



Commissioner Emma S. Darnell's

BOARD REPORT

**A Review of major action by the
Fulton County Board of Commissioners
of Special Interest to District 5 Residents
Meeting of March 4, 2009**

Grady Contract Clarified

The Board of Commissioners has clarified the meaning of its contract with Grady Hospital to provide “quality healthcare services to the indigent sick of Fulton County.”

Fulton County grants to Grady Hospital shall be for services to persons who are residents of Fulton County and whose incomes do not exceed 250% of the federal poverty line. In prior years, Fulton County and DeKalb County have been billed for the total operating deficit of the Hospital including the cost of providing services to non-residents of Fulton County.

The Board also clarified the meaning of “quality” care to include but not be limited to compliance with the Joint Commission 2009 National Patient Safety Goals. “We do not accept one standard of care for Grady and another standard at St. Joseph,” Commissioner Darnell stated.

In a (recent) rating of 5,000 hospitals by a nationally-recognized rating organization, Grady was rated “worse” in nine out of thirteen “patient safety indicators” including “prevention of death in procedures where mortality is usually very low.” For more information, visit www.healthgrades.com and search for Grady Hospital.

Voting YES: Darnell, Edwards, Pitts, Boxill, Riley

Voting NO: Eaves, Lowe

Senior Home Repair Amendment Approved

The Board of Commissioners has approved the amendment of a contract with the Fulton County Senior Collaborative in the amount of \$409,890.59 to provide Home Repair services for 200 (additional) Fulton County seniors throughout Fulton County.

Identified as a Board priority during the adoption of the FY '09 Budget, the project is a major component of Fulton County's “Aging-In-Place” Initiative sponsored jointly by the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Voting YES: Darnell, Edwards, Pitts, Boxill, Lowe, Eaves

Not Voting: Riley

For more news, see page 2 (over)

Fulton County Programs Enhanced by Federal “Stimulus” Legislation

In a report to the Board of Commissioners, Patton Boggs LLP, the County’s Washington lobbyist, identified several major County programs which are eligible for direct funding to Fulton County and of special interest to residents of District 5 who live in the City of Atlanta and Southwest Fulton County. The programs include the Homeless Aid/Emergency Shelter Grant Program, foreclosure prevention and re-housing activities only \$866,069 (versus \$120,000 annually) and Justice Assistance Grants: Public Safety prevention, intervention and suppression \$850,000 plus a \$6.9 million split with the City of Atlanta.

Fulton County will also receive its proportionate share of funds to state and regional partners for “local coordination” including:

- The Public Housing Capital Fund—Fulton County \$1,118,146
- Community Service Block Grant Program
- Weatherization Assistance (for low-income families)
- Senior Nutrition Programs
- The Highway Infrastructure Program: Georgia \$931.6 million Atlanta Regional Commission \$119.5 million (guaranteed population based)

Vendor Selection Committee Membership Expanded: Duties of Technical Advisor Clarified

The Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution co-sponsored by Commissioners Riley and Darnell to strengthen the County’s (centralized) purchasing policies and procedures as follows:

Increase the number of committee members from three to five members as follows:

- (1) two employees of the purchasing department (2) two employees of the user department appointed by the director and (3) one employee of the finance department, this member shall be a non-voting member in procurements where the finance department is the user department.

The “Technical Advisor” means a person or entity possessing relevant technical skills, knowledge and experience related to the evaluation factors that are not otherwise available within Fulton County government. Technical Advisor shall not be county employees, shall have no vote on the selection committee’s recommendation and shall not assign any numerical value to offers.

Voting YES: Darnell, Edwards, Pitts, Boxill, Riley, Eaves
Not Voting: Lowe

For more information or to comment on this Board Report, contact Commissioner Darnell by e-mail at emma.darnell@fultoncountyga.gov, by phone at (404) 612-8222 or by mail at 141 Pryor St. Suite 10023 Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

C o n t a c t i n g C o m m i s s i o n e r E m m a I . D a r n e l l

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