and photos and -- that you can't get online. It makes me think of, there was a time, Andrew Young had come by. He was -- he wanted to see something in his collection. So, we went about searching for it. He said he had a diary, and in that diary were all of these love letters. It was for his wife, and he was just like, she kept saying I didn't write her any letters, and I have to prove that I did. So, he sat there, we found everything for him, we put it out on the table. He like, you could see him, like, time travel. Like, he went back to that moment where he wrote whatever he wrote in his diary, to that moment where he wrote the letter that he wrote to her. So, it was nice to see, here's a person who -- he wrote it, but it's like remember those small details. It helped him understand where he was at that time or how he felt at that time. So, for us, you know, as we're looking through the window, it's like, we get a bit of that when we see that collection, you know, where when you go online, there is a coldness. It's like the difference between listening to an LP or listening to a digital file, you know, there's warmth in actually touching a collection, you know? It really, you know -- because it -- my thing is always, so and so touched this, you know, so and so sat and typed this up, you know? Being a part of that, really, I've seen researchers really get grabbed and taken hold by that specifically. I don't want to take over.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Anybody have any more questions?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I actually want to know, I have two days to get by and put my name in raffle?

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Yes, ma'am, any branch. Any branch in the system will make it happen.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Oh, any branch?

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Any branch.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Oh.

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** You can go right here in Central and put your name down if you, you know, you don't have to go that far.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Yes.

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Every branch has -- is going to receive three sets of March to give to their community. So, and the two -- and the, I think there's three at the moment that are closed, we have -- we have their books for them. So, whenever they open, they can have a raffle in their community for those books as well, so.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Okay.

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** The cards are not active, so they're -- they're cards. They're, right now, they stand as keepsakes for you. If you want to get them activated, I'm sure

someone here at Central will gladly activate the card and replace your old number. I know people are so attached to their library card numbers. But you can if you want to, if not, hey, it's a nice piece of art in your wallet if you want it to be.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** It's a wonderful piece of art. This is so nice of you to bring these to us.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It is. On the second floor of the Central Library, we have one of his larger works by Charly Palmer. You'd probably be familiar with it if you were to see it. It's in the far back corner of it. So, and I understand that John Legend collects his work. So, we're very excited to have him.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** I have a question. When African-American history kind of merges with Atlanta's White history, how do you make decisions about where those documents or where those archives would be? I know that some people would have them at the History Center, some people --

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** I mean, it all depends. It depends on its relationship to what we already have, or you know, the story that we want to tell. You know, a lot of the times it'll be that kind of conversation where we're like, hey, this doesn't really fit what we're trying to do. We never look at -- because our stories are so connected, so we never look at it as it has to be, this one kind of way. It can be, you know, again, there can be a story that needs to be told. There can papers and collections that are the collections of someone who is not African-American, but relate so closely to the experience that it fits. So, you know, if we can't do it, we will make those calls. We'll call, you know, like I said, we will call Emory, we will call the Atlanta History Center. We will call, you know, Georgia State. We will call Woodruff Library and say, hey, this is what we've been brought, be a bunch of it brought to the table to us, and we think it would be a better fit for you. We kind of make that connection, and it's been that kind of way. I mean, I've gotten phone calls of individuals who wanted to possibly move a collection, which is a no-no, especially because once they gift them to us, there's a deed and it belongs to us. So, when they start having those kind of conversations, because again, people sometimes want their collections to be with another person. But their collection, it becomes -- we have such a great relationship that I got a phone call, like, hey, someone's, you know, asking and promising these things that I know you have. So, we had a sit down with that individual and Emory and we talked it out, and everything was squared away. But, yes, it's the relationships that we've managed 30 years to build great relationships throughout the city. If that's all --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Thank you very much.

**MR. VICTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, all.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** That was a wonderful presentation.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Very, very good. Thank you so much.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. So next, we have Paul Kaplan's work order reports.

## **WORK ORDERS REPORT - PAUL KAPLAN**

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Okay. Let me get myself straightened out here.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Nothing broke this month.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** There we go. I'm actually going to give you two months. January, because we were -- not January, but -- let's see, that would be January.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** January.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** We were not here, right, that was because of the weather was bad. So, I'll give you, this is going to be for December of 2024. It's from my last report there during that year. We had 156 work orders, 119 were completed, gives you about 76 cents -- 76 percent completion. There was nothing outstanding, you know, we had our HVAC, the plumbing, the electrical, miscellaneous, which was around 58. That was -- that was like, security, locks, grounds keeping, alarm systems, structure problems, cleaning, setting up for programs, pressure washing, surplus pickup, window cleaning, general carpentry, and pest control. That's just some of the other subcontracts that come through for just for the month. So, it was very busy, and this goes on every single month like that. They have that many things going on. So, December really wasn't, it wasn't that bad, 156 work orders. Anybody got a question on December? Because then I'm going to go to January, once I find it. I have too many things going on. Go find what I'm looking for here. Sorry to take your time here for a second, let me get myself --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** No worries.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Ah, January. Too many folders. So, January, we had 188 work orders, quite a few. 163 were completed.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Wow.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** That was over 87 percent completion for the one month. The breakdown was, there was 48 work orders on HVAC, plumbing was 37, electrical was 40, miscellaneous was 63. Pretty much everything I said before in a breakdown, except there's also special event setups that they also do it during the month, grounds, logistics; power washing, there's a lot of those; parking lot problems, which was lights; sprinkler system, we had a couple leaking sprinkler heads; security, fire alarm and elevator repair. Not everybody has an elevator, has an elevator repair. I don't know of anything major that went on the last couple months. Fortunately, we made it through the real cold weather with no major incident. Unless you could correct me, I don't think there was any really busted lines that I knew about.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** No, not in that category.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Okay. Hmm, that sounds interesting the way you said it like that. So, there was really nothing as hard. Remember that one year we had it where at Milton, lines blew out. We lost --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** -- lost a lot of the library all over at --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** That's terrible.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** -- Ocee, which was a disaster. That's when stuff came through the railing -- through the roof. So, then there was a lot of damage on that one, ceilings came down. But we didn't have anything like that at all. So fortunately, they did their work. Our Director of the DREAM team, Joe Davis and his group, they did a lot of pre-work before the cold weather hit. They made sure everything was operational, made sure the heating system was operating, the water was out there, and it paid off. It paid off real well. Unless our Director has anything to say to that, I didn't hear anything, or they kept it away from me, so.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, no, no, no. No, I think you're right on the money there. But one thing that happened that Mr. Davis' staff has been able to do consistently well during this season is that they continue to send out notices to staff to set your thermostats when you leave at a certain temperature, to make sure you report anything you see that's going wrong immediately. That has helped a lot. Then, because they have so much remote work that they can do now, they are able to set the settings at 75 degrees or whatever, so that they know what it should be and it doesn't go down too low, so that that doesn't affect the pipes and things. The biggest problem have been boilers in some of these locations, but we didn't have any of that to go around.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** No.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It made a huge difference, because every Friday, almost, if not sooner, we're receiving a notice to make sure you set your thermostats at this and that on a Friday. So that makes a difference. It makes a huge difference. Or if they hear about a weather reports that say tonight it's going to be 19 degrees, or whatever, they send out the message, and that has really made a tremendous difference.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** It's working well. Things are really working well. Things are getting done. We're not having anything major, and that's terrific news as far as I'm concerned.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, we have one major thing one right now going on, and that's with the Dogwood Library.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** They had a significant rain event, and it caused us to have to close it. Then we thought we're going to be able to reopen it this week, but now it looks like some of the work is extended on the interior.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Because they had to paint the interior and the exterior because of the damage of seeking -- seeping into the walls. So, it remains closed. Staff is redeployed to other libraries based on operational need. So, we're just keeping an eye on it to see when, in fact, we can reopen it.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Al Collins has that project.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I talked to Mr. Collins for a couple things. It's good. Any questions? Any concerns? No concerns, well that's great.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Sounds like Paul's on top of it.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. Director's reports for December.

#### **25-05 DIRECTOR'S REPORTS - DECEMBER 2024**

#### **LIBRARY SERVICES AND TRENDS**

#### **25-03 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 2024**

#### **25-04 MONTHLY USAGE SUMMARY - DECEMBER 2024**

#### **LIBRARY CLOSURE REPORT - QUARTERLY**

#### **FCLS LOOK AHEAD EVENTS/PROGRAMS**

#### **25-09 DIRECTOR'S REPORTS - JANUARY 2025**

#### **25-07 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 2025**

#### **25-08 MONTHLY USAGE SUMMARY - JANUARY 2025**

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, we didn't include the one here from December, I just realized that. But December worked out extremely well in the sense that we would - we highlight a lot of programs during that time that are significant to the time of year, and that would be Hanukkah, Diwali, and of course, Christmas and other days. We had significant programming for children, because we like to have fun. Our story times have gone very well, and I'll speak later about some challenges there, but it went well overall. I don't see the December. I don't have it in my book, but anyway, I have it before me. So, as you can see, as you read, we've got a lot of programs that took place during that month. I'd like to make sure that we highlight as much as we can. We don't put every single location. I'm trying to find a way to get every location reflected here. But just early literacy programming, all types of things for families and children, bridging generational differences in communication that happened at the Palmetto Library, and just partnership opportunities that we've been able to work with. So, you will see those, and we're continuing to do it. I think it's a fabulous thing. One of the libraries, as you saw the picture there, was able to, Southeast Atlanta, was able to have the children with a visit from Santa. So, we just really are honing in on a lot of things that are making a huge difference. Do we have the financial reports for December in there?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes. Not for December.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Mine is not complete, then.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Not for December.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Oh, okay. So, in December, we still had some of the challenges that we faced in January. But overall, we met the year. We have a year in review piece that we'll be sending to you, because I don't think we ever got it out to you. It was created by our marketing staff, and so I'll make sure that those are sent to you. Zenobia will get those out to you so that you can really see the things that we were able

to accomplish for the entire year of 2024. As I said, there are always challenges and things to do and work to do, but we're on it. We know what those things are, and we know that we do have in that booklet, as well as the current one, the information about our gates. Those gates are how people get counted when they go through and coming back and forth to the libraries. We want to make sure that they're giving us an accurate count and has not been for quite some months now. So, we'll be working closely with IT to make sure that we can capture that because it's very, very important. Any questions about December?

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Is the local Librarian kind of responsible for all of the efforts, and are they evaluating how much effort goes into community activities, you know, with children or with other people at the library? Is that the local Librarian's responsibility?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, they have responsibility for outreach, and if that's what you're referring to, all of our libraries have a manager and at different levels depending upon the size of the library. A large number of them have Children's Librarians as well. Now, Auburn and Central are a little bit differently staffed, because it takes a lot more to run those. But then 25,000 square-foot libraries are in that same category to some extent, and it takes a lot more people on those, for the staffing level. But they have a responsibility for creating programs. If they have a Children's Librarian, then the Children's Librarian usually is the one who will handle those problems -- those programming, that programming. Then the actual Manager would do adult programming for the most part. Some of them are fortunate enough to have people who are able to do -- different people to do both of those of all ages, and it makes it really good when you can do that. But they set up their own programs, and we have theme, thematic programs that we do during the year. So, they know January, we do this, February, we do that. January is usually Martin Luther King celebration. February is African-American History Month. Then you've got Women's History Month in March. So, we go on through that, then June 1 to August 1, Summer Reading Program. Then we get to October, we got Halloween and Teentober, teen programs. Then we get down to November and December, we got the holiday programs. So those -- that's kind of everybody programs and knows what's going on to -- and what they should be focused on at the moment. So that's --

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** The Branch Manager is evaluating it on how effective those --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Exactly.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** -- programs are; is that correct?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Every program doesn't necessarily work in every community, so they need to know their communities as well, because it may not be a good fit. Sometimes that comes with trial and error, learning what's what. But because there are traditions in the library world of those programs that I just mentioned, it tends to work well, because people know that this is what I should be focused on here. Then, of course, they have the autonomy to be able to create other programs that they want to

do. So, we've got Lego classes, we've got yoga classes, we've got chair, chair yoga. We've got all kinds because that's what the community will respond to, and it works very well when we do those things. Is that answering what you asked?

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Okay, I thought so. Thank you. Any other questions?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I saw a news report about, I think they're cutting bus routes through Kirkwood.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** They're cutting bus routes?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes. Yes, and --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** School bus routes?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** No.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Just regular MARTA, whatever?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** MARTA bus routes, and was it -- how's the library doing over in Kirkwood?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, Kirkwood is a very good functioning library. It's been there for a number of years, and the people are really are tuned in. They have a lot of specialized programming. The Manager there is very, very heavily involved in programs around autism, and that has done quite well. She works very closely with the church in that area, Israel Baptist Church. It's a small community, but it's a very concerned community. Kirkwood and East Atlanta, are our two libraries that are Atlanta and DeKalb. So, DeKalb funds us some money during the year --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh, okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- for those.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I wasn't aware of that.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It's a big thing that happened years ago.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** I can't tell you all the history, but that's how we have those two. So, the Kirkwood Library functions very well. They have an excellent Children's Librarian there who really keeps the kids on their toes. They have all kinds of very, very, what I call innovative programs, particularly doing summer reading.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I'm so glad to hear that.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** I can give you a little history of those two libraries. I was in Legislature when the Fulton County Library System was merging with the City. So, the bill was going through, and I looked around and my -- I use the East Atlanta Library. I live in Ormewood Park.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Okay.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Inside Fulton County, but my library is the East Atlanta. So I was significantly upset about that, and I went to the person had the bill, GD Adams, who was pressing and he changed the Bill to make sure those two libraries were included in the Fulton system.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Oh, we appreciate that.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** All right.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes, yes.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** You get to get a card at both Atlanta and -- I mean, both Fulton and DeKalb, right?

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** No, I don't -- no the DeKalb doesn't have anything to do with that library. It's a Fulton County Library --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It's Fulton.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** -- that just happens to be in DeKalb County.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Oh, okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes, those two, Atlanta and DeKalb --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** So, they help us pay the bills.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Yes, but it's inside the city of Atlanta. So, it was a city of Atlanta library inside DeKalb County.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** I remember when that happened.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** So, we had to make sure when they were just creating a library for Fulton County that they included the city of Atlanta and DeKalb.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Cool. Nice going.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, I was Branch Manager of the old East Atlanta Library for five years. So yes, I'm very familiar with that community, the Strut and all those things. But thank you for that information because I didn't quite know it all. So, any other questions about the December reports?

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** I noticed somewhere that utilization was down in December.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** That, utilization has been down a little in December as well as January, so I'll talk about that as I talk about the January one.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Yes, that's where I saw it, was in January.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes. We have some work to do, like I said earlier, we've got some challenges. Our budget for 2025 is right at 31 million. I do have to, of course, remind you all that 86 percent of our budget goes for salaries and benefits. So that's why we are so appreciative of what the Library Foundation is able to do for the library because it makes a difference as well as our Friends groups and the donations that they make. But yes, we've had not as much response to people coming into our libraries for programs particularly for youth. So, we've got an increase that. That started happening in December. That went through January as a challenging area for us. We do have a lot of programming that was responded to in January by adults, and that's because of the efforts here at Central Library, with so many programs that have taken place, author visits, we had a lot of those. We -- we've got to get the people wanting to come, having the types of things that people want to respond to in all of the libraries. So, the numbers for adult programming increased because of those programs that are, have -- going on here and at Auburn and then at some of our larger libraries.



So, we've got to really look at that, and we've had -- we started having some meetings and been meeting with the administrative team. We've had three meetings in the last week, week and a half, to talk about those things, and how do we -- how do we address it? What do we do to make a difference to get people wanting to come back. Everybody's still not online, but we have people who are saying things like, we need -- we don't want to always have to rely on putting a book on hold to get it or having to get an online material. We want to be able to walk in the library there's a bestseller on the shelf. So, we're asking, we're planning to be asked for more money so that we can purchase more print materials, because people want to see that bestseller and walk out with it as opposed to having to wait so long for it. So, we've got some things and some challenges there that we're talking with county leadership about. But yes, there was some reduction.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I think it's one program that was held that was about dementia. But it was dementia in African-Americans versus just, I don't know what run-of-the-mill dementia. I mean, my father died of dementia, so I -- I mean, I know what it entails. I just didn't know -- I didn't understand why we were being selective that way with that program. Obviously, it was the presenter's idea to --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Right. Well, that was a program that wasn't -- was not properly vetted here at the library. We -- that's part of what we've had our last three meetings about as an administrative team --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I knew you were on it.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- two meetings last week, one meeting this week. It's all about vetting and making sure that we don't put ourselves out there to look as though we are somehow isolating people. Because what it said was, what are the requirements for attendance? One of them was to be an African-American. There is an ongoing study that's going around right now. Emory University is a part of it, and this program was being presented by someone who was affiliated with Emory University. So overall, it's a good idea, because they are tracking and trying to research the problems that African-Americans have with dementia.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** There's an ongoing problem because of the fact that you cannot get -- you cannot get the kind of support that you need --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** No.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- from people who do that care. We found out there are programs that are even sponsored by a Commissioner, one of our Commissioners has been involved in the north end of the county. But you can get some of those people, you contact them, and they won't come south. Also, it's sometimes very expensive for African-American families to afford caregivers to come into the homes, to have the proper insurance for those things. A lot of people in the African-American community do not have -- what's that insurance you get? Long-term disability, things of

that, they don't have that. So that's what this, these groups of people are putting together, and they're doing a real ongoing research and protocols that they're looking into about that whole situation. So that's what the person who was presenting the program was trying to put together. It came across as though someone -- that as some groups of people were being left out, and that was never our intention, so --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** It hit my radar because a friend of mine's mother just passed --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Right.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- from it. But had it been available eight weeks before, and they live over by where the movie producer --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Tyler Perry.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Tyler Perry.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Thank you. I was going, Taylor, Taylor, Taylor, and that's not right. He -- they live over there, and she just died. But had it been eight weeks before that, then you know, Terrance would have just been in there with both feet. The services that they got were very poor.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Right, right, I understand.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** It was unfortunate.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The other piece is that there was a website link that I think would have made a difference had that been included, because then you could have gone to the website to really see the totality --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- of what it was about, that it wasn't really to be exclusive. But that's how it came across. We accept that, we understand that, and we're going to correct it. So, we've communicated it.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I appreciate it, thank you.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** No problem.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Well, how did those -- how do those topics of programs like that happen? Is that, is the library system proactive to try to get the programs of community interests in the libraries, or does it just depend on the person coming and bringing a proposal to somebody?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** No, not necessarily. That can happen, but I have -- we have, the administrative team is composed of ten of us. There are Branch Group Administrators who have the responsibility for making sure that programming takes place in the branches. Then we have the ones that have Central Library and Auburn, who are the Administrators of those two locations. So, what happens is they look for programs, and they suggest programs to take place. So, they go out actually searching. They can go on the internet. They can -- it could be word of mouth. But we also have several of them that are involved in specific things. We have one that's adult programming systemwide, one that's Youth Services programming systemwide, and another one who does ADA. So, with that, she's our liaison to the county's ADA

Division as well as Behavioral Health. So, when she hears and sees things that have to do with those types of subjects, then she will approach people about a program or coming to speak or whatever. So that's really how that program got started. Must have saw it, thought it was good, and all that. So, we get ideas all kinds of ways, and we're constantly reading. We're constantly researching what's being done in other library systems around the nation. We compare ourselves a lot to Charlotte Mecklenburg. We compare ourselves a lot to the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore and to Seattle Public. So that's kind of how we look at things and also Memphis.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** May I ask one more question, if I can? As a new board appointment, I shouldn't be asking many questions.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** No, Paul, that's why we're here.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** But what about -- what about book clubs? Do libraries have book clubs, and are they encouraged to have those?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** We do have book clubs, and they have become so, so much more aware of us and so much more involved in us with our One Book, One Read Program that we did that's sponsored by our Library Foundation. It is amazing, the writers we've been able to get over the last three years. We are now in the middle of number four, coming up in October, and we're in the middle of trying to determine which author can come. So, it's a big deal, who's coming, who's coming? We had a lot of suggested names, and we put out feelers for the first five suggested people. One of them was \$40,000, so we know we can't do him. So, we just said, well, we can't go there. But that's how we do it, and it's been a great opportunity for us, so, yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** She reminds me of our book before last.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Oh, yes, she does.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- to think about it the whole time when I was looking at that flyer.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** What's the title of it? Oh, my goodness, I can't think of it.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Put me on the spot.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The?

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Personal Librarian.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The Personal Librarian. Thank you.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Personal Librarian. Thanks, Chip.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** So, we have all -- we've had all types of --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I should bring you around more often.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- books to be featured, and it really, the One Book, One Read really has brought in a lot more book club attendees. We had a -- one this past Saturday from 5:00 to 7:00. It was S.A. Cosby, and he's an African-American writer out of Tennessee. He's written a number of books, and he writes really, really in-depth crime fiction. We had about 170 people who attended from all walks of life, all ethnicities. It was amazing. They asked great questions, and he was just really

delightful. Just he talked about his background, his history, all of the things that led to his writing and all that. So, it was really very, very good to listen to him. So, we, we're doing a lot more with that, and that's because of the Foundation. We would not be able to fund it if we didn't have them, because the caliber of writers we've been able to get has greatly improved.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** I hate to interrupt. We're having such a good discussion. It's five after 5:00.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Right.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** We have a hearing scheduled for 5:00.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** My goodness.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Back to work, I understand.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** So, is he on the phone now?

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** He's on. I just spoke to him. He knows that the meeting is still going on, and I sent him a message, when this ends, we'll start his hearing. He said, okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Well, we have a choice. We could put off the business, new and unfinished, until our next meeting. But --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I think that would -- I think that's a good idea.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** -- I don't think we should wait -- make him to wait --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** But we need to talk about these re-namings.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. So, shall we do now?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Could we? Can we?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Or do it after the --

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Sure.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Either way, but I do think we need to do it before we meet.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. Let's do the hearing first.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Because that might -- the discussion might take 15 minutes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Oh, great, thank you.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** The hearing won't last as long.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** All right. So just move the appeal hearing up, and --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Good.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** So, well, we could vote on it. Does anybody have any objection to us moving on to the hearing, and then after the hearing, we'll hear a couple of things on the agenda that can't wait until next month?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Not at all.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** No.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay, good. Now, is Mr. Dudley online?

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** Yes.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay, good.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** So, I'm going to promote him into this meeting.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Okay.

### **APPEAL HEARING**

(Whereupon, the Board of Trustees meeting regular order of business paused for Appeal Hearing at 5:10 p.m.)

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Mr. Dudley, can you hear me?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** I can hear you.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** All right. My name is Nina Radakovich, and I am the acting Chair today. So, I will be conducting this hearing. And you can hear me, all right?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Yep. Yes, ma'am, I can hear you just fine.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay, and we can see you.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Awesome.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** I'm going to make an introductory statement to get us started here. This is an appeal hearing related to the ban issued to patron Edward Dudley on December 11, 2024. This appeal hearing is governed by Section 7 of the Library's Code of Conduct. Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, this hearing is presided over by the Chair of the Library Board, and shall conclude after a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the Chair of the Library Board. The Code of Conduct also clarifies that this hearing is administrative in nature, and that strict rules of evidence do not apply. The Code of Conduct permits the appellant, Edward Dudley, to present documentary information and verbal statements for this board's consideration. That said, the Code of Conduct does not permit the appellant to call witnesses or ask questions of anyone. Furthermore, this board is not required to issue any decision, make any comments or answer any questions at this hearing. Rather, the Code of Conduct instead provides that the board has 30 days after the hearing to issue a written recommendation to the Library Director, after which the Director has 14 days to issue a final decision, which will then be communicated to you. I understand you have a video that you want to show; is that right?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** I mean, if you would like, I think I just heard you saying that I can do that. But --

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** You can do it.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** -- I may have emailed it to everyone already. I'm not sure if you all have seen it or not, but I did email it along with the Director. I included like 10 videos, so I'm not sure if anyone saw them yet. But I will -- we can go ahead and play that video if it -- if it's okay with you all.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Yes. It's just a few minutes, right?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Yeah, we can play like two minutes, the first two minutes.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** What's the pleasure of the board? Does anybody have any thoughts on this, as far as your preference?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I think, seems like a document, seems fair enough.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. Well, let's go ahead and have --

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Could you bring me back before you do that, play that video?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** He said, could you bring me back before you play the video.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Oh, do we have the video handy now?

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** I haven't started yet.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Right there.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. It's ready to start now. Can you see on your screen, the video?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Bring me back before you play the video. I would like to say something before you play the video.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Well, we're going to play it right now, so you can go ahead.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Well, bring back -- how do you bring back the -- hold on, let me see. I'm trying -- there you go. I can see. So, the video that's about to be played is the incident that happened on December the 11<sup>th</sup>, which ultimately resulted in a one-year ban. This is the first two sec -- two minutes of that incident. I did inquire -- I did receive the body cam footage of when the officers got there. I think the officers stayed there for one, probably about one hour. Well, so I was homeless at the time, and I'm still am homeless. So that library was a library that I was visiting to connect to the internet and do whatever I was doing. And at the time, I kept noticing the workspaces not being cleaned, and they were very dirty for some reason, like night after night or day after day, when I was visiting the library. Also, when I was walking into the library branch, the double glass doors, they were very nasty, very nasty. It seems as if someone spilled coffee, throw up or something on, and they kept being like that for like, weeks at a time. And I'm like, I don't know what's going on. So, on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup>, about around about 8:00 o'clock, I inquired to Dell, as to who cleaned the library, and she really didn't know. So, I asked her if I can file an open records request. And she said, we don't do those here, you have to go to Central Library. And I said, are you -- she was like, or you have to go online. And I was like, well, you know, the law says I can go and file an open records request with the office that holds those files. And I really wanted to know who was in charge of cleaning the library, because it's going unkept. There is no reason why my workstation or the places where we sit are dirty upon days out -- upon days, and then the double doors are nasty. The restrooms, you can smell the restrooms all the way at the circulation desk. So, I'm trying to figure out to pull public records to figure out who's in charge of cleaning, when do they report, and why is it so dirty. So that night, the 10<sup>th</sup>, I spoke with Dell, and Dell said that -- well, she said that she would go ahead and receive the open records request. And I was -- I went to go fill out the open records request right at -- I just go to write it down on a piece of paper. But then at that time, the person that was cleaning the restrooms was, she was Hispanic in ethnicity, and I tried to speak to her. I even pulled up Google Translate, and she said that she would clean the doors. And I left the library that night, thinking that the library doors were going to be cleaned. The very next day I came, and the doors were still dirty. So, I'm like, I don't know what's going on. And I want to try to see how do -- how do we get these doors cleaned and the workstations and the library to be more up kept. And I started to ask Dell, and Dell, I started talking to her, she was very nice about it. And I was like, Dell, can I show you something? And we walked over to

the doors, and I showed her that the doors are still nasty. Mind you, I spoke to Dell about the door the previous night, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Mr. Dudley.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** So, she already knew what I --

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Mr. Dudley, excuse me just a minute. I'm going to interrupt you. We're -- we don't have a whole hour to do this. And I think, let me ask you a question, are you saying that your reason for entering the library at all was to comment on the cleanliness, and that that's why you were there? Or is that just something that happened on your way in?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** No, I said that I've been using the library branch, either inside or outside in the parking lot to connect to the internet.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. So --

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Yeah. I would visit the library, hours upon hours in order to connect to the internet because I was homeless.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** So, does that answer your question?

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Well, I just wondered did the -- does the cleanliness to have anything to do with the video?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Yes. This is what led up to the incident. Now, if you don't have time, I'm going to say, if you don't have time for this, then you know, you just say, we don't have time. And I'll just go -- I'll go somewhere else. But it was asked of me that I would file an appeal. And I was supposed to have been heard three months ago. So I'm --

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** It was last month. We closed for weather. And no, we do want to hear what you have to say. We haven't had a chance --

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Okay.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** -- for that.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Well, tell me what is the time requirement? Because I never said it would take an hour. So, I don't know where you get an hour from.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** That was an example.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Okay.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** But we have a time --

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** But tell me the time. Tell me the timeline you want me to.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** We have 30 minutes that we can use for --

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Okay, good. Let me go ahead start my 30 minutes. It's 5:19, is that okay with you?

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** That should work, but don't forget, we're -- we need a few minutes for questions or clarification things that I would ask --

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Okay. And can --

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** -- you --

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Can I get your name?

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** My name is Nina Radakovich.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** And what is your position again?

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** I am the Vice Chair of this Board of Trustees.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Oh. I -- you see, I didn't

even know all this stuff existed. All I knew who was the Library Director, and that was Gayle. But anyway, let me go back to what I was saying. If you got any questions, just stop me. The next day on the 11<sup>th</sup>, I approached Dell, and she's the Caucasian young lady that works there. And I said, hey, you know, the doors are still dirty. So, she goes and looked at them and she goes back to the desk, and then she gets something to clean the doors with. And then this is the start of the video. So, if you could help me play the video.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay, here it comes.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** You can just play the first two minutes of it if you want.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** It's not much longer than that, as I remember.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** You watched the video?

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** I've watched all of your videos.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I think it's buffering.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** It's buffering.

(Video plays.)

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Ms -- tell me your name one more time, the young lady that's been helping me, can you rewind the video again? It may -- it may play smoothly this time. Just rewind it.

(Video plays.)

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** That's not going to play as it needs to. You can -- you can stop playing the video.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Do you want to try another video?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** No. No, I don't think they're going to play for some reason, it's not buffering right?

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** It looked okay from here.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** What was that?

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** It looked -- it looked okay from here. We could see what was going on, and we could hear --

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** On my end, it was like, not buffering right. It was playing slowly and stuff like that. But was it smooth for you all?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Okay. Oh, play it again, then. If it was smooth for -- I just -- it wasn't smooth for me though.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** We'll try it again.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Oh, that'll be great. I appreciate it. I think that everybody's watched it though.

(Video plays.)

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Now, do you want to explain anything about this video?

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Yeah. Yes, ma'am, that's what -- I wanted to play it for you all, so that you could get a gist of what the incident was on the 11<sup>th</sup>. When Dell was cleaning the doors, I started to record what the doors looked like so that I could, like, send a complaint and stuff to figure out why the doors are not being up kept. And when I put my camera out, the young lady who was right there, and I only asked her, what was her name. And she told me none of my business. I didn't know that public workers or public service can do that. I just thought that, like, maybe she could have told me her name. I don't see the problem with doing that. And because of that, and because I was



recording, which is allowed in a public place, and all of that stems from me being banned. First, they have a -- first, the Librarians have a -- they have a knowledge that if we say we want -- we don't want to be recorded, you can't record us. That's totally not false -- that's totally not true. You're public service, you're in a public space, you can be recorded. And we talked about that the last board meeting or the one previously before that. Public servants can be recorded, this is case law. Secondly, if a member of the public asks for your name, you are to give your name. I don't see what's wrong with that. What's your name and maybe your position. That's it, I'm a Librarian at this library branch, how can I help you? That's being courteous, that's being nice to the members of the public, that's doing your job. But instead, these two individuals, the Librarian that you saw on the camera first, and then the Library Assistant Manager. One told me, it's none of your business, and she walked away from me because she didn't want to be filmed and because she didn't want to tell me her name. Then the second lady, the Assistant Library Branch Manager, she told me, I asked her, I said -- I'm very calm. I just say, can I get your name? She says, no. All she could have said, my name is such and such. I'm a Library Assistant Manager or something like that. How can I help you? And I would have went into detail as to, you know, how cleanliness -- I would showed her the desk, showed her the windows, whatever it has to be. And she took it too far, because she didn't want me recording her. She don't know that she's in a public space, she's a public servant, and she can be recorded. I don't know why Gayle doesn't communicate this to all of the Librarians in the Fulton County branches, so that they can know that when people come into the library, they can have their cameras. We don't spend money on these branches for nothing. We don't have all these artwork, all these art pieces on display for nothing in these branches. They are to be taken pictures of. It's there for display. Second -- third and the lastly, open records request is -- it's law, it's state, federal law. Every branch of the government should understand open records requests. If I go to a library branch, and I want to fill out a open records request that Librarian should know the procedures and processes on how to submit the request on the behalf of the person that's filling out that request. But when I went there to do it on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> -- and the 11<sup>th</sup>, oh, you can't do that here. You got to go online and do it. We don't accept those here. That's totally against state and federal law. One, I filled out the open records request, she told me she was going to throw it away. She handled it -- she was picking it up with her fingernails like she didn't care about the open records request that was a federal document that she was holding in her hand. Also, they can't even, to this day, locate one of my open records request. So that's pretty much it. Library staff should know that they should be able to tell the public staff -- the members of the public their name. Two, they should know that they should -- they are okay -- that can be recorded by the public. And three, they should know how to do open records request. Those things are case law upon case law. Those not are -- those are three things that are not debatable. You can be recorded, you should give your name upon request, and you should behave yourself in a manner that -- that shows transparency. Without transparency, we can trust our government. That'll be all.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** All right. Does anyone here have questions for him?

**TRUSTEES:** (No responses.)

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. Director Holloman, do you have anything?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** No, I don't.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** All right. Mr. Dudley, thank you very much. I think that's it unless you want to make any closing remark.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Have a good day.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Thank you very much. You will be -- well, first, we have 30 days to notify the Director of any recommendation we have. And then there's two weeks after that until you're notified.

**MR. EDWARD DUDLEY:** Have a good day.

**MRS. NINA RADAKOVICH:** Thank you very much. This hearing is concluded.  
(Appeal Hearing concluded at 5:32 p.m.)

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** All right, let's go back to the regular agenda.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Back to the regular agenda.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** We may have time to finish it.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes, I think so.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Do I just go ahead with the January --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Whatever you want to bring up, I think the most urgent thing.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Okay. I will.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Power through.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** What's that?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Power through.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Oh, we can power through, yes. Okay. Anyway, what was I --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** East Point and Alpharetta.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **EAST POINT LIBRARY NAMING REQUEST - DISCUSSION**

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** East Point Library reopened. But before we get to that, the East Point Library did reopen, you all, in January. We still have Peachtree and Cleveland Avenue to reopen. It looks that those two will reopen somewhere in March or March and/or April. So, we don't have any exact dates yet. We're still working on the fact that it was still work being done at Peachtree. At Cleveland Avenue, we're waiting for the certificate of occupancy. Once that happens, the staff goes back. It'll take about a week for them to get the books and all back on the shelves. Then, depending upon the Commissioner's availability, we will entertain the dates that are convenient for her. Then we will set up the program and event, it's usually a very nice affair, and invite everyone to it. So please be on the lookout for that. Before us today, we have the East Point renaming discussion. We had one before, and that one did not pass. It was -- so now we have another one, and you probably already received that information, you should have the --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** No, we got something for Alpharetta.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** You should have received an East Point renaming.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Someone different than McClure?

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** I sent it out today.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Thank you.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** This is the Mayor, the former Mayor of East Point, Patsy Jo Hilliard, has been recommended by the City Council there. That's the one that we're asking your vote and discussion -- and discussion and vote on at this time depending upon if that -- if either of these goes through, then at that point, we will take it to the Board of Commissioners for their review and approval.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** What can you tell us about this person?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The City Council made a resolution, presented a resolution, with regard to Ms. Patsy Jo Hilliard. If you don't mind, Madam Chair, I will read it or at least most of it.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** All right.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It's a resolution by the City Council and Mayor of East Point, Georgia, to rename the East Point Library to honor former East Point Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard.

WHEREAS, the City of East Point's Charter vests all powers necessary and proper to promote the safety, health, peace, and general welfare within the City of East Point; and WHEREAS, the City of East Point is tasked with protecting the safety, health, peace, and general welfare by ensuring the history of dedication and service by our past city leaders is preserved; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard had a decades-long career working in schools. In 1964, Hilliard taught first grade at Bright Functions School in Monrovia, Liberia. While in Liberia, she also served as volunteer coordinator for the organization American Women in Liberia. In 1975, Hilliard became the first African American and the first woman board member of the South San Francisco Unified School District, a position she filled until 1980; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard made history in 1993 when she was elected both the first woman and African American mayor ever of the City of East Point, Georgia; and WHEREAS, Mayor Patsy Jo Hillard honored the City of East Point with dedication and service for thirteen (13) years, serving longer than any other mayor in history; and WHEREAS, Mayor Patsy Jo Hillard became an honorary citizen of Liberia at the 2017 United for Liberia Global Health Fundraising Gala for her extensive work throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Patsy Jo Hillard has served on the Executive Board for the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP, President for the Atlanta chapter of Links, Inc., and the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of East Point desires to recognize Mayor Patsy Jo Hillard's years of dedication and service and the impact he has had on the community; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Code § 36-34-3 provides that the powers of a municipal corporation vests the ability to dedicate, honor, and rename public libraries; and

WHEREAS. the City Council of East Point believes it would be proper and fitting to rename the East Point Library in honor of former Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF EAST POINT'S MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL as follows:

SECTION 1: The East Point Library hereafter will be named the --Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard Public Library-- to honor her work and dedication to the City of East Point.

SECTION 2: This Resolution shall take effect upon the approval and passage by the Mayor of the City of East Point.

SECTION 3: The appropriate City agencies, including but not limited to the Department of Parks and Recreation are hereby authorized to take such steps as necessary to comply with having the signage displayed in the referenced area displayed.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of East Point, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October. 2023. It should say 2024, but it says 2023. It's signed by the current East Point Mayor, the City Attorney and the City Clerk.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** What did your committee --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The committee voted unanimously to name the library for Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard. The only thing that they asked is that we -- they asked, according to this that the Mayor, the City Council asked that it be named Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard Public Library. The Committee suggested that we follow the scheme that we've used for other such namings, which would then make it be Patsy Jo Hilliard Library at East Point.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** So that was the only change that was considered or asked for consideration. That's the suggestion that it be named for her, voted unanimously and that the scheme be followed, as we've done in the past.

### **MOTION**

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Do I hear a motion?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I'll make a motion that the library is renamed Patsy Jo Hilliard Library at East Point.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Is there a second?

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** I have a question. Director, you said that, was this the library that the initial request for renaming was voted down, you said?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes, that -- what was the word that --

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Was that voted down by -- sorry, go ahead.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** By the Board of Commissioners.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Oh, the Board of Commissioners, okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It went from this Body to them.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Okay. So, which -- who was that honoring at that time?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The suggestion at that time, the name offered up was Mr. William McClure.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Who had also been a member of the Board of Trustees here at one point.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Right, okay. Thank you.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Did significant work in East Point.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Just a comment. We've been going through this stuff and renaming it. I'm at a point that the renaming of the libraries, how about renaming a room and not the whole library? What's the problem with that?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Well --

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I do have a problem. We keep renaming these libraries, and the way it's going to go, I don't know what library is what. I mean, where everybody's getting a name. Now, if this goes through, and it does, fine. But you're going to know, there'll be other ones coming up. We got to get some kind of policy.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Well, we have a naming policy. This Board is responsible for maintaining that policy and changing it if necessary. The one we have is wide open, pretty much for anybody to nominate anybody for the building or anything in it, or a room or furniture or whatever. So, I have written a draft policy with some changes in it, which might be helpful based on what you just said, and we can talk about that next month. It's not on the agenda today. But there are problems, and it seems like once somebody names a library, then other people hear about it, then they --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Want their --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** -- get the idea of who they want to do it. There are certain decisions to make about what should matter and what should not for naming a library. The geographic thing is extremely helpful, always to put --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** East Point, yes.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** -- the location in the name.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Right.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** But that, we can discuss all that. This is somewhat urgent, I think. So, we can -- yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Is it?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Damian.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** But if the Board of Commissioners can override the Board of Trustees' vote --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** They can.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** -- then I have a question about that. The purpose and the alignment of the two bodies when it relates to these renamings then.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, we have a naming policy that the library follows.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** That is that we follow this process of what we're doing. We -- I am to -- it comes to me as the Library Director.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It come which -- by phone, it could come by written document or whatever. This one came by City Council's Resolution. Then I have to bring it, setup a committee of people to meet, and they're supposed to be people from the community, people -- business leaders, residents -- residential members of the community, who live in the community, and staff, library staff. So, we usually get anywhere from eight to ten people, sometimes after asking 18 to 20. Then they hear everything, they read over the documentation. We send it to them, and because we get a bio, and so in this case, we used the City Council's document as the bio, because it had so much information in it, and then we go forward to bring it to you all's attention. Then at that point, if you all approve it, it goes then to the Board of Commissioners for them to consider, because it is their -- these are their buildings. So, that's how the process works. They have their own naming policy, which coincides with what we are doing, and it falls within that. They're always the end point for those types of things?

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Okay. It just puts us in an awkward situation when they override, and we have to go back to the committee that you set up.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Right.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Made these decisions, and we unanimously voted -- well, you all unanimously voted for it. Then after, having to be in this predicament --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Right.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** -- with another honoree for the same library.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Well, I have --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** I understand. In my 30 years of being here, that's -- that was the first time that ever happened.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I have another issue that -- and this came up in Roswell. Sorry, everything always comes back to Roswell for me. But there is a difference between Fulton County and the city of Atlanta or the city of Roswell. At the time we were redistricting a high school, the county was, as they should because the county is in control of the schools. The people and the City Council got involved in trying to redistrict the high schools' lines, which street would go to city -- would go to Roswell High School and which would not. This seems to me to be out of order, in that the city believes that they name libraries. When I read this resolution, it says that they order us to name this library after the Mayor.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** It didn't mention Fulton.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** It never mentions Fulton County.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** No.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** So, the city has --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** So how can they do that?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** They can't. The city has a --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** No, they can't order us --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Well, it would appear that they --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- because we have a process.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** It would appear that they think that they can.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** They can, they can change the sign, too.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Change the signage and probably tell Joe what to do over at DREAM, so. But it says, this is resolution shall take effect upon the approval and passage by the Mayor of the City of East Point. No, it shall not.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** It says their -- their recreation office, arts office, whatever, but they referred to the Hapeville, right?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I know what my Commissioner is going to tell me when she reads this, so.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** But the letter comes from the Chair of the Board of Commissioners, Robb Pitts. My thing is, you know, it doesn't matter so much what we name the library, because the people in East Point, we still call it the East Point Library. So, when you have a reputable person, you know, someone who has walked in integrity, who has led the city, who has been very active in the city for, you know, as long as anybody has, I don't have a problem with naming it, because it's still going to be the East Point Library.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Not one bit. That wasn't the point I was raising at all. I was simply saying that the difference in the powers between the city of East Point and Fulton County are vastly different. Fulton County owns that library, not the city of East Point.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** But it was signed off by Robb Pitts, that was my initial statement.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh, no, the letter came --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Yes, the letter came from --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- the referral letter was, it was referred by --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- by Chairman Pitts.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Right.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Okay. I just was making the differentiation. Maybe it's a differentiation without distinction, but it is -- Chairman Pitts has sent this along the resolution from the city of East Point, demanding that we rename the library.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** He said, I have discussed this matter with you in the past and indicated my full support for such renaming. That's from the Chair of the Fulton County Commissioners, Robb Pitts.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, I don't know that we have the power -- just like we changed the name for what they suggesting it -- suggested it as being. I think there's full understanding that they don't own the libraries.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** I mean, that's just what I'm thinking. I could be wrong. So, I'm not sure. I don't know if we need a legal opinion on this or not, but I'm just doing what it requires me to do on our naming policy.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** When a nominee for renaming is made, and then for -- because I put in once for a renaming, then I just heard it was turned down. But no recommendation, no anything else. So, what's -- what is the process? Is there, is it an appeal process, or do they refer -- and just --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Now, I've never heard of an appeals process.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** But that was a discussion with regard to that one before it came and before it went very far. Then this one is a little bit different, but we did form the committee as we were asked, as we were required to do by our own policy here in the library. Now, I'm following the other part of the policy to bring it to your attention. So, in my mind, I'm taking this as though all of these people on the City Council were a part of that meeting, based on this note. I hear what you're saying, but just as we are going to revise their -- their request that it be named a certain way, we're going to follow our scheme, can we not have the understanding that the East Point -- the East Point City Council does not own anything, they can't require us to do anything? I don't know, so maybe we need a legal opinion, Jennifer.

**MS. JENNIER CULLER:** Yes. Their resolution is not binding on you. So, I would take it as an urging resolution even though it's written a different way. But it's not binding.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Is it possible we could keep the name of the East Point Library in the name?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes, it would be, according to what was decided upon by the Naming Committee, they're asking that it follow our normal scheme, which would be, it would make it the Patsy Jo Hilliard Library at East Point. Right now, we have a couple of examples. We have the Gladys Dennard Library at South Fulton. We have the Robert E. Fulton Library at Ocee. So, we've got several ones that we've done with that scheme. That's what was the recommendation on the -- and change that was made by the Naming Committee.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Was this ever a library owned by East Point?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** No.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Oh.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I only brought it up as far as rooms are concerned, because they could become a slippery slope. Pretty soon, we're going to rename all our libraries. I'm really against it. I don't know what's wrong with naming the Children's Department, the - Department, something else inside the library. They can put a sign up there and say, so and so, this is dedicated to that person. I'm not saying we're doing it now, but something that we'll have to think about.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** That's a good idea.



**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Because this is going to come up again.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** But it still sounds like the Board of Commissioners, that's the --

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Board of Commissioners can overwrite us.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Right, right.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I know exactly where you're going.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** They have the right to do so --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I got that speech the first day I showed up from you --

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** -- this more bureaucratic tasks when they are going to --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Right. I don't --

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** -- do what they are going to do.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes, I don't know that they -- as I said, to my knowledge, this is the first time that we had one that was not -- that went all the way to the Board of Commissioners, and they --

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** That didn't pass?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- they held -- what did they -- what was the word they used? They held it?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Table.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Tabled it?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** They tabled it, and that just means it didn't go through.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** You filed it, they filed it.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** They filed it, that's what the word was, filed.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Then came with this.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** But then could Coca-Cola, could we name it after --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Corporations.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** They don't --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** You can't. I mean, theoretically, the policy we have says that someone makes a significant financial contribution that their name can go on a library. They're talking, you know, thousands of dollars, hundreds of -- like, Carnegie, his name went on lots of libraries.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** He probably built the building too.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** I was surprised to see that in the policy. It seemed kind of fishy, you know, but it's there.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Would the funding to go to the Foundation, or would the funding go to the general fund?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The funding --

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** If a corporation wanted to make large --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** A donation.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** -- contribution for it --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It goes into the general fund.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh, well, now you can buy a Visa and a library. What a country.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** So what are we going to do today?

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Let the Board of Commissioners --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Dies for lack of a second --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I'm going to maintain my motion.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Pardon me?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I would like to maintain my motion that the library is named the Patsy Jo Hilliard at East Point Library.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Do I hear a second?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Just a little bit of a change, The Patsy Jo -- Patsy Jo Hilliard Library at East Point.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Library at East Point, yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Motion fails for no second.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** No second from anyone?

**TRUSTEES:** (No responses.)

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Motion fails.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Did you call the motion? I didn't hear it.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Did you want to second?

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Oh, I'll second it.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** You will? Motion doesn't fail. Thank you. Although, maybe it still will. Is there any discussion?

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** I probably shouldn't second something, I still have a question. Does the board think that this enhances the use of the library and the mission of the library to have it associated with a person of significant status in East Point? It seems like maybe it does.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** I would agree that maybe it does.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** It's supposed to be a way of honoring them --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- for their work and for their commitment to that community.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** I do think the qualifications of this person are extremely high.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Extraordinary. My objection has nothing to do with the Mayor.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** In a way, if we -- if this motion fails, it's a disappointment to all the people in that area who knew her, and all the organizations she belonged to, and all the people whose lives she influenced, which it's pretty impressive.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Can the vote be moved to the next meeting if somebody wanted more time to read?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, I suppose. I mean --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Did anybody say they really wanted voted on today?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** If the motion dies for lack of second, then we could do this again at the next meeting. If we vote on it now, it's going to die --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, I had questions about why was it taking so long --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Oh, because --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** I had it since October.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Yes, I was going to say --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** But we missed, you know, meeting, and then we missed the one in December.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** If the motion dies for lack of second, then we can --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** So that's the only thing --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- reintroduce it in next month's meeting.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- I had in question.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** But right now, it's --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Who would make the difference between this month and --

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Put it down, and

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** -- next month?

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** -- make a motion to put --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** The city needs to -- the city needs to pass a resolution, that's my feeling.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The city needs to do what?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** My feeling is -- well, it doesn't matter what my feeling is.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Of course, it does.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** This is wholly inappropriate. The way the city has -- has progressed. The Chairman sent this along, and I have great respect for Chairman Pitts. I think that he passed it along on behalf of the city of East Point. But I think that the city of East Point has a grave misunderstanding of the difference between the properties of the city of East Point and the properties of Fulton County. My job here is, I serve at the pleasure of my Commissioner. My Commissioner works for this -- the County of Fulton. That's what sticks in my craw right now. Done.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Well, East Point is in Fulton County, they can't deny that.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** As is Roswell in Fulton County. The Fulton County Board of Education got death threats because residents were hanging their hat on the fact that a City Council Member said that their child could go to a particular school, whereas the county had drawn lines and said these are the houses that will go to this school, and these are the houses that will go to that school. The City Council got involved in telling

residents that they said so, so it was okay. My friend Linda got death threats over sending their child to the new high school that they had just established. It's anecdotal, but I think that it's -- I think that my point is, the city needs to understand they don't own that building.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I don't think they believe they do. In all due respect, I don't see how a high school, you know, the drawings or the lines that are drawn for districts or high schools, have anything to do with this. This is, to me, is totally different. They are respecting and honoring someone who has been in their city, you know, for a number of years, who is held in high regard, a lot of people respect. As I stated before, it doesn't matter what they name the library, it's still going to be the East Point Library. To those residents who are there in a few years, the people who are coming up to attend the library, they won't even know who Patsy Jo Hilliard is. So, it won't even matter like a great big deal. But if that's what the city want, and the City Council voted for, I don't live in East Point, so I don't even know who Patsy Jo Hilliard is. But I do support it if the Chairman of the Commission supports it, if the people in the city support it, who am I to vote against it?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I think she deserves great honor, from what I heard from, from what she's done for her community, I -- I could not -- I would not disagree with you at all about that. My objection was simply procedure. I'm -- I'm sorry that we, we don't see eye to eye on that.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** You know, there's all kinds of problems right now with -- just because we're talking about this, local government, there's friction among counties and cities and states. This does not appear to be a conflict, unless there's -- there could be things we don't know about. But I think this letter from Chairman Pitts is acknowledgement that it's in the county's hands, and it's the county's responsibility to decide about the naming, and he's trying to push it along, and that's his job. It's our job to look at it and look at the candidate and see if she meets our standards for an example for the community. If, you know, if there's controversy, then we should look at that and go slow. But it appears that this is a reasonable request. You know, for us to say we're not going to do anything about this, then that may cause more friction between governments. I think the less friction, the better.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** I think the resolution is poorly worded, in the fact, the way they, like, say they are saying the city of Atlanta -- city of East Point is naming the library, which is the resolution is extremely poorly worded. But probably the intent is clear, they're asking the county to name the county's library for this person.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Madam Vice Chair, I do want point at, it does say, copy, cc Board of Commissioners. So, it appears that they may already be aware of it. Now, I can't -- I can't attest to it, but it does say copy, cc Board of Commissioners.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Yes, I think he's trying to push it along, so they did a sneak preview of it, so they know it's going to come later to them, after we go through

our process. But we're part of the process, and I hate to make them wait another month. Joe, I understand what you're saying. I -- the whole time she was saying -- she was reading it, the Director, I was thinking, how can that be? How are they -- how are they asserting their authority here? But it's just an excess of enthusiasm right now --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I hate that my -- oh, hate, that's terrible word. This Mayor did great work, great things for the community, deserves edifices named in her honor. I serve at the pleasure of my Commissioner, and I know that what -- what my Commissioner would say if she was sitting in this chair is exactly what I just said. That's why I'm on this board to speak for my Commissioner, and that's what I'm doing here.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** We can all understand that.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Thank you.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** The fact that we're going to reset the policy, we're going to do some changes. We've talked about this, you know, about the renaming from this point on. But at this point, I would just think about doing rooms. But as far as this is concerned, fine. I'm not going to make a change. I understand what he's coming from, and I'm talking about Alpharetta, and I can -- I know exactly where my Commissioner is what that, so.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay. So, are we ready to vote? Mr. Bolster, you -- you did second the motion.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** I second.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** All right, any further discussion? All in favor?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Aye.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Aye.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Aye.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** That's four of us anyway. All right. Motion passes. Thank you for that civilized discussion.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** So now, what do I --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Do you want to vote, no?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- is take it to the BOC.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** No. You -- it's fine. It's done exactly right. It's done exactly right.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay, so now we got one more, right?

#### **ALPHARETTA LIBRARY NAMING REQUEST - DISCUSSION**

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** We do have one more, and that is -- there's a committee that was formed, a person was suggested by some people that we name the story time, the children's story time room at the Alpharetta Library for Ben and Linda Statham, who has spent over 30 years being dedicated to the Alpharetta Friends. They've done tremendous work, as his barn is full of books that they put out on the lawn every chance they get to have a book sale. I've been a part of that when I was the manager of the old Alpharetta Library. Ben and Linda have dedicated their lives to this, and have done a tremendous job throughout the years, encouraging people to read and

just being, I mean, working tirelessly. Even when the day was over for a book sale, Ben would still be raring to go. It's just amazing, the type of person he is and his wife. So, the suggestion was made that we named the story time room at the Alpharetta Library for Ben and Linda Statham. They have since now, from the last weeks, pulled back and sort of retired from it because it's just gotten to be a bit much, particularly for Ben. But that's what the Naming Committee voted for. So now I'm bringing it to your -- to you for your decision.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I'll tell you about the couple, and I tell you about him, guy is phenomenal. How many hours he put in?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** 38,000 or something --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Jillions.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- and his wife another ten.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Jillions of hours.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Every -- he breaks all records.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Always.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** Every -- every ceremony that we had with the Friends, he was the number one person. Nobody in the entire system put as many hours as he put in. They're renaming -- naming a.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** On a room.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Story time room.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** To me, that's perfect.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I think it's fantastic.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I have no problem with something like that at all.

#### **MOTION**

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** So, moved.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I'm just --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Seconded.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** So before I hop out of here, because I can't drive at night.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Well, it is seconded.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Any further discussion?

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** I'll second.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I'm seconding.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay.

**MR. PAUL KAPLAN:** You're seconding, okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** All in favor?

**TRUSTEES:** Aye.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Unanimous?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I abstain.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** You got that?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Okay. We did the appeal hearing. I move we adjourn.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** You didn't ask for discussion.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Is there any discussion?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Well, I would like to have information about them. We don't have a bio or anything. I would like to --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The bio didn't go out?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I got the bio. That's how I knew how many hours he served.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** No, I sent out the bio.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** I'll send it.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Okay. Thank you so much.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The one that Heather gave me.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** I'll send the bio to you.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I need some information. It was something sent today?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes, I didn't personally get that. But --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Zenobia sent it.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- 38,000 said a lot to me. That's a lot of hours.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** You got it? You received?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I did, yes, but I --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** I don't know what's going on.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- this was almost a month ago.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Oh, it was for the last month's meeting email rounds --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I think it was -- it says it was for the last month's meeting, yes. Something that -- he had in 38,000 hours and his wife did maybe 10,000 hours on top of that.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Yes, we need to have more advance notice if possible. I know everything comes and everybody wants their things rushed through, but it is a lot to expect us to -- I don't remember seeing it, but it probably was emailed.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** But is it because we didn't meet in December? I don't know.

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** I think that that's why the emails got --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Crossed?

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** Yes.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** But I'm sorry, Ms. Rice.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I got a neat little tool though, when you send an email --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** You said it was an attachment --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- it shows -- it shows me -- I didn't even, I didn't do this on purpose, but it popped up that you had opened my email. I was like, great. Remember that the three things email that I'd sent you? Richard did, Richard reached out to me, so that's cool.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** So was it -- it was one abstention, okay.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I'm sorry, we're still in the meeting.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Are we still in the meeting?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Are you going to open to --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** We were having discussion.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- because she had a discussion.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** No, I just said I would like to, you know, get more information and maybe read their bio by see where they are.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** We should have had it, I'm sorry.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** That's okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Well, let's just postpone that.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** whose bio are we talking about?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Ben --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I mean, the motion passed, they voted for it. I'd just like to get more information.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Oh, the guy --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Okay. We'll send it to you.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** The Alpharetta one.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Thank you.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** The Alpharetta one.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Thank you.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Apologize --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** I'm sorry about that. I'm still --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** No, that's okay.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** -- don't know what I'm doing here.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, you weren't supposed to send that out. We were supposed to have gotten it. I don't know what happened, so. Joe said he got it. I don't know what happened. Did you receive it?

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** I'm trying to see.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Did anybody else receive it?

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** It sounds familiar. But if it was --

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** I will send it out --

**MR. DAMIAN J. DENSON:** -- last month, I don't know what's going on.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** I will send it out. No problem.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I wanted to ask -- are we finished with that one?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Somebody want to move to adjourn?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** If we're not done with the meeting, no.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I just one more question. When we have inclement weather, is it possible that we can do Zoom so we won't be so far behind all the time? I'm just --



**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, the thing about that is that the county closed, so therefore we're --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- we're not working. But, I mean, I guess we could do still do it, because I --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Well, we don't have to.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- come anyway --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I was surprised that we didn't do Zoom on the last meeting too, but yes, I guess with the facilities closed. But that would have been very convenient to keep us on track.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** In that case.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, then to have people come into work, because we'd have to --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I know --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- they can come from home --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I know that's the other thing.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** They can come in virtually.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** But still, they'd be considered at work.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** The city was closed -- or I mean, the county was closed.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Right.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** See, here I go.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Except for Central Services --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Yes, I was thinking about the time -- oh, okay. We can't just do it, everybody from home. You all can't do it from home?

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Well, we can do from home. But we would be considered working then. It doesn't matter, because I'm exempt.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Okay.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** But they have to be paid --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I see what you're saying.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- for the time --

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** There's public notice.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Public notice.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** So --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Oh, that's right.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** -- once we cancel --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh, yes.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** -- or switch to virtual --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** You'd have to have 30 days.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** -- I'm supposed to provide public notice. I do.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Okay.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** No, I have to have 30 days --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** You'd have to have 30 days to re-announce that it was a Zoom meeting instead of a --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- in person.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** You wouldn't do that if it's a sudden thing like a storm.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I understand.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I'm glad Kirkwood doing so well. I love that little library.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** So, also next month, we do need to vote on Chair and Vice Chair. So, think about if you're interested in either of those positions.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Are we voting next month, or are we nominating next month? So do we need to nominate today --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** We're voting -- we vote --

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** -- to vote next --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** -- they want us to vote today, the lawyers, but --

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Okay. Can we nominate today, and vote on the next month?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** That would defeat the purpose of giving you time to think.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** We're not supposed to have time to think on who?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I don't need to think about it.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Oh, that was -- you were being facetious?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I don't need to think about it.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** But normally, we typically make nominations --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** -- who -- we make sure someone is open to the position, and then the following meeting we vote on it, correct?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Right.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Let's get that out of the way, Nina.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Okay, go ahead.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I nominate Nina Radakovich for Chair. I would like to nominate Chip Joyner as Vice Chair, bringing you back for one more ride, buddy.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Well, I think everyone's supposed to get a turn.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I was just nominating. You said that you opened it up for nominations. I was just making my nominations.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Okay. Are there any other Vice Chair nominations? Anybody else? Ms. Rice, would you want to be Vice Chair?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Oh, I think you'll be great.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** I've been Vice Chair before.

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Again.

**MS. JENNIER CULLER:** So, one thing to take into consideration is that in June is when you all typically, apparently make your nominations and acceptance for --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh, that's true.

**MS. JENNIER CULLER:** -- Chair and Vice Chair. However, the position of Chair has been vacated because we had a switch of -- yes. So, this would only -- well --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Makes it difficult, though.

**MS. JENNIER CULLER:** -- for Chair, and potentially for Vice Chair if the Vice Chair --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Or is this the Vice Chair --

**MS. JENNIER CULLER:** -- vacated by virtue of accepting the Chair position, then it would have to be voted on in the end.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Why don't we continue through June, and then --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** -- see --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** We got to have a Chairman.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Well, she's the Vice Chairman, she would step in the place of the Chair.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Or we could have her as interim. You could be interim for the next --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** That's not allowable --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- couple of months.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- the attorney said --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** There's no such thing in bylaws.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** -- it's not allowed according to the bylaws. That's what I was told yesterday.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I just made a motion, and that's all I know.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Joe, would you like to be Vice Chair?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Are you just trying to get me back?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Beverly, are you sure --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Absolutely. Absolutely.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** -- you don't want to be Vice Chair?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Beverly, would you like to be Vice Chair?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** Nina, you have already assigned me where I need to be.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** The Foundation.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Oh.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Well, that could be good.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** They're very happy with her. I heard today.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** She's been both.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** She can be both.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Yes, Chip, if you don't want to do it, sure.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Yes, I think I want to give somebody else a chance.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** I think so too.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Your sense, you have an organized mind. I like it.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** But thank you, thank you.

**MRS. ZENOBIA CLAXTON:** So, what's the vote? Did they make a motion?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** We're just making nominations.

**MS. JENNIER CULLER:** That would be a good idea.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Am I replacing the Chair?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** No.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** No?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** No, you didn't, Paul. I bet you were watching me sort into my little holey papers here. You said, no, no, no. There you are, dear.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** We need to adjourn this meeting.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I make a motion --

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** I mean, if you don't want it --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Was anything decided?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** About the --

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Are you voting next time?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Well, those were the nominations, and then we'll vote next time.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** So, you did decide that?

**MS. BEVERLY RICE:** He said he didn't want it.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Just the nominations, today?

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Well --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** I nominated --

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** So, Dr. Rice --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- Nina, Chip nominated --

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** -- nominate Dr. Rice for Vice Chair --

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- me for Vice --

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** She's saying, yes?

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** -- because she won't do it.

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** She's open to that, yes.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** Beverly, so we vote at the next meeting.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Is that a, no?

**MS. JENNIER CULLER:** The nominations could be made at any time. They could also be made at the beginning of the next meeting.

**MRS. GAYLE H. HOLLOMAN:** Okay.

**MS. JENNIER CULLER:** If so desired, but, yes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

**MR. D. CHIP JOYNER:** Motion to adjourn.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Second.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Discussion? Motion carried.

**MR. JOE PIONTEK:** That's funny.

**VICE CHAIR NINA RADAKOVICH:** Oh, one more thing. One more thing. Paul Bolster, welcome to this group.

**TRUSTEES:** Welcome.

**MR. PAUL BOLSTER:** Glad to be here.

**(Whereupon, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees concluded at 6:15 p.m.)**

**February 2025**

**Events/Happenings**

A. Some observances this month included:

1. Low Vision Awareness Month- Adult and Children titles and resources
2. Black History Month- Adult, Teen and Children titles and authors.
3. Valentine's Day Special Reads- Fiction Romance for Adults
4. Celebrating The Great Gatsby's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication
5. Groundhog Day- Adult Fiction titles with a time warp/loop
6. Have you "Red" any of these titles? Adult Fiction titles with "Red" in the title
7. Valentine's Day- Children's Book Titles
8. National Bird Feeding Month- Children's Non-fiction books on Birding

B. Staff presented classes that included CPR, Chari Pilates, and Diabetes Prevention.

C. Patrons made use of "Ask a Librarian" and "Ask a Social Worker" for specific concerns

D. February, staff worked with 618 volunteers serving 5,108 hours across 28 branches.

Staff worked with 618 volunteers, serving 5,108 hours across 28 branches.

Partnerships included AARP Foundation, Atlanta Authors, Collective Learning Academy, Eaton Academy, Friends, Isha Foundation, Junior League of Atlanta, Kids Next Code, Lionheart School, National Charity League, Roswell Reads, the United Way and the Young Men's Service League. Program volunteers led adult literacy, art installation, author talks, book clubs, chess, crafts, crochet, dance, Dungeons and Dragons, ESL, exercise, gardening, Lego club, medical, meditation, origami, music, seed packing, sewing, Spanish, STEAM, storytimes, Tai Chi, tax preparation, teen advisory boards, tutoring, watering plants, writing, yoga and Young Artists

E. Central Library staff presented bestselling author, S.A. Cosby. He is noted for his action-packed adult crime novels, among them is his book, *All the Sinners Bleed*. More than 260 people attended his very exciting book talk. It was sponsored by the Atlanta Fulton Public Library Foundation.

# FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - TOTAL LIBRARY

AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Doc. #25-12

SERVICE TYPE	2025 BUDGET ALLOCATION	FEBRUARY EXPENDITURES	2025 YTD EXPENDITURES	2025 YTD ENCUMBRANCES	2025 YTD COMMITTED	2025 YTD % COMMITTED	BUDGET BALANCE
REG SALARY	15,884,775	1,173,936	2,318,667	-	2,318,667	15%	13,566,108
SALARIES-OVERTIME	5,000	(369)	-	-	-	0%	5,000
PART TIME SALARY	676,539	35,672	72,104	-	72,104	11%	604,435
BENEFITS	8,124,289	584,319	1,170,049	-	1,170,049	14%	6,954,240
BOOKS	3,245,381	-	12,671	942,699	955,370	29%	2,290,011
OFFICE EQUIP. REPAIR	61,057	17,903	17,903	33,964	51,867	85%	9,190
EQUIPMENT	145,561	1,047	9,148	70,673	79,821	55%	65,740
OFFICE FURNITURE	5,538	-	1,727	-	1,727	31%	3,811
PROFESSIONAL SERV	26,800	600	600	-	600	2%	26,200
COPIER MACHINE	176,000	42,314	42,314	-	42,314	24%	133,686
SUPPLIES	166,847	3,562	41,470	1,305	42,775	26%	124,072
COMPUTER HARDWARE	639,600	-	-	-	-	0%	639,600
RENT	286,750	-	-	279,913	279,913	98%	6,837
OTHER SERVICES	488,876	23,914	57,748	4,884	62,632	13%	426,244
TRAVEL/CONFERENCE	11,500	-	-	-	-	0%	11,500
HOPITALITY	44,643	-	6,793	-	6,793	15%	37,850
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	30,511	2,048	2,048	-	2,048	7%	28,463
GENERAL INSURANCE	622,596	51,883	103,766	-	103,766	17%	518,830
ARTS-CFS	750	-	-	-	-	0%	750
CONTINGENCY	34	-	-	-	-	0%	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,643,047</b>	<b>1,936,831</b>	<b>3,857,009</b>	<b>1,333,438</b>	<b>5,190,446</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>25,452,601</b>

**FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT -BY ORG TYPE**

AS OF FEBRUARY 28,2025

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	2025 BUDGET	FEBRUARY	2025 YTD	2025 YTD	2025 YTD	2025%	BUDGET
TYPE	TYPE	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	ENCUMBRANCES	COMMITTED	COMMITTED	BALANCE
PUBLIC SERVICE	REG SALARY	12,066,585	868,292	1,710,097	-	1,710,097	14%	10,356,488
	SALARIES-OVERTIME	5,000	(369)	-	-	-	0%	5,000
	PART TIME SALARY	676,539	35,672	72,104	-	72,104	11%	604,435
	BENEFITS	6,193,664	440,065	880,242	-	880,242	14%	5,313,422
	BOOKS	2,418,853	-	12,671	942,699	955,370	39%	1,463,483
	OFFICE EQUIP. REPAIR	61,057	17,903	17,903	33,964	51,867	85%	9,190
	EQUIPMENT	96,390	-	4,390	70,673	75,063	78%	21,327
	OFFICE FURNITURE	3,106	-	1,295	-	1,295	42%	1,811
	PROFESSIONAL SERV	20,000	600	600	-	600	3%	19,400
	COPIER MACHINE	175,000	42,314	42,314	-	42,314	24%	132,686
	SUPPLIES	58,412	-	12,523	-	12,523	21%	45,889
	RENT	286,750	-	-	279,913	279,913	98%	6,837
	OTHER SERVICES	216,641	16,694	30,882	-	30,882	14%	185,759
	HOSPITALITY EXPENSE	25,252	-	1,422	-	1,422	6%	23,830
	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	2,000	-	-	-	-	0%	2,000
	GENERAL INSURANCE	404,826	33,736	67,471	-	67,471	17%	337,355
	ARTS-CFS	750	-	-	-	-	0%	750
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,710,825</b>	<b>1,454,907</b>	<b>2,853,915</b>	<b>1,327,248</b>	<b>4,181,163</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18,529,662</b>



**FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT -BY ORG TYPE**

AS OF FEBRUARY 28,2025

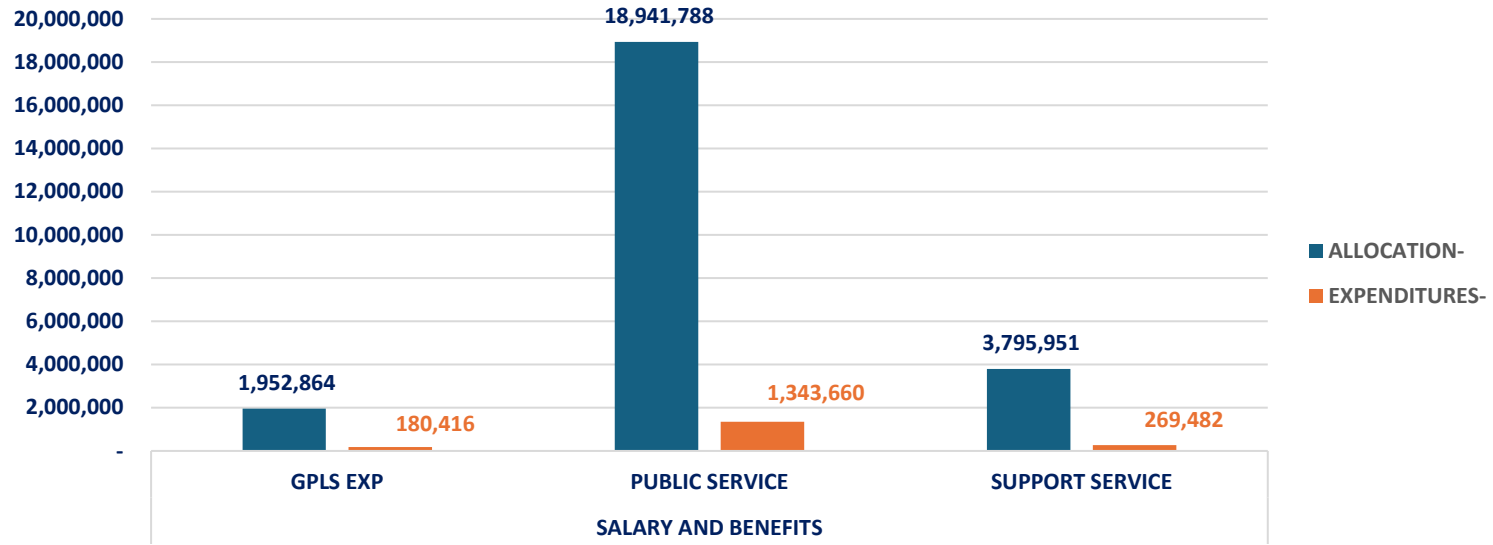
ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	2025 BUDGET	FEBRUARY	2025 YTD	2025 YTD	2025 YTD	2025%	BUDGET
TYPE	TYPE	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	ENCUMBRANCES	COMMITTED	COMMITTED	BALANCE
SUPPORT SERVICE	REG SALARY	2,503,605	179,510	361,593	-	361,593	14%	2,142,012
	BENEFITS	1,292,346	89,973	182,285	-	182,285	14%	1,110,061
	EQUIPMENT	49,171	1,047	4,758	-	4,758	10%	44,413
	OFFICE FURNITURE	2,432	-	432	-	432	18%	2,000
	PROFESSIONAL SERV	6,800	-	-	-	-	0%	6,800
	COPIER MACHINE	1,000	-	-	-	-	0%	1,000
	SUPPLIES	108,435	3,562	28,947	1,305	30,252	28%	78,183
	COMPUTER HARDWARE	639,600	-	-	-	-	0%	639,600
	OTHER SERVICES	272,235	7,221	26,866	4,884	31,750	12%	240,485
	TRAVEL/CONFERENCE	11,500	-	-	-	-	0%	11,500
	HOPITALITY	19,391	-	5,371	-	5,371	28%	14,020
	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	28,511	2,048	2,048	-	2,048	7%	26,463
	GENERAL INSURANCE	217,770	18,148	36,295	-	36,295	17%	181,475
	CONTINGENCY	34	-	-	-	-	0%	34
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,152,830</b>	<b>301,508</b>	<b>648,596</b>	<b>6,189</b>	<b>654,785</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>4,498,045</b>

**FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT -BY ORG TYPE**

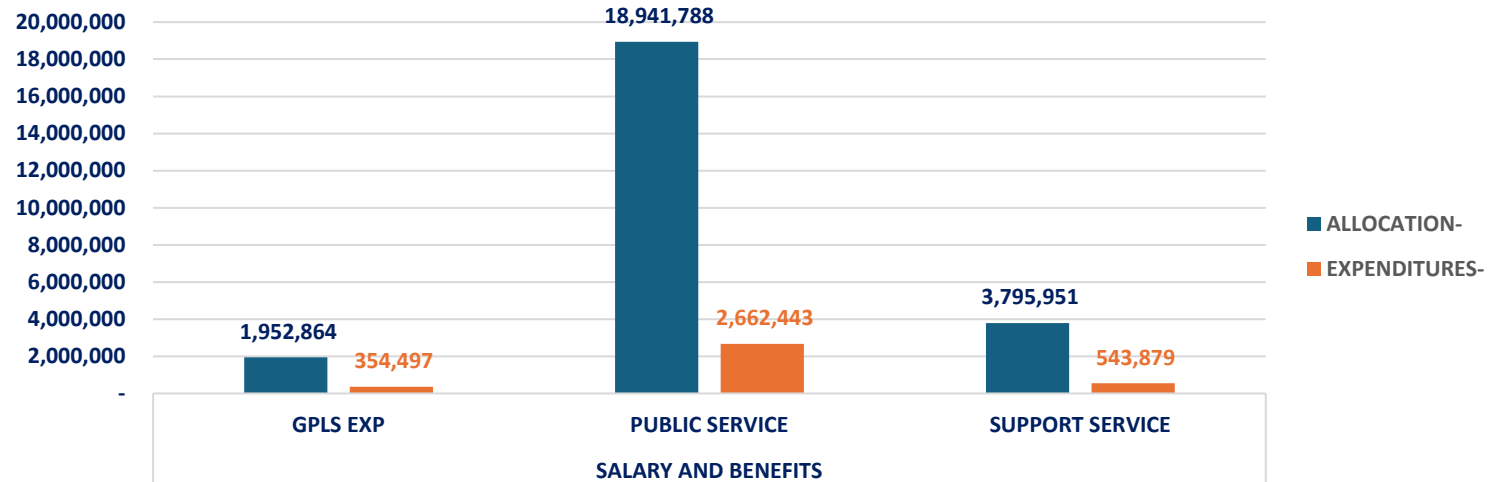
AS OF FEBRUARY 28,2025

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE	2025 BUDGET	FEBRUARY	2025 YTD	2025 YTD	2025 YTD	2025%	BUDGET
TYPE	TYPE	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	ENCUMBRANCES	COMMITTED	COMMITTED	BALANCE
GPLS EXPENDITURES	REG SALARY	1,314,585	126,135	246,976	-	246,976	19%	1,067,609
	BENEFITS	638,279	54,281	107,521	-	107,521	17%	530,758
6585	BOOKS	826,528	-	-	-	-	0%	826,528
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,779,392</b>	<b>180,416</b>	<b>354,497</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>354,497</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>2,424,895</b>

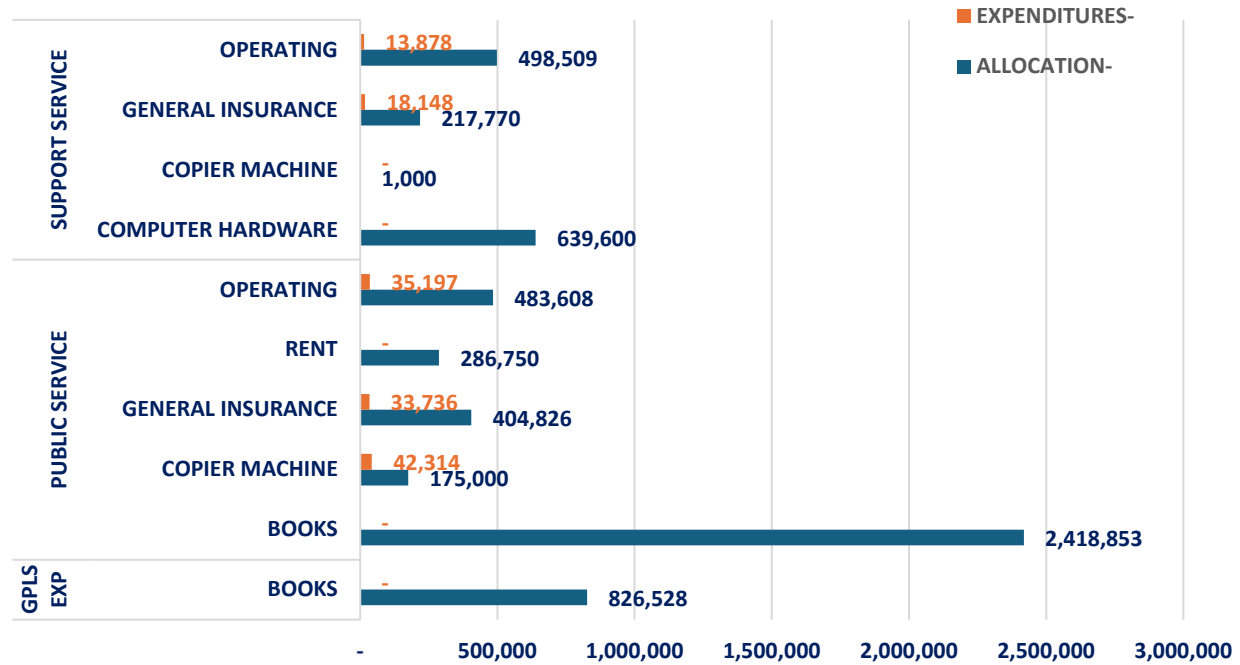
**February Salary and Benefits by Program**



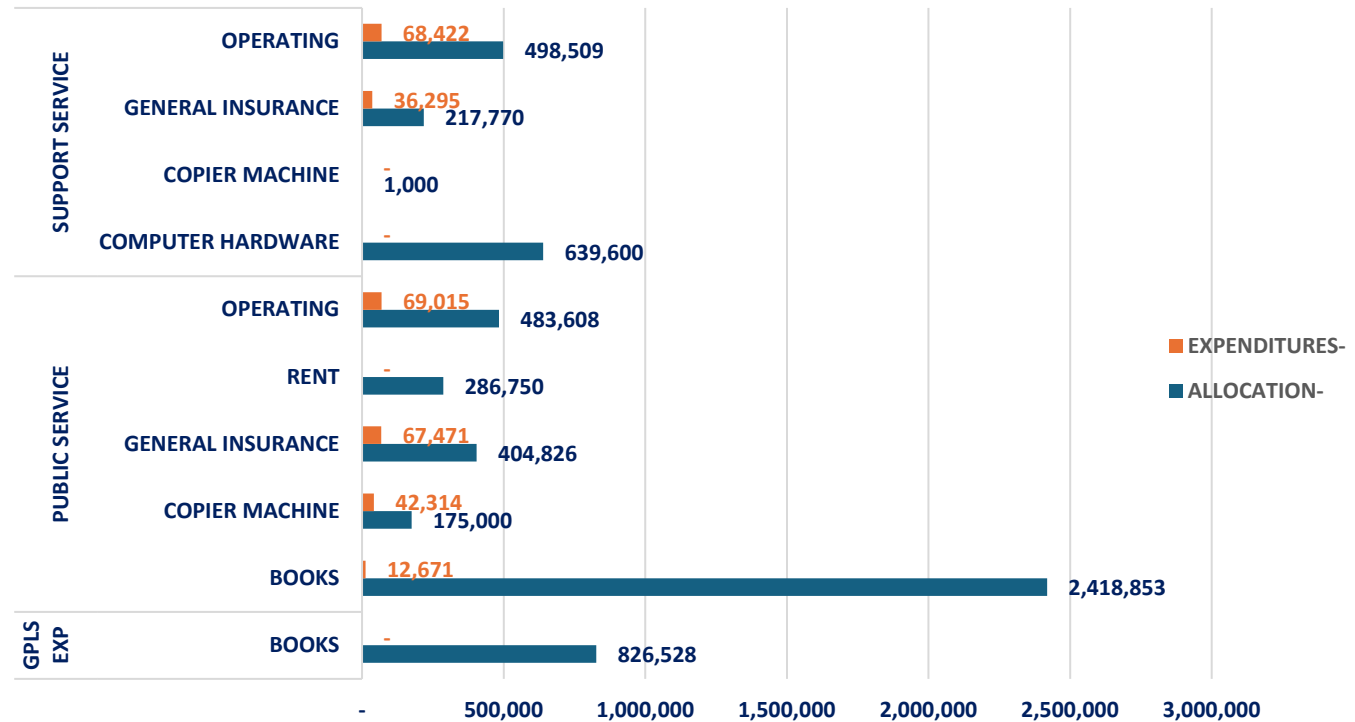
**Year-To-Date Salary and Benefits by Program**



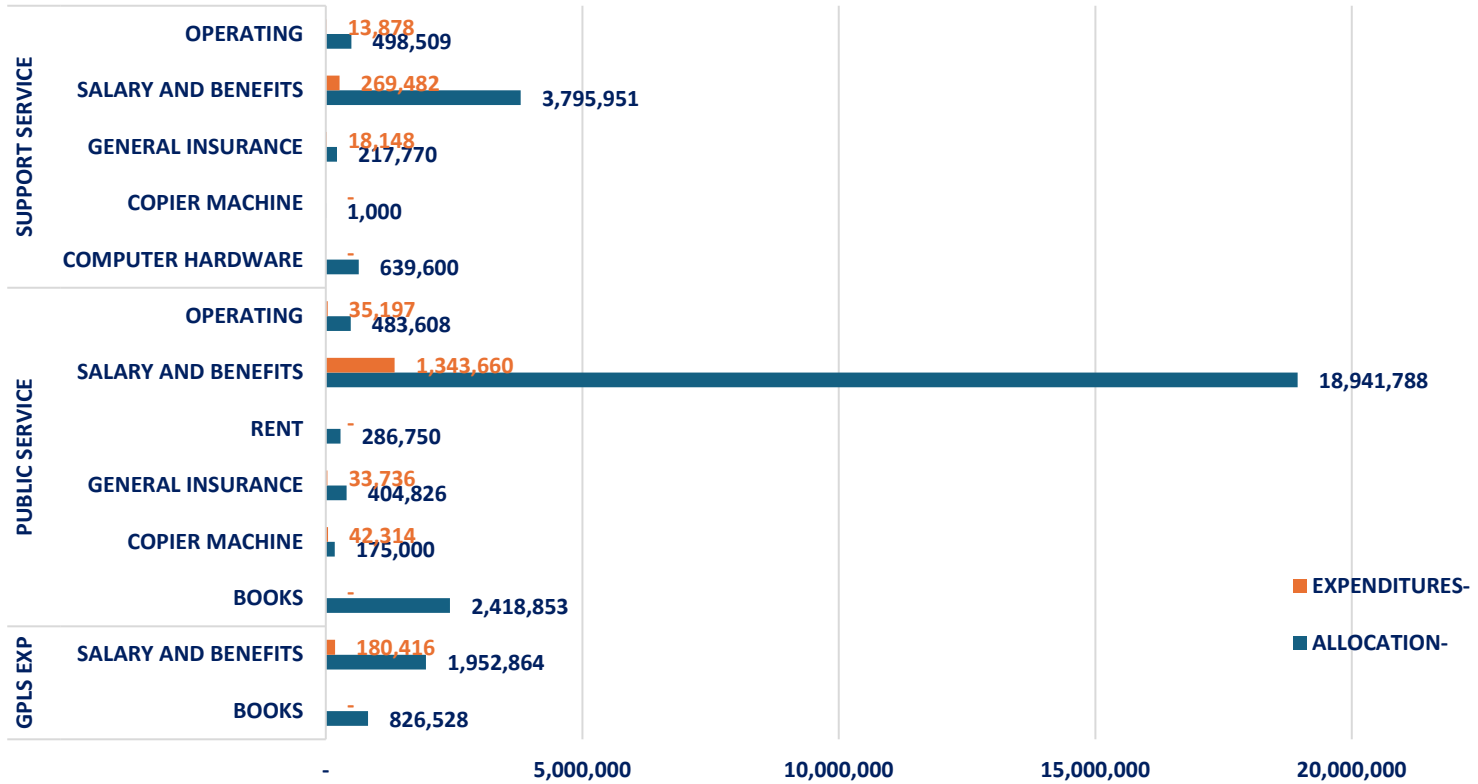
## February Operating Expenses by Program



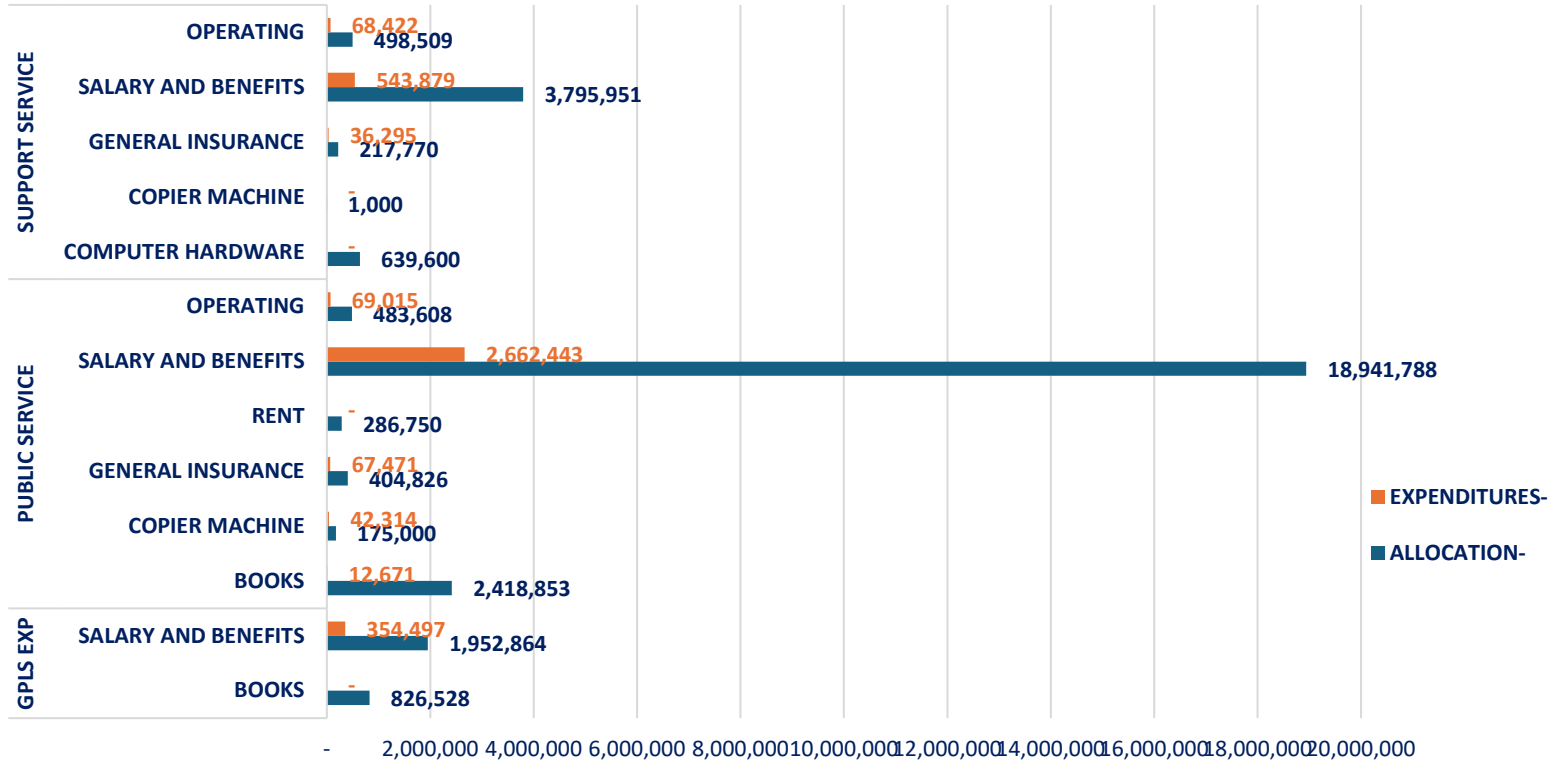
## Year-To-Date Operating Expenses by Program



## Feburary Total Expenses by Program



## Grand Total Expenses by Program



# Monthly Usage Summary - February 2025

Doc. #25-13

Activity and Description	2025	YTD	2024	YTD	YTD % +/-
Circulation					
Total number of items checked out of the library	169146	349808	178310	376890	-7%
Holds					
Number of requests by patrons	41,601	91651	43087	97357	-6%
Visits					
Number of people entering a library for any reason	167382	318241	144565	305601	4%
Computer/Internet Usage					
Number of computer sessions (Internet access and office software)	72618	136832	13963	80041	71%
Number of hours of computer use	29,427	55000	5282	32169	71%
Web Page Visits					
Number of times people have visited the library's websites	1196211	2564923	1109060	2521801	2%
Web Visitors					
Number of people who visited the library's websites	192,632	405206	179409	402204	1%
Virtual Circulation					
Number of materials downloaded or streamed	171105	361408	160496	332632	9%
Virtual Circulation Users					
Number of people who downloaded or streamed	37532	76885	36586	72487	6%
Children's programs					
Library sponsored programs offered for children (birth - 12)	248	456	324	576	-21%
Number of people attending programs	6329	11262	7031	13019	-13%
Teen Programs					
Library sponsored programs offered for teens (13 - 17)	62	103	82	168	-39%
Number of people attending programs	665	1044	882	1978	-47%
Adult Programs					
Library sponsored programs offered for adults (18 + )	544	843	306	545	55%
Number of people attending programs	9570	12569	3277	6384	97%
Programs - Total					
Library sponsored programs offered (includes all-ages not counted)	1005	1655	915	1628	2%
Number of people attending programs	21260	32385	15975	33125	-2%
Meeting Rooms					
Non-library sponsored meetings or activities scheduled	513	816	292	598	36%
Number of people attending meetings or activities	6425	11572	4042	8847	31%



## February 2025 Executive Write Up

The technical issues with the gate PCs have been resolved. East Atlanta, Palmetto, and Roswell have a low number of recorded visits because the resolution came at the end of the month, so the numbers only reflect a portion of the visits.

Cleveland Avenue, Peachtree and Dogwood were closed to the public during the February reporting period.

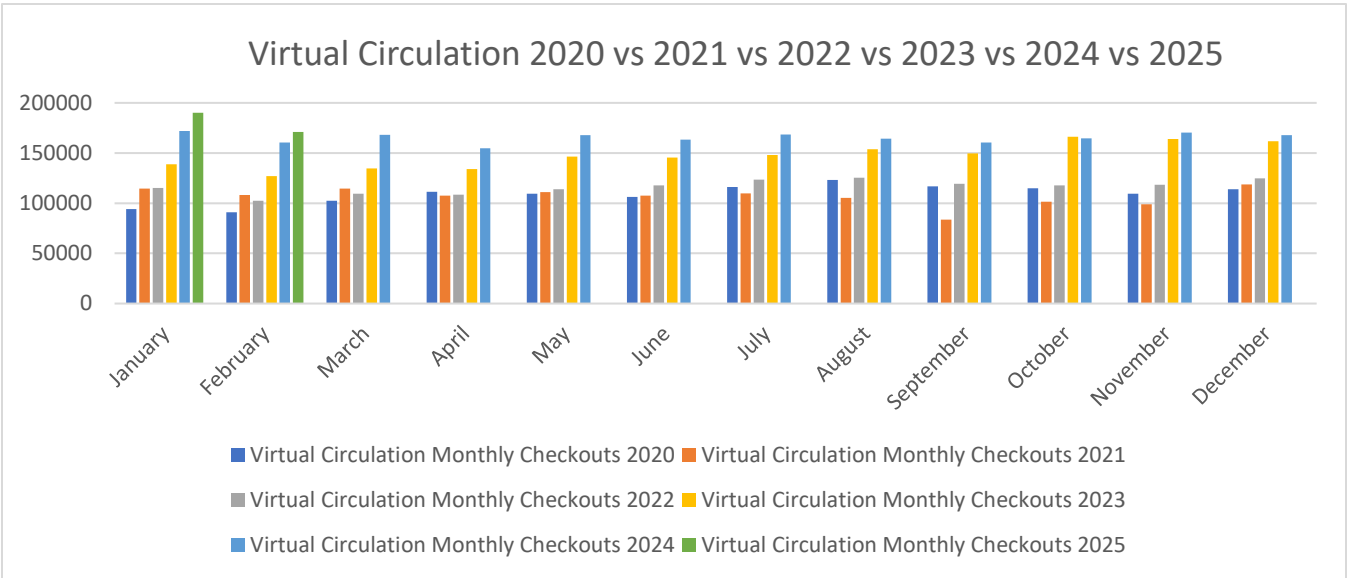
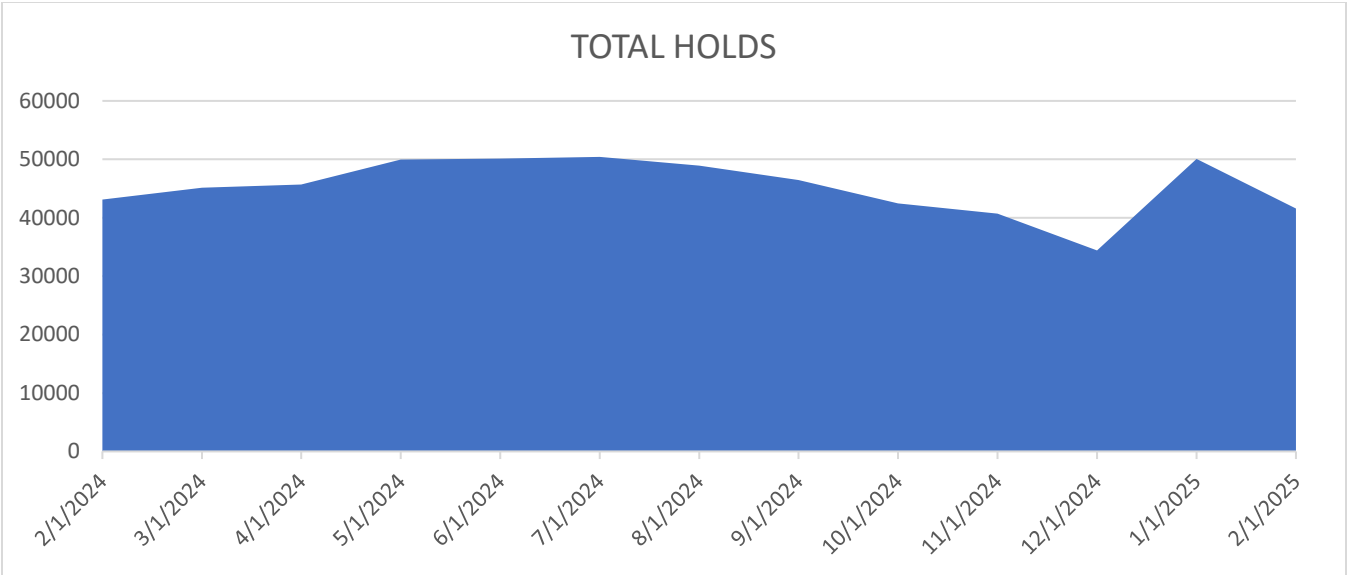
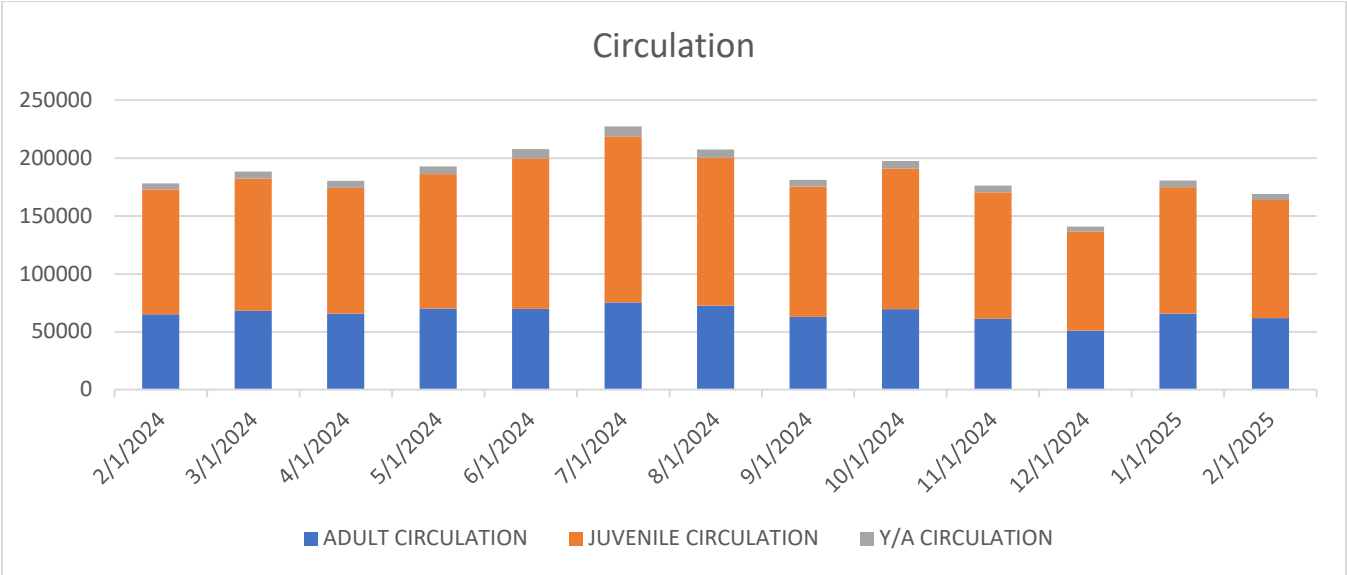
## Fulton County Library System Circulation Stats - February 2025

AGENCY NAME	ADULT	JUVENILE	Y/A	OTHER	Month- 2025 TOTAL	Month- 2024 TOTAL	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PERCENT CHANGE	YTD 2025 CIRC	YTD 2024 CIRC	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PERCENT CHANGE
ADAMS PARK	357	495	30	0	882	1085	-203	-18.71%	1,835	2,101	-266	-12.66%
ADAMSVILLE/COLLIER HEIGHTS	546	436	92	0	1074	1500	-426	-28.40%	2,087	2,975	-888	-29.85%
ALPHARETTA	5023	10604	508	16	16151	17407	-1256	-7.22%	34,099	37,390	-3,291	-8.80%
BUCKHEAD	4367	5732	181	6	10286	9609	677	7.05%	21,019	20,027	992	4.95%
CLEVELAND AVE	18	3	0	0	21	32	-11	-34.38%	27	57	-30	-52.63%
COLLEGE PARK	627	923	95	2	1647	1845	-198	-10.73%	3,504	3,987	-483	-12.11%
DOGWOOD	148	100	14	0	262	1134	-872	-76.90%	815	2,095	-1,280	-61.10%
EAST ATLANTA	1973	3520	131	1	5625	5603	22	0.39%	11,657	12,234	-577	-4.72%
EAST POINT	439	325	29	0	793	161	632	392.55%	973	366	607	165.85%
EAST ROSWELL	3996	6358	220	8	10582	11275	-693	-6.15%	22,415	24,205	-1,790	-7.40%
EVELYN G. LOWERY @ CASCADE	923	1188	107	0	2218	1927	291	15.10%	4,476	3,956	520	13.14%
FAIRBURN	641	888	56	0	1585	1485	100	6.73%	3,369	3,189	180	5.64%
GLADYS S. DENNARD @ SOUTH FULTON	1106	1406	108	0	2620	2730	-110	-4.03%	5,208	5,742	-534	-9.30%
HAPEVILLE	538	586	57	0	1181	1876	-695	-37.05%	2,832	3,766	-934	-24.80%
JOAN P. GARNER @ PONCE DE LEON	4795	5342	316	8	10461	9804	657	6.70%	21,691	20,951	740	3.53%
KIRKWOOD	1863	3560	123	4	5550	5180	370	7.14%	11,785	10,814	971	8.98%
LOUISE WATLEY @ SOUTHEAST ATLANTA	726	1398	126	1	2251	2027	224	11.05%	4,326	4,178	148	3.54%
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR	386	389	5	1	781	397	384	96.73%	1,443	1,283	160	12.47%
MECHANICSVILLE	181	180	40	1	402	702	-300	-42.74%	954	1,394	-440	-31.56%
METROPOLITAN	1278	2996	104	3	4381	4554	-173	-3.80%	9,244	10,139	-895	-8.83%
MILTON	3949	8482	415	12	12858	14169	-1311	-9.25%	26,729	30,440	-3,711	-12.19%
NORTHEAST/SPRUILL OAKS	2538	6500	348	5	9391	9797	-406	-4.14%	19,025	20,355	-1,330	-6.53%
NORTHSIDE	3425	5671	317	3	9416	9468	-52	-0.55%	19,206	20,013	-807	-4.03%
NORTHWEST @ SCOTTS CROSSING	1235	2008	112	0	3355	3712	-357	-9.62%	6,718	7,693	-975	-12.67%
OCEE	4330	11052	651	12	16045	16311	-266	-1.63%	33,670	34,034	-364	-1.07%
PALMETTO	383	719	25	0	1127	1239	-112	-9.04%	2,378	2,646	-268	-10.13%
PEACHTREE	389	142	10	0	541	4087	-3546	-86.76%	1,153	8,723	-7,570	-86.78%
ROSWELL	5113	7624	309	14	13060	13106	-46	-0.35%	27,117	28,061	-944	-3.36%
SANDY SPRINGS	5979	8809	420	5	15213	17351	-2138	-12.32%	31,607	36,674	-5,067	-13.82%
WASHINGTON PARK	378	644	32	1	1055	1175	-120	-10.21%	2,197	2,490	-293	-11.77%
WEST END	571	874	57	0	1502	1431	71	4.96%	2,992	2,826	166	5.87%
WOLFCREEK	1028	2229	209	0	3466	3173	293	9.23%	6,877	6,245	632	10.12%
<b>BRANCHES TOTAL</b>	<b>59249</b>	<b>101183</b>	<b>5247</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>165782</b>	<b>175352</b>	<b>-9570</b>	<b>-5.46%</b>	<b>343,428</b>	<b>371,049</b>	<b>-27,621</b>	<b>-7.44%</b>
CENTRAL	2322	791	175	6	3294	2872	422	14.69%	6,245	5,704	541	9.48%
OUTREACH SERVICES	2	0	0	0	2	3	-1	-0.33333333	5	6	-1	-16.67%
AUBURN AVENUE RESEARCH	68	0	0	0	68	83	-15	-18.07%	130	131	-1	-0.76%
<b>SYSTEM TOTAL</b>	<b>61641</b>	<b>101974</b>	<b>5422</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>169146</b>	<b>178310</b>	<b>-9164</b>	<b>-5.14%</b>	<b>349,808</b>	<b>376,890</b>	<b>-27,082</b>	<b>-7.19%</b>

## FULTON COUNTY SYSTEM STATS AT A GLANCE - February 2025

AGENCY NAME	TOTAL CIRCULATION	TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	COMPUTER USAGE	LIBRARY VISITS	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	NUMBER OF MEETINGS	MEETING ATTENDANCE	VOTER REGISTRATIONS
ADAMS PARK	882	107	2608	4,293	4	6	5	57	0
ADAMSVILLE/COLLIER HEIGHTS	1074	132	3453	4,539	38	171	4	36	1
ALPHARETTA	16,151	600	1448	4,980	38	878	24	612	0
BUCKHEAD	10,286	771	2509	5,560	40	1143	36	851	0
CLEVELAND AVE	21	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COLLEGE PARK	1,647	128	3170	4,876	13	91	4	52	0
DOGWOOD	262	50	603	135	7	23	3	22	0
EAST ATLANTA	5,625	311	1726	94	9	117	11	173	0
EAST POINT	793	258	1059	4106	23	237	14	78	0
EAST ROSWELL	10,582	273	612	5,403	37	555	6	68	0
EVELYN G. LOWERY @ CASCADE	2,218	204	3050	4,096	33	552	110	300	0
FAIRBURN	1,585	191	890	2046	19	514	17	114	6
GLADYS S. DENNARD @ SOUTH FULTON	2,620	216	2878	4,946	54	623	3	50	0
HAPEVILLE	1,181	118	1052	3293	23	406	25	389	0
JOAN P. LOWERY @ PONCE DE LEON	10,461	545	6342	6,604	13	208	2	15	0
KIRKWOOD	5,550	193	674	4,771	19	605	5	41	0
LOUISE WATLEY @ SOUTHEAST ATLANTA	2,251	90	2233	3907	28	161	20	160	0
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR	781	103	534	1481	17	34	17	33	0
MECHANICSVILLE	402	50	2181	3,336	3	12	6	186	1
METROPOLITAN	4,381	195	3942	6,650	27	860	55	536	0
MILTON	12,858	401	444	6,422	79	1298	17	259	1
NORTHEAST/SPRUILL OAKS	9,391	256	357	4,922	51	960	10	148	2
NORTHSIDE	9,416	284	520	5,804	20	1056	11	141	0
NORTHWEST @ SCOTTS CROSSING	3,355	166	2123	4,723	26	317	8	121	0
OCEE	16,045	432	511	10,042	34	820	8	44	0
PALMETTO	1,127	109	440	218	23	370	10	247	0
PEACHTREE	541	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROSWELL	13,060	487	1521	1881	58	1362	14	238	0
SANDY SPRINGS	15,213	634	2927	16,385	52	2354	2	42	0
WASHINGTON PARK	1055	56	2244	4,378	13	91	6	96	1
WEST END	1,502	91	1932	4,778	22	125	7	120	0
WOLFCREEK	3,466	200	1077	4,236	28	330	22	671	0
<b>BRANCHES TOTAL</b>	<b>165,782</b>	<b>7,829</b>	<b>55,060</b>	<b>138,905</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>16,279</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>12</b>
CENTRAL	3,294	592	17492	27,305	127	4215	31	525	8
VIRTUAL PROGRAMS					3	181			
OUTREACH VIRTUAL PROGRAMS	2	8	0	0	5	111	0	0	0
AUBURN AVENUE RESEARCH	68	15	66	1172	19	474	0	0	0
<b>SYSTEM TOTAL</b>	<b>169,146</b>	<b>8,444</b>	<b>72,618</b>	<b>167,382</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>21,260</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>6,425</b>	<b>20</b>

# February 2025 Executive Summary – Charts



January 2022 virtual circulation and virtual circulation user's numbers were revised upward due to Hoopla.

