



Durham County

200 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 560-0025

Meeting Agenda Board of County Commissioners

Monday, June 8, 2026

5:30 PM

Commissioners' Chambers

Regular Session

Closed Session (To be held at: 5:30 pm)

[26-0328](#)

Closed Session

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to adjourn into Closed Session to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Strategic Goal: High Performing Organization

Resource Persons: Larissa S. Williamson, County Attorney

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board adjourn into Closed Session and provide direction to staff.

"Public Charge"

The Board of Commissioners asks its members and residents to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous manner, both with the Board and fellow residents. At any time, should any member of the Board or any resident fail to observe this public charge, the Chair will ask the offending person to leave the meeting until that individual regains personal control. Should decorum fail to be restored, the Chair will recess the meeting until such time that a genuine commitment to the public charge is observed.

"Land Acknowledgment"

As we convene for the Durham County Commissioners meeting, it's crucial to recognize the painful truth of history. We stand on the stolen ancestral lands of the Catawba, Eno, Occaneechi, Shakori, and Tuscarora peoples, whose deep connection to this land predates our arrival. We acknowledge with humility the unjust displacement and violence that occurred, leading to the dispossession of indigenous peoples from their homelands. Their resilience in the face of such adversity is a testament to their strength and spirit.

May we humbly honor the ancestors and elders of these nations, both past and present, by committing ourselves to fostering understanding, healing, and justice for all who inhabit this land. Let us walk forward together with open hearts, acknowledging the past and embracing a future guided by compassion, respect, and unity.

7:00 pm Regular Session

- 1. Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance (5 min)**
- 2. Agenda Adjustments (5 min)**
- 3. Announcements (5 min)**

26-0326**Announcements (5min)****Agenda Text:**

- 1. Women Veterans Recognition Day Celebration - Durham County**
Veteran Services invites the community to its annual Women Veterans Recognition Day Celebration at 11 a.m., on Friday, June 12, 2026. The event, honoring the service and contributions of women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, will be held in the second-floor conference rooms of the Durham County Human Services Building at 414 E. Main Street. The program will feature guest speaker retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Traci Goodwin. Attendees will also have opportunities to network with fellow veterans and connect with local vendors offering information about community resources and support services. For more information about this event, call 919-560-8387 or email

veteranservices@dconc.gov <<mailto:veteranservices@dconc.gov>>.

2. **Get Ready to Unearth a Story This Summer!** - Summer is just around the corner, and so is Durham County Library's annual Summer Reading Program. This year's theme, "Unearth a Story", invites readers of all ages to explore dinosaurs, and archaeology through a variety of free programs and special events hosted at all seven Durham County Library locations. From June 15 through August 8, residents can stop by any library location to pick up a paper reading log. Completed logs may be returned through August 15 for a chance to be entered into raffles for a grand prize. Learn more about this year's Summer Reading Program here:

<<https://dconc.gov/DurhamCo-News/Durham-County-Library-Invites-Every-one-to-Unearth-a-Story-During-Annual-Celebration-of-Summer-Reading.htm>>.

3. **Stay Connected, Stay Informed, Stay In Touch!** - Watch the June episode of "In Touch with Durham County"! In this episode, host Deborah Craig-Ray, Durham County's Chief Communications Officer, welcomes first-time guest Krystal Harris, Director of Community Intervention and Support Services, and introduces Seth Komansky, Durham County's new Chief EMS Paramedic. Watch the full episode on our YouTube Channel here: <<https://youtu.be/OL-eJjSJLg4?si=-N-IPk4ZNVKXo8KA>>.

4. **County to Observe Juneteenth Holiday** - Durham County Government will close most offices on Friday, June 19, 2026, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. All offices will reopen with normal operating hours on Monday, June 22. More information on how the holiday will impact specific services here: <<https://dconc.gov/DurhamCo-News/County-to-Observe-2026-Juneteenth-Holiday.htm>>.

4. Minutes (5 min)

26-0327

Minutes (5min)

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to approve the May 26, 2026, Regular Session Meeting minutes.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Strategic Plan Goal - High Performing Organization.

Resource Persons: Monica W. Wallace, Clerk to the Board

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the May 26, 2026, Regular Session Meeting minutes.

Attachments:

[Regular Session - May 26, 2026](#)

5. Ceremonial Items (35 min)**To Be Recognized (20 min)****26-0319 Resolution - Honoring the Life, Service and Sacrifice of Richard “Ricky” Christopher Dorsey (10min)****Agenda Text:**

The Board is requested to approve a resolution honoring Bahama Firefighter Richard “Ricky” Dorsey who lost his life in service to his community. This young firefighter was only 18 years old when he perished. During Hurricane Fran in 1996, Firefighter Dorsey passed away in the Line of Duty after a fire truck he was driving had a large red oak tree fall on the cab. This year on Sunday, September 6th will mark 30 years since he passed.

Firefighter Dorsey is fondly remembered for his passion, dedication, and selfless commitment to protecting others. The Durham Legislative Delegation is working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to have the bridge over Little River Reservoir on Highway 501 named in his honor. This resolution will be included in the package of support materials.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Strategic Plan Goal 3: Safe Community

Resource Persons: Dr. Mike Lee, Chair, Durham Board of County Commissioners

County Manager’s Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the resolution and forward a copy to the Office of Rep. Zack Hawkins to be included in the materials supporting the naming of the bridge over Little River Reservoir for Firefighter Ricky Dorsey.

Attachments:

[Resolution - Richard Ricky Christopher Dorsey.8June26](#)

26-0325 Proclamation - National Pride Month (5min)**Agenda Text:**

The Board is requested to proclaim June 2026 as National Pride Month in Durham County.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Strategic Plan Goal -

Resource Persons: Jesse Huddleston, Chair, Pride: Durham, NC

County Manager’s Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board proclaim June 2026 as National Pride Month in Durham County.

Attachments:

[Proclamation - National Pride Month.8June26](#)

To Be Acknowledged Only (15 min)**26-0197 Resolution - Women Veterans Day 2026 (5min)**

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to adopt the attached resolution proclaiming June 12, 2026, as Women Veterans Day in Durham County in honor of women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Alignment With Strategic Plan: This request aligns with Strategic Plan Goal, Health and Well-being for All. This resolution recognizes and expresses gratitude for women veterans whose contributions to the national security of our country have historically been invisible and underappreciated. Furthermore, this resolution will be read during Durham County Veteran Services' Women Veterans Recognition Program on June 12, 2026, an event that will honor Durham County's women veterans and connect them to resources and services.

Resource Persons: Hellen W. Juarez-Ruiz, Durham County Veterans Service Officer; Jonathan T. Crooms, Durham County Veteran Services Supervisor.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board adopt the resolution proclaiming June 12, 2026, as Women Veterans Day in Durham County.

Attachments: [Resolution - Women Veterans Day - June 2026](#)

26-0279

Proclamation - Gun Violence Awareness Month 2026 (5min)

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to proclaim June 2026 Gun Violence Awareness Month in Durham County. Gun Violence Awareness Month is observed throughout June to honor victims, raise awareness, and advocate for gun safety. Gun Violence Awareness Month draws attention to the ongoing crisis of gun violence in the United States, where over 43,000 lives are lost annually and an average of 120 people die from gun-related incidents each day. The observance highlights the impact of gun violence on communities, particularly children and teens, and encourages advocacy for stronger gun safety. The color orange is worn to honor victims of gun violence and symbolize life, safety, and the value of human life. Gun violence is preventable, and awareness drives action. This month is a call to educate, mobilize, and demand change to create safer communities for all.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with the Strategic Plan Goal Safe and Resilient Community

Resource Persons: Krystal Harris, MSW, Community Intervention & Support Services Director

County Managers' Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board proclaim June 2026 as Gun Violence Awareness Month in Durham County.

Attachments: [Proclamation - Gun Violence Awareness Month 2026](#)

26-0306

Proclamation - National Re-Unification Month (5min)

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to proclaim June 2026 National Re-Unification Month in

Durham County. This proclamation celebrates the successful reunification of children with their families after involvement in the child welfare system. It emphasizes the importance of family preservation, the dedication of social workers and community partners, and the resilience of families working toward stability. The county encourages community support for reunified families and continued efforts to strengthen family bonds.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This aligns with the strategic initiative of health and inclusive community.

Resource Persons: Director Maggie Clapp, Deputy Director Bila Louima, Program Manager Anthony Poole

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board of County Commissioners proclaim June 2026 as National Re-Unification Month.

Attachments: [Proclamation - Family Re-Unification Month 2026](#)

6. Consent Agenda (15 min)

[26-0261](#)

Receive Keep Durham Beautiful's 2025 Annual Report

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to receive Keep Durham Beautiful's 2025 Annual Report. Keep Durham Beautiful (KDB) is a nonprofit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors. A portion of its operating budget is supported by Durham County and the City of Durham. The 2025 Annual Report reflects KDB's annual goals and achievements during the 2025 calendar year.

The mission of KDB is to build environmentally just, resilient, and beautiful outdoor spaces in cooperation with Durham communities. KDB continues to enhance our community's environmental health and beauty through initiatives that promote litter prevention, community greening, and environmental education.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This request aligns with Durham County Strategic Goal: Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment

Resource Persons: Tobin L. Freid, Sustainability Manager; Peri Manns, ASLA, Deputy Director Engineering and Environmental Services

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receives Keep Durham Beautiful's 2025 Annual Report.

Attachments: [Keep Durham Beautiful 2025 Annual Report](#)

[26-0263](#)

Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC084 for the Department of Social Services to recognize Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC "Share the Light" (STL) funds in the amount of \$16,909

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to budget ordinance amendment No. 26BCC084 for the Department of Social Services to recognize Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC “Share the Light” (STL) funds in the amount of \$16,909.

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC “Share the Light” (STL) is used exclusively to provide assistance to people in crisis situations pay energy costs, unpaid deposits for utility services or unpaid reconnection charges for utility services. This program will follow the same guidelines as our state energy programs. No County dollars required.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Increase equitable healthy outcomes and quality of life for all. Increase equitable outcomes through County operations and services. Expand and provide services that support residents across their entire lifespan.

Resource Persons: Maggie Clapp, Director, Department of Social Services, Margaret Faircloth, Assistant Director, Department of Social Services, and Travis Williams, Assistant Director, Department of Social Services.

County Manager’s Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC084 for the Department of Social Services to recognize Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC “Share the Light” (STL) funds of \$16,909.

Attachments:

[Duke Energy FY 2026 STL Supplement form](#)

[AAF-84 LEGAL FORM DSS to recognize \\$16,909 from Duke Energy Carolinas](#)

26-0264**Approval of Board Review of the FY 2026-27 County Funding Plan for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) for Aging Adults****Agenda Text:**

The Board is requested to review and approve The Home and Community Care Block Grant Funding Plan. The Home and Community Care Block Care Grant (HCCBG), as authorized in G.S. 143B-181.1 (a) (11), is designed to improve the planning and coordination of in-home and community-based services provided to North Carolina’s older adults. It is also intended to promote the visibility of aging programs at the local level by giving counties increased flexibility with respect to funding aging services available through the Block Grant. The majority of funding comprising the HCCBG is authorized by the federal Older Americans Act. Funding for the HCCBG is included in the FY2026-27 budget (pending BOCC approval).

Central Pines Regional Council serves as the designated recipient and administrative entity for the Home and Community Care Block Grant. The Department (DSS) and the Durham Center for Senior Life (DCSL) are co-lead agencies for receiving the HCCBG funds and administering the programs. The goal of services provided under this grant is to enable recipients to stay at home longer, receiving the care and services they need in their own homes, thus reducing the necessity for out-of- home placement. Services provided are Adult Day Care Services, Congregate Meals, Senior Center Operations, Information and Case Assistance, Transportation, Home

Delivered Meals, and In-Home Aide Services.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy and Inclusive Community supporting equitable and inclusive health and well-being for all.

Resource Persons: Maggie Cveticanin, Director, Department of Social Services, Travis Williams, Assistant Director, Department of Social Services, Margaret Faircloth, Assistant Director, Department of Social Services.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval of Board Review of the FY 2026-27 County Funding Plan for Home and Community Block Grant for Aging Adults.

Attachments: [HCCBG AAF Suppl FY26-27](#)
[HCCBG Legistar FY26-27](#)
[HCCBG DCSL 732](#)
[HCCBG DSS 732](#)

26-0266 **Approval to enter into a contract with Southern Elevator Company, Inc. in the amount of \$148,200.00 to provide elevator maintenance and repair services across Durham County Government facilities and parking decks**

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with Southern Elevator Company, Inc., subject to the review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, in the amount of \$148,200.00 to provide maintenance and elevator repair services to Durham County Government facilities and parking decks. The board also allows the County Manager to sign off on subsequent extensions, change orders, or amendments associated with this contract, as necessary, so long as funds are available within the General Services Budget.

On March 23, 2026, the Request for Proposals (RFP NO. 26-031) was advertised to obtain qualified and experienced firms to provide elevator maintenance and repair services across Durham County government facilities and parking decks.

We received proposals from three (3) elevator service providers. Upon completion of the evaluation process, Southern Elevator was identified as the most capable of delivering the level of service required. Their pricing demonstrated the most cost-effective solution while maintaining compliance with the county's operational and service expectations for fifty (50) elevators across eighteen (18) county facilities.

In addition to offering the lowest bid, Southern Elevator Company has established an exceptional track record of performance servicing our current elevators that includes consistently delivering reliable elevator maintenance, repair, and modernization services with minimal disruption to county operations. Their proven history of satisfactory contract performance reduces operational risk and provides confidence in their continued ability to meet service level expectations throughout the contract term.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This project aligns with the DCo Forward 2029 Strategic Plan Objectives (Goals) SI-1 Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment: Plan for long-term use of County land, facilities, and equipment.

Resource Persons: Motiryo Keambiroiro, Director General Services; Shawn Swiatocha, Assistant Director, Operations; Ian Conroy, Contracts Specialist; Sontina Greene, Sr. Administrative Officer

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board to approve and authorize the County Manager to execute a service contract with Southern Elevator Company Inc., subject to the review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, in the amount of \$148,200.00 to provide maintenance and elevator repair services to Durham County Government facilities and parking decks. The County Manager also recommends that the Board approve and authorize the County Manager to sign off on subsequent extensions, change orders, or amendments associated with this contract, as necessary, so long as funds are available within the General Services Budget.

Attachments: [AAF Supplemental Document 5.15.2026](#)
[RFP 26-031 Justification Letter](#)
[Committee Scores RFP 26-031](#)
[Durham County Elevator List](#)
[Monitoring Form - Southern](#)

26-0278 Authorize the County Manager to enter into a \$219,735 contract with Triad Roofing, subject to the review and approval of the County Attorney's Office, to install a new roof at Durham County North Library. The approved funding to support this project uses Pay-As-You-Go capital funds from the ongoing roof replacement CIP program DC073 (4190420030073301) allocated to support the County's Roofing Life Cycle Replacement program. Also, that the board authorizes the County Manger to approve any change orders or amendments as long as funding is available.

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to authorize the County Manager to enter into an \$219,735 contract with Triad Roofing to install a new roof at Durham County North Library. The approved funding to support this project uses Pay-As-You-Go capital funds from the ongoing roof replacement CIP program DC073 (4190420030073301) allocated to support the County's Roofing Life Cycle Replacement program.

The roof of the Durham County North Library is at the end of its warranty period and is showing signs of aging. As the roof ages, it becomes increasingly susceptible to leaks and other forms of damage. The library's roof has served its purpose well over the years, but it is now at a critical juncture where proactive measures are necessary

to prevent potential issues. Given the roof's 20 age and the expiration of its warranty, it is crucial to replace it to safeguard the library's infrastructure.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment by maintaining, protecting, and improving natural and built systems to support a sustainable community.

Resource Persons: Lee Duncan, Project Facilitator, Shawn Swiatocha, Assistant Director of General Services, and Motiryo Keambiroiro, Director of General Services.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board authorize the County Manager to enter into a \$219,735 contract with Triad Roofing, subject to the review and approval of the County Attorney's Office, to install a new roof at Durham County North Library. The approved funding to support this project uses Pay-As-You-Go capital funds from the ongoing roof replacement CIP program DC073 (4190420030073301) allocated to support the County's Roofing Life Cycle Replacement program. Also, that the board authorizes the County Manager to approve any change orders or amendments as long as funding is available.

Attachments:

[North Library Supplement](#)

[IFB 26-030 Roof Replacement at DCo North Regional Library](#)

[Bid Tabulation North Regional Library Roof Replacement-4-28-26](#)

[Recommendation Letter - County of Durham-North Regional Library Roof Repla](#)

[Triad Roofing Bid](#)

26-0283

Approve and Authorize the Manager to Execute A Resolution and Lease Agreement with Bull City Slabs, LLC for a suite at Shoppes of Hope Valley

Agenda Text:

Approve and authorize the Manager to execute a Resolution and Lease Agreement with Bull City Slabs, LLC for a suite at Shoppes of Hope Valley, located at 3825 S. Roxboro St., and authorize minor changes to the Lease Agreement prior to execution based on County Legal approval.

Per General Statute 160A-272, the County may lease surplus space with the adoption of a Resolution allowing the leasing of said property.

This lease is with Bull City Slabs, LLC, a trading cards and novelty store, for a 5-year term with one 3-year extension and total value of \$280,735. Bull City Slabs will occupy Suite 133 at Shoppes of Hope Valley. Please see attachment 1 for the lease, attachment 2 for the Resolution, and attachment 3 for the Affidavit confirming proper notification.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This lease supports Sustainable Infrastructure &

Environment Planning for long-term use of County land, facilities, and equipment.

Resource Persons: Christy Raulli, Senior Real Estate Officer; Peri Manns, ASLA, LEED GA, Deputy Director, Engineering and Environmental Services; Jay Gibson, P.E., Director, Engineering and Environmental Services; Maurice Jones, Deputy County Manager; Curtis Massey, Deputy County Attorney

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve and authorize the Manager to execute a Resolution and Lease Agreement with Bull City Slabs, LLC for a suite at Shoppes of Hope Valley, located at 3825 S. Roxboro St., and authorize minor changes to the Lease Agreement prior to execution based on County Legal approval.

Attachments:

[Bull City Slabs Lease](#)

[Resolution Leasing Surplus Property - Bull City Slabs](#)

[Affidavit - Bull City Slabs](#)

26-0284

Approve Durham County's Support for and Participation in Triangle Land Conservancy's Purchase and Protection of 145 acres of Farmland at 4209 and 4310 Hall Road, Including a \$750,000 County contribution, and the Conveyance of a Conservation Easement to Durham County for Permanent Land Protection

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to approve Durham County's support for and participation in Triangle Land Conservancy's purchase and protection of 145 acres of farmland at 4209 and 4310 Hall Road, including a \$750,000 County contribution, and the conveyance of a conservation easement to Durham County for permanent land protection.

TLC is under contract and has preliminary funding from the Army National Guard and the City of Raleigh's Watershed Protection Program to purchase and protect 145 acres of farmland currently for sale on Hall Road in northeastern Durham County. The County's \$750,000 contribution represents 33% of the total \$2.285 million cost of purchasing and protecting this land and allows TLC to leverage local and federal funding partners to make the purchase. These County funds are currently available in the Open Space & Farmland Protection Capital Project (4730DC083), and closer to closing we will return to the Board with a budget amendment to transfer these funds from the capital account to operating, allowing the County to encumber them in the fiscal year of closing.

County funds will support TLC's purchase, cover surveying costs, and secure a conservation easement to be held by Durham County to ensure permanent protection of the property. The farmland contains state- and nationally significant agricultural soils, and its protection will allow TLC to sell the County-protected land to farmers, supporting continued agricultural use in northern Durham County. When the protected land is conveyed to a third party, Durham County and TLC will co-hold the conservation easement, with Durham County retaining enforcement rights.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: The acquisition and protection of land for permanent open space and farmland aligns with Strategic Plan Goal 4: Environment - Protect natural resources and support and promote community and economic viability, through the Natural Resource Stewardship and Protection Objective to protect and steward natural resources.

Resource Persons: Celeste Burns, Open Space and Real Estate Manager, Peri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services; Jay Gibson, Director of Engineering and Environmental Services; Margaret Sands, Associate Director of Land Protection West, Triangle Land Conservancy

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve Durham County's support for and participation in Triangle Land Conservancy's purchase and protection of 145 acres of farmland at 4209 and 4310 Hall Road, including a \$750,000 County contribution, and the conveyance of a conservation easement to Durham County for permanent land protection.

Attachments:

[Maps & Photos - Hall Rd Farmland](#)

[Supplemental - Hall Road Farmland Acquisition and Protection](#)

26-0286

Approval of the Final Recommended FY27 Durham Annual Transit Work Program

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to approve the Final Recommended FY27 Durham Annual Transit Work Program (Work Program).

As part of the appropriations process for the Durham County Transit Plan, an annual Work Program is developed and includes a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The 2023 Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement (ILA) determines the process by which the annual budget is developed and approved. Under the guidance of the ILA, the Work Program requires approval by the Durham Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the GoTriangle Board of Trustees.

The BOCC received an informational presentation at the work session held on April 6, 2026. At the Staff Working Group (SWG) meeting held on May 20, 2026, the FY27 Work Program was recommended for approval by a vote of 4-0.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Durham County Strategic Goal: Regional Leadership

Resource Persons: Ellen Beckmann, AICP, Transportation Director; Brandi Minor, CLGFO, Transit Program Administrator

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the Final Recommended FY27 Durham Annual Transit Work Program.

Attachments: [FY27 Transit Work Program Agenda Memo](#)
[Durham Transit Plan FY27 Final Recommended Work Program Presentation](#)
[FY27 Durham Annual Transit Work Program - Final Recommended](#)
[FY27 Durham Annual Work Program Engagement Report](#)

26-0298 **Library Requests to Award Contract for Sole Source Purchase of Digital Content Management Services and for eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and Streaming Content from OverDrive**

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to provide approval for sole source exemption for the purchase of digital content management services from OverDrive in the amount of \$12,000 annually for four years. The Board is also requested to provide approval for the purchase of individual eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and streaming content from OverDrive in an amount not to exceed \$638,000 for the first year of the contract. In addition, the Board is requested to provide approval for the Manager to execute any other related contracts such as amendments and/or change orders, if necessary, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for service and content in any year of the contract.

Funds for this contract will come from Library's existing Resources and Technical Services budget for electronic resources. No new or additional funds are being requested. Increases in the contract amount for the next four years are encompassed in the recommendation to approve any other related contracts such as amendments not to exceed \$1,000,000 annually.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This request aligns with the Strategic Plan Goal 1 "Community and Family Prosperity and Enrichment" by providing library materials which support and enhance the educational, creative and cultural opportunities available to library users.

Resource Persons: Dana Conners, Library Director; Katherine Makens, Assistant Director; Stephen Zibrat, Collection Development Administrative Librarian

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board provide approval for sole source exemption for the purchase of digital content management services from OverDrive in the amount of \$12,000 annually for four years. The Board is also requested to provide approval for the purchase of individual eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and streaming content from OverDrive in an amount not to exceed \$638,000 for the first year of the contract. In addition, the Board is requested to provide approval for the Manager to execute any other related contracts such as amendments and/or change orders, if necessary, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for service and content in any year of the contract.

Attachments: [OverDrive Inc Attachment 1 - Scope of Services Form FY2027 reviewed 5.20.2](#)
[OverDrive Master Agreement FY2027 reviewed 5.20.26](#)
[OverDrive Sole Source Letter- Durham County Library \(2026\)](#)

26-0308

Authorize the County Manager to amend the contract with GFL Environmental beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to provide Curbside Recycling Services to Households in Unincorporated Durham County in an amount not to exceed \$513,874.36.

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to authorize the County Manager to amend the contract with GFL Environmental to provide Curbside Recycling Services to Households in Unincorporated Durham County in an amount not to exceed \$513,874.36. This amendment will extend the length of the contract for one year, July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. This cost increase is in compliance with the contract's cap of 2% based on the CPI for All Urban Consumers for US City Average. During the period February 2025 to February 2026

This will be the fourth extension of this contract.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with focus area Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment.

Resource Persons: Motiryo Keambiroiro, Director of General Services; Chrissie Koroivui, Solid Waste Program Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board authorize the County Manager to amend the contract with GFL Environmental beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 to provide Curbside Recycling Services to Households in Unincorporated Durham County in an amount not to exceed \$513,874.36.

Attachments:

[Supplemental GFL Curbside Recycling](#)

[Contract Amendment 1 GFL Curbside FY2027 HJH 5.28.26](#)

[County of Durham Recycle CPI 2026](#)

26-0324

Approval to enter a contract with NWN in the amount of \$1,729,707.12 to renew support for Cisco Enterprise, Cybersecurity and Network Management Software.

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with NWN in the amount of \$1,729,707.12 utilizing current IS&T fiscal year 2025-2026 CIP funding to renew support for Cisco Enterprise Agreement including Cybersecurity and Network Management Software Subscriptions. This tool is needed to support critical cybersecurity and network management capabilities to support County operations. Securing a three-year term results in significant cost saving to the County budget.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Goal 5 - Accountable, efficient, and visionary government

Resource Persons: Greg Marrow, CIO; Tamara Minor, Senior IT Business

Specialist

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with NWN in the amount of \$1,729,707.12 to renew support for Cisco Enterprise, Cybersecurity and Network Management Software using current IS&T fiscal year 2025-2026 CIP budget. The County Manager also recommends the Board allow the County Manager to sign off on subsequent renewals, extensions, or amendments associated with this contract as necessary to continue services as required.

Attachments: [AAF Supplemental - NWN Cisco Renewal 2026-TDM-6-2](#)
[NWN - EA Renewal - 06-15-26 thru 06-14-29 - Updated 06-03-26](#)

7. Other County Business (15 min)

[26-0320](#) Adoption of the FY 2026-27 Budget Ordinance (15min)

Agenda Text: The Durham County Manager presents the FY 2026-27 Annual Budget Ordinance to the Durham County Board of Commissioners for approval. This submission is in accordance with the Local Government Budget & Fiscal Control Act which requires adoption of the annual budget, no later than July 1, 2026.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This aligns with the Strategic Plan Focus Area of High Performing Organization

Resource Persons: Claudia Hager, Durham County Manager; Keith Lane, Director, Budget & Management Services.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the FY 2026-27 Budget Ordinance.

Attachments: [FY 2026-27 Budget Ordinance-Final](#)
[FY 2026-27 APPROVED FULL FEE SCHEDULE](#)

8. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda (20 min)

9. Adjournment

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, June 8, 2026

7:00 P.M. Regular Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, Second Floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 East Main Street, Durham, North Carolina

Present: Chair Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair Nida Allam and Commissioners Michelle Burton, Wendy Jacobs and Stephen Valentine

Presider: Chair Dr. Mike Lee

Zoom Hybrid

Participants: 6

Closed Session – 5:30 PM

The Board requested to adjourn to Closed Session for the following:

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to adjourn into Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene to Open Session

Chair Dr. Lee announced the Board met in Closed Session and no action was taken.

Chair Dr. Lee read the following statement:

“The County Commissioners, wish to express our unanimous and unequivocal support for every member of our community. As a Board and as a county, we stand behind the celebration of Pride and the display of materials that honor it.

In the coming weeks, the Board will develop guidance and clarity for staff to protect these celebrations in Durham County so that situations like the one we saw this past week cannot happen again.”

Regular Session – 7:00 PM

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board read the following announcements:

1. **Women Veterans Recognition Day Celebration** – Durham County Veteran Services invites the community to its annual Women Veterans Recognition Day Celebration at 11 a.m., on Friday, June 12, 2026. The event, honoring the service and contributions of women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, will be held in the second-floor conference rooms of the Durham County Human Services Building at 414 E. Main Street. The program will feature guest speaker retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Traci Goodwin. Attendees will also have opportunities to network with fellow veterans and connect with local vendors offering information about community resources and support services. For more information about this event, call 919-560-8387 or email veteranservices@dconc.gov.
2. **Get Ready to Unearth a Story This Summer!** – Summer is just around the corner, and so is Durham County Library's annual Summer Reading Program. This year's theme, "Unearth a Story", invites readers of all ages to explore dinosaurs, and archaeology through a variety of free programs and special events hosted at all seven Durham County Library locations. From June 15 through August 8, residents can stop by any library location to pick up a paper reading log. Completed logs may be returned through August 15 for a chance to be entered into raffles for a grand prize. Learn more about this year's Summer Reading Program here: <https://dconc.gov/DurhamCo-News/Durham-County-Library-Invites-Everyone-to-Unearth-a-Story-During-Annual-Celebration-of-Summer-Reading.htm>.
3. **Stay Connected, Stay Informed, Stay In Touch!** – Watch the June episode of "In Touch with Durham County"! In this episode, host Deborah Craig-Ray, Durham County's Chief Communications Officer, welcomes first-time guest Krystal Harris, Director of Community Intervention and Support Services, and introduces Seth Komansky, Durham County's new Chief EMS Paramedic. Watch the full episode on our YouTube Channel here: <https://youtu.be/OL-eJjSJLg4?si=-N-IPk4ZNVKXo8KA>.
4. **County to Observe Juneteenth Holiday** – Durham County Government will close most offices on Friday, June 19, 2026, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. All offices will reopen with normal operating hours on Monday, June 22. More information on how the holiday will impact specific services here: <https://dconc.gov/DurhamCo-News/County-to-Observe-2026-Juneteenth-Holiday.htm>.

The Board highlighted the following announcements:

- Durham's Third Friday would feature a Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony at the CCB Plaza on Friday, June 19th. The 21st Annual NC Juneteenth Celebration was scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 20th, at the CCB Plaza.
- The Alma Street Commons Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on June 5th, marking the commencement of a significant affordable housing initiative grounded in sustainability, equity, and community engagement.
- The Civic Action Project Expo was held at Hillside High School and was coordinated by Ms. Annabelle Webb, Hillside High School Teacher.

Minutes

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve the May 26, 2026 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

To Be Recognized

26-0319 Resolution - Honoring the Life, Service and Sacrifice of Richard "Ricky" Christopher Dorsey

Chair Dr. Lee read the following resolution:

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF RICHARD "RICKY" CHRISTOPHER DORSEY

- WHEREAS,** Richard "Ricky" Christopher Dorsey dedicated himself to serving the Bahama community through the Bahama Volunteer Fire Department beginning at the age of eighteen; and
- WHEREAS,** Ricky Dorsey embodied the highest ideals of public service through his courage, devotion, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to protecting others; and
- WHEREAS,** on September 5, 1996, Hurricane Fran made landfall in North Carolina, bringing devastating weather conditions across Durham County and the Bahama community, prompting emergency responders to answer calls for assistance throughout the storm; and
- WHEREAS,** during the height of Hurricane Fran, Ricky Dorsey responded to emergency calls alongside fellow firefighters and emergency personnel in service to the residents of Durham County; and

WHEREAS, while en route to an emergency call during the storm, a red oak tree fell onto the cab of the fire truck in which Ricky was riding, tragically taking his life just ten days before his twentieth birthday; and

WHEREAS, Ricky Dorsey made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty while protecting the people and community he loved and is remembered by his family, fellow firefighters, friends, and the countless community members impacted by his life and service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Board of County Commissioners hereby honors the life, service, bravery, and sacrifice of Richard “Ricky” Christopher Dorsey and recognizes his enduring legacy as a dedicated firefighter who gave his life in service to the people of Durham County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Dorsey family and preserved as a lasting tribute to Ricky Dorsey’s courage, dedication, and sacrifice.

This the 8th day of June 2026.

Dr. Mike Lee, Chair

Nida Allam, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

Brian Eaton, Assistant Fire Chief, Bahama Volunteer Fire Department thanked the Board for the resolution honoring Richard Dorsey. Mr. Eaton stated Mr. Dorsey dedicated his life to serving the community through work he was passionate about.

The Board thanked the Bahama Volunteer Fire Department as well as Mr. Dorsey's family and friends.

26-0325 Proclamation – National Pride Month

Vice Chair Allam read the following resolution:

NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH | 2026

WHEREAS, the Stonewall Riots, a period of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement in June 1969, is referred to as the genesis of the LGBTQ+ rights movement in this country and National Pride Month is the result; and

WHEREAS, the anti-gay assault and murder of Ronald “Sonny” Antonevitch in Durham, North Carolina led to several subsequent social demonstrations, including “Our Day Out,” North Carolina’s first LGBTQ+ march on June 27, 1981; and

WHEREAS, this year’s theme, “ALWAYS FORWARD, NEVER STRAIGHT: Preserving History, Coming Home,” as selected by the Pride: Durham, NC Organizing Committee, alongside the observation of National Pride Month, presents opportunities for community members to protest peacefully, to push efforts for

justice forward, and to raise political awareness of social issues, and to celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals; and

WHEREAS, over the years, we have seen strides made to value and affirm members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the work to improve their quality of life by first acknowledging the challenges that are faced in all areas of life; and

WHEREAS, despite extraordinary progress, LGBTQ+ people still face various forms of discrimination, mistreatment, and violence, simply for being who they are, and the County of Durham stands with the community in the struggle to ensure equal treatment for all, while also defending and advocating for LGBTQ+ rights as human rights; and

WHEREAS, Durham County Government continues to advocate for local and statewide protections for all LGBTQ+ individuals to make our state a place where all people – regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression – are treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, like many progressive communities, the support of LGBTQ+ rights is illustrated by the fact the Durham County Non-Discrimination Ordinance was approved by the Board of Commissioners to establish protections, to promote the equal treatment of all individuals, to provide freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, pregnancy, marital or familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ancestry, language, military status, religious belief or non-belief, age, disability in employment and access to all places of public accommodation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Dr. Mike Lee, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2026, as

“NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH”

in Durham County. We call upon the people of Durham County to recognize the contributions and achievements of LGBTQ+ community members and to help to improve the attitudes of society and encourage inclusiveness in and across Durham County.

This 8th day of June 2026.

Dr. Mike Lee, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Jesse Huddleston, Chair of Pride: Durham NC, requested County Leaders to continue supporting and partnering with Pride Durham with an emphasis on the need for funding. Raye Dooley, Co-Executive Director of the LGBTQ Center of Durham gave an overview of Pride's 40-year history and asked for ongoing support and funding for the community.

The Board thanked Jesse and Raye for their leadership with Pride and the LGBTQ Center of Durham. They affirmed everyone in the community deserved to prosper and expressed commitment to repairing past harm. The Board inquired about upcoming Pride events. Jesse provided an overview of plans for Pride Month.

To Be Recognized

26-0197 Resolution – Women Veterans Day 2026

WOMEN VETERANS DAY 2026

- WHEREAS,** women in North Carolina have been involved in military-related activities since the Revolutionary War; since June 12, 1948, women have been officially allowed to serve in the U.S. Military and now serve as regular and permanent members of the armed forces in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force; and
- WHEREAS,** women began serving with the Army Nurse Corps in 1901 and the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908; during World War I, women left their domestic duties to serve in Europe from 1917-1918; and
- WHEREAS,** during World War II, the role of women in the military expanded to include women serving in additional jobs including stenographers, clerks, cooks, telephone operators, mechanics, draftsmen, interpreters, and weather observers; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 50 members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS), the first women to fly American military aircraft, trained in North Carolina, transporting every type of military aircraft and cargo; they logged over 60 million miles in the air and lost 38 members during the way; and
- WHEREAS,** women during the Vietnam War served on the front lines as doctors and nurses, and a total of eight female members of the military and 59 civilian women lost their lives during the conflict; and
- WHEREAS,** during the Gulf War, women served in multiple positions that has previously been reserved for men, flying helicopters, driving, manning missile placements and leading convoys; and
- WHEREAS,** for many years, women in our military were largely invisible and underappreciated; we owe deep gratitude to our current and past servicewomen who have selflessly served to protect our nation and our way of life.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Durham County Board of Commissioners, resolve that June 12, 2026, is

“WOMEN VETERANS DAY”

in Durham County and commend its observance to all citizens.

This the 8th day of June, 2026.

Dr. Mike Lee, Chair

Nida Allam, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Hellen W. Jaurez-Ruiz, Durham County Veteran Services Officer thanked the Board for recognizing Women Veterans Day. She stated the resolution celebrated the bravery and insight of both current and former women veterans.

The Board thanked Ms. Jaurez-Ruiz and the Veteran Services Department for leading Women Veterans Day celebrations.

26-0279 Proclamation – Gun Violence Awareness Month 2026

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH | 2026

WHEREAS, the Durham County Board of Commissioners gathers in solemn recognition of the profound and enduring impact that gun violence has on families, neighborhoods, and communities across our nation taking more than 40,000 lives each year and injuring tens of thousands more; and

WHEREAS, the month of June has been designated as Gun Violence Awareness Month, a time when communities across the United States join together to honor the lives taken too soon, uplift survivors, and reaffirm a shared commitment to fostering safer, more peaceful communities; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of wearing orange—first inspired by friends of Hadiya Pendleton, a Chicago teenager whose life was tragically cut short—has become a unifying symbol of hope, remembrance, and the belief that every life is precious; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that preventing gun violence requires not only effective public safety strategies, but also compassion, collaboration, and the collective will of residents, civic leaders, educators, faith communities, and organizations dedicated to healing and prevention; and

WHEREAS, it is both fitting and necessary that we, as a county, stand together to raise awareness, support evidence-based solutions, and honor those whose lives have been forever changed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Dr. Mike Lee, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2026, as

“GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

in Durham County and encourage all residents to participate in observances, educational programs, remembrance events, and community initiatives that promote safety, unity, and resilience; and

BE IT FINALLY PROCLAIMED, that the Board of County Commissioners stands with survivors, honors the memory of those lost, and reaffirms its dedication to working alongside community partners to build a future free from the shadow of gun violence.

This 8th day of June 2026.

Dr. Mike Lee, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Krystal Harris, Director of Community Intervention and Support Services, thanked the Board for the proclamation and raising awareness about gun violence in Durham. Ms. Harris gave an overview of the programs and services offered by Intervention and Support Services Department.

The Board thanked Ms. Harris and stated gun violence should be discussed and addressed by the community.

26-0306 Proclamation – National Re-Unification Month

FAMILY RE-UNIFICATION MONTH | 2026

WHEREAS, the family is the primary source of love, identity, belonging, and support for children and provides the foundation of healthy and thriving communities; and

WHEREAS, children are best served when they can safely remain connected to their families, communities, culture, and support systems; and

WHEREAS, family reunification recognizes the importance of preserving and strengthening family bonds whenever it is safe and possible to do so, and acknowledges that families can overcome challenges with appropriate support, advocacy, and resources; and

WHEREAS, parents, relatives, foster caregivers, attorneys, social workers, service providers, judges, advocates, and community organizations throughout Durham County work every day to support children and families involved in the child welfare system and to help families reunify safely and successfully; and

WHEREAS, Family Reunification Month is a time to celebrate the resilience of families, honor the dedication of those who support them, and recognize that children, families, and communities are stronger when families are kept together whenever safely possible; and

WHEREAS, Durham County is committed to promoting policies and practices that strengthen families, reduce unnecessary family separation, and ensure that all children have the opportunity to grow up in safe, stable, and loving homes;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Dr. Mike Lee, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2026, as

“FAMILY RE-UNIFICATION MONTH”

in Durham County, North Carolina, and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of supporting families, strengthening communities, and celebrating the successful reunification of children and families.

This 8th day of June 2026.

Dr. Mike Lee, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Chair Dr. Lee stated citizens were signed up to make comments on the item.

Amanda Wallace, Citizen

Ms. Wallace stated Durham County was ranked as the second slowest county in North Carolina for reuniting children with families and requested one percent of the budget to support families.

Antoinette Hawes, Citizen

Ms. Hawes stated Child Protective Services (CPS) took her son in 2016 and he was adopted. She added she located him herself ten years later.

Sharrocka Pettiford, Citizen

Ms. Pettiford stated CPS took her children, and she has not reunited with them.

Walidah Burns, Citizen

Ms. Burns asked about the purpose of the County's reunification funds and stated families were not being reunited with their children.

Maggie Clapp, Social Services Director, thanked the Board for the proclamation and ongoing support. She stated the County promotes community backing for reunified families and continued work to strengthen family bonds.

The Board thanked Ms. Clapp and the Social Services Department for their dedicated work to reuniting children and families in the community.

Consent Agenda

Chair Dr. Lee asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda.

Hearing none, Chair Dr. Lee entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

26-0261 Receive Keep Durham Beautiful's 2025 Annual Report

*26-0263 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC084 for the Department of Social Services to recognize Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC "Share the Light" (STL) funds in the amount of \$16,909

26-0264 Approval of Board Review of the FY 2026-27 County Funding Plan for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) for Aging Adults

26-0266 Approval to enter into a contract with Southern Elevator Company, Inc. in the amount of \$148,200.00 to provide elevator maintenance and repair services across Durham County Government facilities and parking decks

26-0278 Authorize the County Manager to enter into a \$219,735 contract with Triad Roofing, subject to the review and approval of the County Attorney's Office, to install a new roof at Durham County North Library. The approved funding to support this project uses Pay-As-You-Go capital funds from the ongoing roof replacement CIP program DC073 (4190420030073301) allocated to support the County's Roofing Life Cycle Replacement program. Also, that the board authorizes the County Manger to approve any change orders or amendments as long as funding is available.

26-0283 Approve and Authorize the Manager to Execute A Resolution and Lease Agreement with Bull City Slabs, LLC for a suite at Shoppes of Hope Valley

26-0284 Approve Durham County's Support for and Participation in Triangle Land Conservancy's Purchase and Protection of 145 acres of Farmland at 4209 and 4310 Hall Road, Including a \$750,000 County contribution, and the Conveyance of a Conservation Easement to Durham County for Permanent Land Protection

26-0286 Approval of the Final Recommended FY27 Durham Annual Transit Work Program

26-0298 Library Requests to Award Contract for Sole Source Purchase of Digital Content Management Services and for eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and Streaming Content from OverDrive

26-0308 Authorize the County Manager to amend the contract with GFL Environmental beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to provide Curbside Recycling Services to Households in Unincorporated Durham County in an amount not to exceed \$513,874.36

26-0324 Approval to enter a contract with NWN in the amount of \$1,729,707.12 to renew support for Cisco Enterprise, Cybersecurity and Network Management Software.

Consent Agenda Item #26-0263

**Durham County, North Carolina
2025-2026 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 26BCC084**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY
That the 2025-2026 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Human Services	\$120,831,817.77	\$16,909.00	\$120,848,726.77
<u>Revenue</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$80,664,439.47	\$16,909.00	\$80,681,348.47

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved June 8, 2026

Other Business

26-0320 Adoption of the FY 2026-27 Budget Ordinance

Chair Dr. Lee stated citizens were signed up to make comments about the FY 2025-26 Budget.

The following citizens requested full support of the Durham Public Schools funding request: *Heidi Jo Hetland and Christie Clem*

The following citizens requested restoring Pride funding, Library Programs and the LGBTQ Committee: *Jack Turnwald and Laura Phoenix.*

Claudia Hager, County Manager, thanked the Board for their dedication. She also thanked Keith Lane, Budget Director; the Budget Department staff; Keyar Doyle, Tax Administrator; the Tax Department; County staff; and community partners for their support with the budget.

Keith Lane, Director of Budget and Management Services, thanked County Manager Hager for her budget expertise and acknowledged the Budget Department's commitment this year.

Vice Chair Allam stated she supported additional half-cent property tax increase for Durham Public Schools (DPS). Commissioner Burton stated she would support an additional half-cent or quarter-cent increase. Commissioner Jacobs stated she would not support any additional increases in property taxes due to budget cuts and future funding uncertainty. She asked for County Manager Hager's input. County Manager Hager stated residents expressed concerns about the effects of property tax increases. She added she was apprehensive about an additional property tax increase for residents; although the Board would make the final decision.

Commissioner Valentine stated he was reluctant for an additional increase in property taxes to protect the vulnerable. Chair Dr. Lee stated he supported a 2.5 cent property tax increase but would not support adding any additional increases. Commissioner Jacobs stated the Board was requesting for the 2.65 million to be used to increase classified workers' pay and asked the Board of Education to match that amount. Commissioner Burton highlighted classified workers' dedication and the Board's concern for them.

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the FY2026-27 Budget Ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jacobs read the following statement:

"I am proud to support this Durham County Budget. This is my 14th budget and this was by far the most difficult budget process, not because of all the choices we had to make but in fact, because of the few options we had to address the many needs in our community. I want to thank our community members for all your engagement-from showing up at our public hearing, to phone calls, texts, emails and submitting comments to our online budget survey. Your input matters and is what makes Durham the caring, fierce, vibrant community we all love.

Thank you to my commissioner colleagues. We have had thoughtful, deliberative and respectful conversations throughout the budget process. It is truly an honor to learn from and work alongside each of you.

I want to thank our County Manager Claudia Hager, all the Durham County staff leadership team, Budget Director Keith Lane and his budget team, Clerk Monica Wallace and our clerk's office staff, every department head of our 32 County Departments, and all our Durham County employees.

It is you who have put in the hard work in the many months leading up this formal budget. When this proposed budget was presented to us, you had already gone through the very difficult work of cutting an average of 2% of your budgets to come up with an additional \$6.2 million. This funding, in addition to the 2.5 cent increase in the property tax rate, will allow us to provide the core services and programs that our community depends on and values.

I wish we did not need a 2.5 cent tax increase. I hear the voices of our Durham residents who are living on fixed incomes, who are struggling with rising food and gas prices, housing costs. I hear the voices of our DPS classified staff who are struggling with low hourly wages due to the lack of funding from our state government. I hear the voices of our EMS, DSS and PH staff who are worried about their ability to take care of residents.

As we know, budgets are a reflection of our values. I believe this budget represents a balance of all these challenges and competing needs in our community in the face of harmful policies and reduced state and federal funding, slowing sales tax revenues and unexpected impacts from our recent property tax appeals process.

There is much to celebrate in this budget. We are keeping Durham County moving along strongly in the right direction. We are prioritizing investments in EMS- more than \$3 million for new and replacement ambulances and \$1.23 million to staff a new 10-person unit. We are continuing to invest in our best and brightest with \$10.6 million for Durham PreK. Our children are our future. We are still providing strong support for Durham Public Schools-with \$10.9 million in new funding to cover increased personnel costs, an additional \$1 million for technology improvements and \$2.65 million targeted for increasing classified salaries, more than \$14.5 million in new funding, for a total of more than \$239 million in funding for DPS- the single largest recipient of Durham County funding. I am grateful to DPS staff leadership for your proposed plan to match Durham County's investment with

your own internal adjustments. This proposed joint effort can result in the lowest paid classified hourly wage increasing to \$18.22 per hour.

Also included in this budget is grant funding for key Durham County priorities: \$320k for food security, \$312k for early childhood, \$250k for the Violence Prevention Plan, \$500k for the Strategic Framework to End Homelessness, and \$500k for Youth Program investments. This budget will also include creation of a Family Court and a \$50k DSS fund to further support family reunification. This budget also covers all the increased healthcare and pension costs for our Durham County staff, and a 2% COLA salary increase. We know our staff deserve much more than this and I wish we could do more.

We will face many frightening uncertainties in the coming year. How many of our residents will lose their food and medical care due to the cruel policies of this federal government? Durham County alone will not be able to stand in the gap. It is going to take our entire community and our collective care and resources.

We are going to have to do things differently. Charter schools are receiving \$60 million in Durham County funding in the budget allocation for DPS. Nearly \$53 million in state voucher funding- public funding- has been funneled to private and religious schools in Durham over the past several years. I have strongly supported the more than \$100 million in increased local funding to DPS over the past ten years, but this is no longer financially viable or sustainable for Durham County Government and Durham taxpayers.

I look forward to working together with our Durham Board of Education partners over the coming year to find ways that Durham County and DPS can remain on stable financial ground but also prioritize the salaries of our classified staff and all our lowest paid workers. We must plan for a different funding future- especially one that could mean restrictions on Durham County's ability to levy property tax- our most critical source of revenue to cover the cost of essential services and programs for residents.

The good news is that Durham County continues to move forward. We have a strong economy. Our property tax revaluation process reflected an overall record increase in our property values of more than \$26 billion dollars. We recently received again the coveted AAA bond rating which helps us borrow money at the best rates possible and save our residents money. The next year will indeed be a challenging one and the ONLY way we can get through it, will be together. I believe in our community and the people of Durham. We CAN take care of everyone, especially our most vulnerable residents, by doing what we know works- collaboration, coordination, communication and working together."

Commissioner Burton read the following statement:

"I want to thank all the Durham County Staff that worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help make this budget process run smoothly and to answer the myriads of questions that we commissioners have.

We are facing a lot of financial pressure due to state and federal constraints that are being placed on all counties, as many of you know. However, despite these constraints, this budget continues to make key investments in our residents.

This FY 27 budget funds 2 key staff members to restart Family Treatment Court, which was cut from state funding in 2012. This will help with family reunification efforts, which is important to this board.

We are funding \$500,000 to provide support for the homelessness strategic plan, we are investing half a million dollars into programs to build up youth in our county, and \$320,000 into food security grants because we know with restrictions on SNAP benefits we will need to shore up our non-profits who do the important work of providing food to people in Durham County. Violence is another systemic problem that we are dealing with in Durham, and in the FY 27 budget we are investing \$250,000 in the development and implementation of a violence reduction plan, along with the City of Durham, again, to help our young people.

And finally, this budget continues to invest in Durham Public Schools, an increase of \$15.8 million to invest in classified staff who do important work serving our youngest Durham County Residents. We are keeping our fingers crossed that a state budget is passed so this money is used for that purpose. I know there are some who wanted more, but this is a first step as we continue to towards a livable wage for Durham County Government employees as well as DPS employees.

We have a tough year ahead of us, that is why it is crucial that all three government bodies, the school board, city council, and county commissioners as well as community members work together to come up with solutions as these federal laws begin to take effect in July. And we must push back on this constitutional amendment that will limit the County's ability to raise revenue. Thank you and I yield back to Chair Lee."

Vice Chair Allam read the following statement:

"The Board acknowledged that this has been a particularly challenging budget year. No Board member received everything they wanted, or even half of what they hoped for. I want to express my gratitude to County Manager Hager for her guidance during such a difficult budget cycle, and for considering all our priorities—even though you asked each of us to provide four priorities and we responded with ten priorities each. Thank you also to Keith Lane and the entire Budget Department; the Budget team is among the hardest-working employees, collaborating across County departments throughout the year to ensure responsible financial management of allocated funds.

The County will continue to face tough years ahead, but I am proud of what the Board has managed to fund, especially as the Federal Administration implements cuts affecting families and vulnerable communities who may struggle to access food and necessities. The Board was able to secure resources for vital programs and is working toward raising DPS classified staff to a living wage, aiming to achieve this next year. The County shares responsibility with DPS and has engaged in difficult conversations to promote transparency and avoid ongoing challenges. Chair Dr. Lee and Chair Umstead are developing an updated MOU between the County and DPS to address goals and needs.

The State will soon surpass 1,000 days without passing a budget. Our most vulnerable community members continue to struggle daily. Although the budget has passed, this conversation is far from over. The County will keep engaging with DPS and other departments to improve services. We hope for better days ahead, supported by property and sales tax revenues. I encourage everyone to shop locally to boost Durham County's sales tax revenue and to urge residents to pressure legislators to act—if the constitutional amendments pass, both City and County will face significant difficulties.

Finally, I propose beginning discussions with the city about potential City-County mergers to sustain the wide range of services offered to residents.”

Vice Char Lee read the following statement:

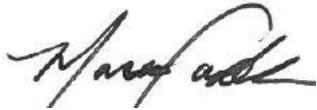
Thank you to County Manager Hager, the Budget staff, County Leadership, Department Heads, and all County staff for your hard work, responsiveness, and dedication throughout the budget process.”

Adjournment

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Vice Chair Allam, to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 9:16 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board