

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

Monday, February 10, 2025

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

Presider: Chair Nida Allam

Zoom Hybrid
Participants: 1

Regular Session – 7:00 PM

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Commissioner Burton 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. **2025 DCo Cares Recipient Organization Applications Open** – The 2025 DCo Cares Recipient Organization Applications are now open to all nonprofits serving the Triangle community. Durham County (DCo) Cares is the annual Durham County Government Employee Giving Campaign, in which our employees donate funds to those nonprofit agencies chosen as our annual recipient organizations. Applications will be open through February 21, 2025. For more information, or to apply to be a recipient organization, please visit www.dccocares.org.
2. **DCo Transportation Seeks Public Input on Draft FY26 Work Program** – Durham County Transportation is seeking public input on its Draft Fiscal Year 2026 Transit Work Program. The Public Comment period goes from Jan. 31 to Feb. 21. Residents may take a survey at <https://publicinput.com/draftfy26> or email comments to TransitPlan@dconc.gov. DCo Transportation will also hold two more in-person tabling sessions at Durham Station, 515 W.

Pettigrew Street, on Feb. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. You can also visit <https://bit.ly/DcoTransitWorkPrograms> for more information.

3. **Celebrate Black History Month at Library** – The Durham County Library system is celebrating Black History Month with a plethora of events for all ages. All throughout February, check out events – both big and small – created to help us all learn about the rich contributions, achievements, and resilience of the Black Community throughout history. Visit: <https://durhamcountylibrary.libcal.com> and search for “Black History Month.”
4. **Farmland Protection Plan Public Engagement Event** – The Durham County Farmland Protection Advisory Board, the Foothills Regional Commission, and Durham Soil and Water Conservation District invite residents to attend a public engagement event on the Durham County Farmland Protection Plan. The purpose of the event is to review the current conditions of Durham County farming and discuss problem solving strategies. To be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Bahama Ruritan Club, 8202 Stagville Road. Register at <https://forms.gle/aZAXZzupsvVAJxyL7>. Questions: mstrong@frcnc.gov or sscully@dconc.gov.
5. **Durham Area Food & Resources Map** – Check out the Durham Area Food and Resource map. It’s a one-stop resource to find food pantries, places to get a hot meal, farmers’ markets that take SNAP and WIC benefits and grocery stores that take SNAP and WIC benefits. Find the map here: <https://durham-area-food-resources-durhamnc.hub.arcgis.com/>. Visit End Hunger Durham for a printable list of food pantries at <https://www.endhungerdurham.org/food-resources/>.
6. **Advertisement of Tax Liens** – The Durham County Tax Administration wants all taxpayers to know that North Carolina law requires the tax collector to annually publish current year unpaid real estate taxes. Durham County real property taxes not paid by 5 p.m. on March 11, 2025, will be advertised in a local newspaper on March 26, 2025. For information, visit www.dconc.gov/tax or call 919-560-0300.
7. **2025 Reappraisal Notices** – Durham County taxpayers will be mailed their 2025 Reappraisal Notices by the first week of March 2025. These notices will inform taxpayers of their 2025 assessed values after the 2025 General Reappraisal process. Property owners are encouraged to visit the Tax Administration website at www.dconc.gov/tax to review the values, compare them with sales they have observed, and verify that their property tax listing is accurate.
8. **Free NC Voter ID Outreach Event** – The Durham County Board of Elections will hold a free NC Voter Photo Identification Card event on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 12 to 3 p.m. at North Regional Library, 221 Milton Road. The DCoBOE is holding an event every month at libraries to help distribute free IDs. Visit www.dcovotes.dconc.gov/voters/voter-id for find out more information.
9. **Dco Library Hosts “حدوتة بالعربي : A Story in Arabic”** – Come out to the Durham County Main Library’s Main Children’s Programming Room to enjoy a story and other activities in Arabic language with Fayrouz Kaddal. Registration is required. They will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays – Feb. 15, March 29, April 26, and May 17. Register for the first date here: <https://durhamcountylibrary.libcal.com/event/13736608>. Email Kaddal at fayrouz.kaddal@gmail.com for more information.

10. **Office of the Sheriff Community Academy** – Looking to learn about the Sheriff’s Office, give helpful feedback, build relationships and raise awareness? Apply today for the Community Academy hosted by the Durham County Office of the Sheriff. For additional information and to apply, please visit www.durhamsheriff.com or call 919-560-0897.

Continuous Announcement for Posting Only – Will Not be Read During the Meeting

Open Office Hours with Planning Staff – The Durham City-County Planning Department is updating the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)! The UDO sets the rules for how land is developed in Durham, and we want your input! We will be hosting recurring office hours throughout the project. Drop in with your questions and feedback at the Durham County Main Library (300 N. Roxboro St.) on First Thursdays 3-6 p.m. and Third Thursdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through August 2025. Website: <https://engagedurham.com/35/New-UDO>. Contact: NewUDO@DurhamNC.gov.

Minutes

Vice Chair Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve the January 27, 2025 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

25-0058 Introduction of the New Durham County Memorial Stadium Manager, Evan Krame

Chrystal Thomas, Deputy Director General Services introduced Evan Krame, Memorial Stadium Manager and gave a brief overview of his education background and previous employment history. She also shared a list of events held at the Memorial Stadium that Mr. Krame assisted with before becoming the Memorial Stadium Manager.

Mr. Krame stated he was honored to be appointed as the Stadium Manager and looked forward to working to grow and develop the stadium and the community.

The Board thanked Mr. Krame for continuing to work for Durham County as the Stadium Manager and taking the stadium to the next level.

25-0046 Proclamation – Black History Month

Commissioner Burton read the following proclamation:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH | 2025

WHEREAS, Black History Month, a celebration of African Americans and their contributions to history, culture, and society, originally started as “Negro History Week” in 1926 and was federally recognized at Black History Month in 1976; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, the rich histories, and achievements of African Americans in the United States and in Durham are celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the true history of the United States and in Durham showcase generations of African American leaders who have built and transformed our country, our County, and our city, despite facing racism and barriers to their efforts towards equality; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have been leaders in securing their right to vote and participate equally as full society members through the abolitionist, emancipation, and civil rights movements. They have also been instrumental in the industrial labor movement and many other national and international movements; and

WHEREAS, despite the undeniable impact African Americans have made in history, significant work remains to ensure full equality and access for Black people everywhere; and

WHEREAS, African Americans of every age, gender, and culture has a story to tell and gifts to share with the world; and

WHEREAS, additional attention is given to African Americans during Black History Month, it is important to understand every month that countless African Americans have been undervalued and inadequately recognized for their contributions to our community, our nation, and our world; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and their allies will continue to work to ensure they are never silenced, and their stories of achievement can be told; and

WHEREAS, every person is called to be advocates and allies for African Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim February 2025 as

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

in Durham County, North Carolina, and call upon all citizens to observe and celebrate the successes of African Americans and to mark this month with appropriate observances honoring endless possibilities of African Americans everywhere.

This 10th day of February 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

Dr. Brent Lewis, Director of Equitable Well-being thanked the Board for recognizing the proclamation. Dr. Lewis introduced Nisha G. Williams, Attorney and Chair of the Durham Racial Equity Commission. Ms. Williams stated Black History was vital for the understanding of Durham County’s past. She added she worked with a diverse group of citizens to strive to improve the Durham community for all residents.

The Board thanked Dr. Lewis and Attorney Williams for the proclamation. The Board stated every day was Black History Month and no permission were needed to celebrate. They added the Community Forum of the Stagville Descendants Council would be holding Library Series about the “Other Side of the Story” at North Regional Library on February 15th, Main Library on February 22nd, Stanford L. Warren Library on March 8th and East Regional Library on March 15th.

25-0049 Resolution - Honoring the Lives and Legacy of Deah Shaddy Barakat, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha on the 10th Anniversary of Their Passing

Chair Allam read the following resolution:

**HONORING THE LIVES AND LEGACY OF DEAH SHADDY BARAKAT, YUSOR
MOHAMMAD ABU-SALHA, AND RAZAN MOHAMMAD ABU-SALHA ON
THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR PASSING**

- WHEREAS,** on February 10, 2015, the Durham County community suffered an unspeakable tragedy when three bright, compassionate, and dedicated young Muslim Americans—Deah Shaddy Barakat, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha—were senselessly murdered in Durham County; and
- WHEREAS,** Deah, Yusor, and Razan lived lives filled with love, generosity, and a deep commitment to serving others, demonstrating the best of what it means to be engaged and compassionate members of the Durham community; and
- WHEREAS,** Deah Barakat, a devoted husband, brother, son, and friend, was a dental student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who dedicated his life to providing free dental care to those in need, both locally and internationally, including through humanitarian work with Syrian refugees; and
- WHEREAS,** Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, a loving wife, daughter, sister, and role model, was preparing to follow in Deah’s footsteps by pursuing dental studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, while passionately engaging in community service and interfaith outreach; and
- WHEREAS,** Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, a beloved daughter, sister, and friend, was a talented architecture and design student at North Carolina State University, whose artistic vision and generous spirit were reflected in her commitment to philanthropy and mentorship; and
- WHEREAS,** their lives were guided by their faith, their love for family and friends, and their unwavering belief in justice, equality, and the power of community service; and
- WHEREAS,** Deah, Yusor, and Razan were proud Muslim Americans who embraced their faith as a source of strength and inspiration, advocating for inclusivity, service, and justice while demonstrating the rich contributions of Muslim Americans to society; and
- WHEREAS,** their tragic deaths underscored the importance of standing against all forms of hate, intolerance, and violence, while reaffirming our community’s commitment to love, acceptance, and unity; and
- WHEREAS,** their legacy continues to inspire countless individuals through initiatives such as the Deah, Yusor, and Razan Memorial Fund, as well as organizations like the Our Three

Winners Foundation and the Light House Project, which carry forward their dedication to service, education, and community support; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor and celebrate the lives of Deah Shaddy Barakat, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha on the 10th anniversary of their passing, recognizing their lasting impact on our community and beyond, and reaffirming our commitment to fostering a more just, inclusive, and compassionate society in their memory.

This the 10th day of February 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

Chair Allam stated the resolution was a response of love to hate crimes. She added the families of Deah Shaddy Barakat, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha were honoring their lives at an event she would be attending after the meeting. Chair Allam thanked Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board for framing the resolution.

The Board stated the lives of Deah Shaddy Barakat, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha would continue through Commissioner Allam and her work in the community. They stated everyone was a member of the community, no matter their race, color, religion and national origin.

The Board stated the community was able to watch *36 Seconds: Portrait of a Hate Crime*, a documentary about the fight for justice for Deah Barakat, his wife, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and her sister, Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha. Chair Allam stated the documentary would be screened on the campus of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on February 11th and the campus of North Carolina State on February 12th. She added The Light House Project was hosting an annual Interfaith Food Drive for the North Carolina Food Bank and the final collection would be at the Light House Project at 1127 Kildaire Farm Road in Cary from 10 a.m. – 2p.m.

Consent Agenda

Chair Allam asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, Chair Allam entertained a motion for approval.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

25-0005 Approval of Purchase of Goods and Services Contract with Batteries of NC & S.W.S. LLC in the Amount of \$385,485.54 for the Sheriff's Office FY25 Vehicle Equipment

*25-0012 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 25BCC070 Public Health to Recognize \$15,000 from Duke University’s Division of Community Health to Conduct the 2026 Durham County Community Health Assessment Survey with Durham County Residents

25-0017 Authorize the County Manager to Sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) for the Durham County Youth Home

25-0018 Approval of Purchase of Goods and Services Contract with eGroup Holding Company, LLC in the Amount of \$302,273 to provide Data Protection and Disaster Recovery for the Sheriff’s Office

25-0034 Approval to provide blanket authorization for the Manager’s execution of the documents required by the North Carolina Department of Transportation as part of the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant Utilities Administration Building II Project

25-0035 Lease Amendment for China Wok at 3825 S Roxboro Rd. Suite 124 at the Shoppes of Hope Valley Shopping Center to extend the current lease through February 28, 2027, with a monthly base lease rate of \$3,019.02, plus monthly Common Area maintenance costs estimated to be \$400.00 per month for CY2025

25-0036 Durham County Matching Grants Program - Approval of FY 2024-25 Grant Cycle Recipients in the Amount of \$100,000

*25-0037 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.25BCC072 Appropriating \$53,240 of General Fund Balance to the County Matching Grants Program for previously approved 2023-24 FY Grant Recipient

25-0038 Approval of Addendum to Property Management Agreement between Durham County and TradeMark Properties, Inc. to incorporate the retail spaces at 201 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701 into the Property Management Agreement and increase the annual contract to a total annual amount of \$36,000

25-0055 Approval to Advertise 2024 Tax Liens on Real Property

25-0057 Approval of Contract Amendment with Westaff Workforce Solutions for Temporary Staffing Services

26-0066 Approval of Contract with Ultimate Staffing for Temporary Staffing Services

Consent Agenda Item #25-0012

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC070**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2024-2025 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>
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GENERAL FUND

Expenditure

Human Services	\$120,532,991.87	\$15,000.00	\$120,547,991.87
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Revenue

Intergovernmental	\$79,583,006.00	\$15,000.00	\$79,598,006.00
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All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved February 10, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0037

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC072**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2024-2025 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>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$10,312,323.57	\$53,240.00	\$10,365,563.57
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$51,721,737.84	\$53,240.00	\$51,774,977.84

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

Approved February 10, 2025

Other Business

25-0054 2025 General Reappraisal Update Presentation

Keyar Doyle, Tax Administrator shared the *2025 General Reappraisal Update* which highlighted the following: Discussion Topics, North Carolina General Statute, The Reappraisal Process, Benefits of a 4-Year Cycle, 2024 Sales Assessment Ratio, 2024 Reappraisal Calendar, Local Real Estate Market, Commercial Trends, Apartment and Hotel Base Rates, Retail Base Rates, Industrial and Storage Rates, Previous Reappraisal IMPACT, Tax Relief Programs and Assistance, Department of Social Services (DSS) Low-Income Homeowner Relief Program, Appeals, Next Steps and Reminders.

The Board inquired about the definition of the base rate. Mr. Doyle replied the base rate was determined by the rate per similar properties. The Board asked if a guide would be included with the tax bill to explain the breakdown of the services funded with property taxes. Mr. Keyar responded he could work with other departments and include the guide with 2026 tax bills. The Board asked about the pricing of similar square feet homes with different land sizes. Mr. Doyle replied the appraisers used the assessment of raw land sales and appraisal techniques to determine land values when no raw land sales were available.

The Board asked about the number of residents enrolled in the DSS Low-Income Homeowner Relief Program. Mr. Doyle responded he would have to contact DSS to get the exact number; adding the numbers increased compared to last year. The Board questioned if commercial properties were priced on monthly rent or lease amounts versus sales prices. Mr. Doyle replied commercial properties had the ability of an income approach along with an appraisal approach for pricing.

The Board asked if the Tax Department would be planning for the 2029 Reappraisal upon finishing the 2025 Reappraisal. Mr. Doyle responded yes; adding he was collecting information being shared by the State. The Board inquired about the needs of the Tax Department to maintain a schedule with reappraisal dates and multifamily vacancy data. Mr. Doyle replied delays with the reappraisals were due to COVID-19 and technology upgrades. With regard to vacancy data, the data would be available in May, and he would provide the data to the Board along with adding the information to the County website.

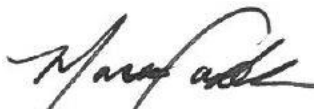
The Board thanked Mr. Doyle for the presentation and transparency of information provided to residents.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macio Carlton', written in a cursive style.

Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board