

**MINUTES OF LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
COBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 1, 2022**

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners attended a Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. at the Jim R. Miller Park Event Center, 2245 Callaway Road, Marietta, Georgia, for the purpose of participating in a discussion with the Cobb Delegation and Elected Officials.

Present and comprising a quorum of the Board of Commissioners were:

Chairwoman Lisa Cupid
Commissioner Keli Gambrell
Commissioner Jerica Richardson
Commissioner JoAnn Birrell
Commissioner Monique Sheffield

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Lisa Cupid called the meeting to order at 7:50 a.m.

2. 2023 BOC MAJOR POLICY AREAS

Chairwoman Cupid presented the 2023 Cobb Principles and Major Policy Focus Areas. A copy of the 2023 Legislative Agenda is attached and made a part of these minutes.

3. ELECTED OFFICIALS / PUBLIC HEALTH

Sheriff Owens presented information regarding evictions, mental health, and guns.

Judge Wolk, Chief Judge Probate Court, presented information regarding filing fee structure, e-filing, and adult guardianship.

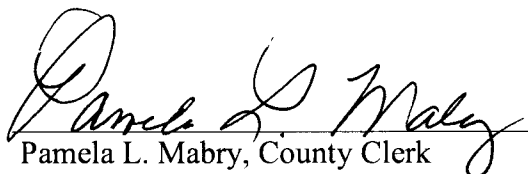
Judge Murphy, Chief Magistrate, presented information regarding small claims court.

Jasmine McCloud, Cobb & Douglas Public Health, presented information regarding maternal/infant mortality, the opioid crisis, and HIV.

4. ADJOURNMENT

No official action was taken by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.


Pamela L. Mabry, County Clerk

2023 Legislative Agenda

formula for the rollback rate to allow counties to adjust for inflation.

Speed Calming – Cobb County supports amending existing state law to allow local governments to place speed detection/citation issuing devices outside of school zones.

MENTAL HEALTH & COURTS

Mental Health Reform - While the passage of House Bill 1013 and Senate Bill 403 were a tremendous success, comprehensive mental health reform is going to be a multi-year effort. This policy statement aims at building on the effort of the mental health legislation that was passed during the 2022 legislative session. Counties are often the front line in the effort to assist those with mental illness and substance abuse challenges. Adequate funding is needed for counties to properly address the magnitude of this challenge. Cobb County encourages the Governor and General Assembly to:

- Increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for behavioral health provider services in order to increase the workforce and make Georgia competitive in the marketplace.
- Expand the availability of Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCC) and Crisis Stabilization Units across the state within a reasonable distance in order to divert individuals from local jails.
- Appropriate funds for the establishment of co-responder programs across the state.
- Address the challenge of mental health and substance abuse patient transport in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
- Authorize state agencies to work more closely with local officials to identify appropriate placements of re-entry housing for substance abuse and mental health patients.

Juvenile Court – Cobb County urges the General Assembly to create a study committee to develop recommendations regarding the funding and staffing of juvenile courts. With Juvenile Justice Reform came many additional administrative duties and timelines, the state provides no funding for juvenile court staff, but created mandates to the counties without providing resources. Currently juvenile court judgeships are funded through a

grant to counties program that is based on the number of superior court judges within a judicial circuit; there is no known correlation between the number of superior court judges and the caseload or judgeship needs in juvenile courts. We strongly urge the study of juvenile court judgeship needs, caseload recommendations, minimum staffing requirements and state funding where appropriate.

PTSD Insurance for First Responders – Cobb County encourages the General Assembly to authorize and provide funding assistance for the establishment of a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) insurance program for first responders. Eligible first responders are employees who work as a peace officer, correctional officer, emergency health worker, firefighter, highway emergency response operator, jail officer, juvenile correctional officer, probation officer, emergency services dispatcher, or coroner. This insurance program is aimed at offsetting the cost of treatment for any first responder that is clinically diagnosed with PTSD from exposure to a traumatic event during the normal course of occupational duties.

Continued Support for Dobbins Air Reserve Base - Cobb County encourages the Governor, state leaders, and the Georgia Joint Defense Commission to continue providing necessary support for Dobbins Air Force Base. Take steps now to prepare for any potential threats and place the County in a position to be the benefactor of increased missions.

State Funding – Cobb County requests a state budget allocation of \$2.5 million for Gritters Library Reconstruction and \$1 million for the Cobb Veterans Memorial.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LISA N. CUPID, CHAIRWOMAN

KELI GAMBRILL, DISTRICT 1

JERICA RICHARDSON, DISTRICT 2

JOANN K. BIRRELL, DISTRICT 3

MONIQUE SHEFFIELD, DISTRICT 4

DR. JACKIE MCMORRIS, COUNTY MANAGER

2023 Legislative Agenda

Cobb County's Mission Statement: *To make Cobb County the best place to live and work through an efficient, effective, and responsive government that delivers quality services. To further this mission, we propose the following Legislative Agenda for the 2023 Session.*

TRANSPORTATION

Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG)

Program – Cobb County opposes any changes to the LMIG program that reduce current county funds or reduce counties' proportionate share of such grants. With the suspension of the state motor fuel excise tax, the County requests that the Governor and the Georgia General Assembly preserve at a minimum the adopted FY 2023 budget levels for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) LMIG appropriations. In addition, the County requests that the FY 2024 budget appropriate funding that would have been collected had there not been a suspension of collection for the state motor fuel excise tax.

Major Mobility Investment Program - Cobb County supports the state's Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP), the 10-year, \$10B effort to build Managed Lanes along I-75/I-285/400/I-85 as one of the ways to address the region's mobility needs and encourage the incorporation of transit elements such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as part of these projects.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Creation of New Cities - The creation of new cities duplicates local administrative structures and can disrupt long term planning, create service delivery challenges and inefficiencies, and impose greater costs on taxpayers both within and outside the new city. To that end, any legislation to create new cities should only be introduced following a signed petition of at least 10 percent of the registered voters in the proposed city's jurisdiction. It should be introduced in the first year of the General Assembly's biennial session and voted upon in the second year, with no changes in boundaries of the proposed municipality in the second year. Cobb County urges the General Assembly to place several additional measures in the statute to provide more certainty, transparency and equity in the process of creating new cities in Georgia.

Home Rule: Design Standards, Short-Term Rentals, and Build-to-Rent Subdivisions

- In recent years, numerous bills have been introduced which would substantially prohibit or preempt Georgia's cities and counties from responding to their constituents' demands through establishing appropriate local oversight of residential design standards, short-term rentals and build-to-rent subdivisions within their jurisdictions. Cobb County opposes these state preemption efforts believing that county elected officials, working with and accountable to their community, are in the best position to determine the oversight of these practices at the local level. One size certainly doesn't fit all of Georgia's counties in these areas, and this legislation sets a very dangerous precedent of state usurpation of Constitutional home rule authority.

Evictions Process - Cobb County supports revisions to the evictions process that equally preserves landlord and tenant rights. Legislation should be passed to address an evicted tenant's possessions being placed on the street.

Landlords/Inspections - Cobb County supports legislation that requires rental properties be inspected periodically to ensure tenant safety.

Assume Full Financial Responsibility for State Prisoners – Cobb County urges the Governor and the Legislature to take full financial responsibility for state prisoners who are housed in local jails and correctional institutions by increasing the per diem reimbursement rate for housing.

Public Notification of Tax Increase - With property taxes being the largest revenue source for counties and inflation currently running much higher than normal, it is nearly impossible for counties to keep up with inflation in their expenses without receiving some adjustment to their largest revenue source. Counties must spend more money now to provide the same level of services due to inflation. Cobb County urges the General Assembly to adjust the