

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

Monday, February 24, 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: 3

Regular Session – 7:00 PM

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Vice Chair Lee to approve the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

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

1. **2025 Reappraisal Notices** – The notices for the 2025 Reappraisal will be mailed to all real property owners by the first week of March 2025. These will inform taxpayers of their 2025 assessed values. 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 in their markets, and verify that their property listing is accurate.
2. **Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program** – The Durham County Department of Social Services' Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program (LIHR) assists with property taxes for eligible households in Durham County. Learn more and access the application here - <https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/social-services/aging-and-adult-services/low-income-housing-relief-lihr> - or call Durham's Department of Social Services (DSS) at 919-560-8000.

3. **Creative Engagement Team for the Durham Cultural Roadmap** – As we kick off Phase II of the Durham Cultural Roadmap, the City and County of Durham are seeking a team of artists and creatives to design, plan, facilitate, and document creative community engagement activities. The Creative Engagement Team will work closely with City & County staff and MJR Partners, the Durham Cultural Roadmap consultants. Submit your application via Submittable by 3 p.m. on March 18, 2025. For more information, visit <https://www.durhamnc.gov/5368/Creative-Engagement> -Team or email arts@durhamnc.gov.
4. **“The Moment” a Conversation with Bakari Sellers** – Join the Durham County Library Humanities and the DCo Library Foundation for “The Moment” a conversation with Bakari Sellers and Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams on Wednesday, March 26 at 6 p.m., at Main Library. Sellers, a prominent voice in contemporary discourse, is a distinguished lawyer, political analyst, and author whose work embodies a commitment to social justice and civil rights. Registration holds a priority seating up until 5:45 p.m.; after that seating is first come first serve for registered and waitlisted patrons. Register here: <https://durhamcountylibrary.libcal.com/event/12990750>.
5. **2025 DCo Cares Recipient Organization Applications Open** – The 2025 DCo Cares Recipient Organization Applications are 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. The applications window has been extended through March 7, 2025. For more information, or to apply to be a recipient organization, please visit www.dccocares.org.
6. **Stop the Bleed Workshops from Duke Trauma Center** – Want to learn how to save a life? Stop the Bleed is a FREE workshop sponsored by Duke Trauma Center. The workshop includes both a presentation on bleeding control basics as well as hands-on skills training by health professionals. For more information, visit <https://trauma.duhs.duke.edu/injury-prevention/stop-bleed>. Registration is required. Events held from January to June at Durham County Library locations. Find registration info here: <https://durhamcountylibrary.libcal.com/calendar?t=d&q=stop%20the%20bleed&cid=14288&cal=14288&inc=0>.
7. **Sign Up for Alert Durham** – Durham County residents are encouraged to sign up for Alert Durham, the service that sends you emergency alerts and community notifications from Durham City/County Emergency Management. You decide how you want to receive them, via text message, phone call, email, etc. Head to <https://AlertDurham.com> and sign up today!
8. **Moving? Don't Forget to Change Voter Registration!** – Durham County residents, are you planning to move this year or already moved? Don't forget to update your voter registration to your new address! For more information on updating voter registration, check out the registration page of the Durham County Board of Elections website: <https://www.dcovotes.dconc.gov/voters/registration>.

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.

Cigna Healthcare has selected Durham County Government as a recipient of their 2024 gold level Healthy Workforce Designation for demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the health and vitality of its employees through a workplace well-being program.

Vitality is defined as the capacity to pursue life with health, strength and energy. It is both a driver and an outcome of health and work/life engagement, and Cigna Healthcare believes it is not only essential to individuals, but also a catalyst for business and community growth. Research conducted as part of the Evernorth Vitality Index confirms that those with higher vitality experience better mental and physical health along with higher levels of job satisfaction and performance. An opportunity remains for employers as less than one in five U.S. adults report having high levels of vitality. A workplace well-being program that takes a comprehensive approach to employee health can be critical in boosting vitality and building a workforce that experiences better overall health and job productivity.

The Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation evaluates organizations based on the core components of their well-being program, including leadership and culture, program foundations and execution, policies and accommodations, and additional areas. Organizations recognized with this designation set the standard of excellence for organizational health and vitality. Cigna Healthcare is proud to honor Durham County Government with the gold level designation for having made strong progress towards a healthy work culture by establishing and growing their employee well-being and engagement program.

For more details, visit <https://cignahwd.com/>

Minutes

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the February 3, 2025 Work Session and February 10, 2025 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

25-0089 Resolution – Celebrating the Safe Return of Keith Seigel to his Family

Chair Allam read the following resolution:

CELEBRATING THE SAFE RETURN OF KEITH SIEGEL TO HIS FAMILY

WHEREAS, Triangle native Keith Siegel was taken captive over 15 months ago during the terrorist attack carried out on October 7, 2023, an event that deeply affected communities both locally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, on February 1st, Keith Siegel was among three hostages released in the Gaza Strip, marking a significant moment in the struggle for freedom and human dignity; and

WHEREAS, Keith Siegel demonstrated remarkable resilience, hope, and the strength to persevere through adversity; and

WHEREAS, the safe return of Keith Siegel to his family, symbolizes not only his triumph but also the collective support of the Durham community and the broader North Carolina community, which has united to stand by him and his family as he embarks on the journey of recovery and healing; and

WHEREAS, Keith Siegel's family here in Durham fought tirelessly for his release, ceaselessly advocating nationally and internationally to secure his freedom; and

WHEREAS, we lost Keith Siegel's mother, Gladys Siegel, a scion of the Durham Jewish community, during his prolonged captivity; and

WHEREAS, the Durham Jewish community, especially at Keith's childhood synagogue, Beth El, never forgot Keith in their advocacy or prayers; and

WHEREAS, we express our collective hope for a permanent end to the war that has caused so much suffering and for the full release of all hostages, reaffirming our belief in a future where Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace and with dignity; and

WHEREAS, his return serves as an enduring reminder of the importance of unity, international cooperation, and the unwavering commitment to the values of freedom, justice, and human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Board of County Commissioners celebrate the safe return of Keith Siegel to his family and home and honor his strength and perseverance throughout his ordeal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Durham Board of County Commissioners extends its deepest gratitude to the many individuals, organizations, and government agencies, including those whose efforts spanned across partisan lines and national borders, for their critical roles in securing his release and supporting his recovery.

This the 24th 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 symbolized Keith Siegel’s personal triumph and the collective support of the Durham community. Lucy Siegel, Mr. Siegel’s sister thanked the board for the resolution. She added the resolution was heartfelt by the entire family all over the world.

The Board thanked the Siegal family and the members of Beth El Synagogue for their presence and expressed gratitude to the family and the Jewish community.

25-0098 Resolution – Durham County Recognizing and Approving of the Durham County Official America 250 NC Committee

Commissioner Jacobs read the following resolution:

DURHAM COUNTY RECOGNIZING AND APPROVING OF THE DURHAM COUNTY OFFICIAL AMERICA 250 NC COMMITTEE

A resolution of Durham County, North Carolina, supporting the America 250 NC committee for the United States semi-quincentennial (AMERICA250NC).

WHEREAS, Roy Cooper, former Governor of North Carolina created AMERICA250NC to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and North Carolina’s integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation’s past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, AMERICA250NC has a mission to engage ALL North Carolinians and ALL 100 counties through their many signatures and officially recognized programs, projects, and events over the commemoration by inspiring future leaders and celebrating North Carolina’s contributions to the nation over the last 250 years; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of America250NC’s mission, the Durham County Committee is officially **formed to achieve the goals of America250NC.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham County Board of Commissioners hereby endorses AMERICA250NC and its mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Durham officially establishes an AMERICA250NC Committee comprised of a diverse group of citizens to work with AMERICA250NC on any and all activities. The participants of the Durham County Committee will be strictly voluntary roles and there will be no compensation for participation.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Durham legislative delegation and the AMERICA250NC Committee.

This the 24th day of February 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

Tammie Hall, Assistant County Manager introduced Sara Stephens, Library Development Officer. Ms. Stephens thanked the Board for the resolution and stated Durham held an organizational meeting and identified the organizations that attended. She added Common Ground was the theme selected by the Durham County committee.

The board thanked Ms. Stephens for her leadership role with the committee and for bringing the organizations together. The Board stated they were willing to assist as needed and looked forward to attending the upcoming event.

Consent Agenda

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

Commissioner Jacobs requested to comment on Item 25-0051.

- Item 25-0025 – Commissioner Jacobs asked staff to explain the improvement at the detention center. Shawn Swiatocha, Assistant Director General Services responded the boilers were not replaced in 2012 when the HVAC was replaced. He added the boilers would be replaced with smaller-sized boilers and the request was for design and administrative services. Commissioner Jacobs highlighted the report from staff about all the detention center improvements and repairs approved by the Board. Commissioner Burton asked when the detention center was built. Mr. Swiatocha replied the detention center was built in 1992-1993 and opened in 1994.

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Allam entertained a motion for approval.

Vice Chair Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

25-0050 Approval to Renew the Lease Between Mbaye Fall and Seynabou Mbengue, individuals D/B/A Thiosanne African Hair Braiding and Durham County for the Shoppes at Hope Valley, Suite 137 until October 31, 2027, at a monthly lease amount of \$2,706.34 with a 3% annual escalation amount plus an initial monthly Common Area Maintenance Fee of \$400/month

25-0051 Replacement of Steam Boilers at the County Detention Center

*25-0056 Approval of Property Tax Releases and Refunds for January 2025

*25-0059 Budget Ordinance Amendment 25BCC073 Cooperative Extension to appropriate \$241,500 of General Fund balance for a Welcome Baby Duke Endowment Grant

25-0060 2024 Durham Board of Adjustment Annual Report

25-0061 2024 Durham City-County Appearance Commission Annual Report

25-0062 2024 Durham Open Space and Trails Commission Annual Report

25-0063 2024 Durham Historic Preservation Commission Annual Report

25-0064 2024 Durham Planning Commission Annual Report

25-0068 Adoption of a Resolution to Delegate Limited Authority to Sign an Option to Purchase and Contract for Real Property for a Transition House Operated Under the Durham County Justice Services Department

*25-0069 Budget Amendment Ordinance No. 25BCC074 Cooperative Extension to recognize \$3,787.00 in additional Smart Start Welcome Baby Funding to Support the Program through the Remainder of the Fiscal Year

Consent Agenda Item #25-0056

Releases and Refunds – January 2025

Current Year 2024 Taxes	Releases	Refunds	
Real Property	\$50,547.10	\$392,972.55	
Personal Property	\$76,330.80	\$190,779.68	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$86.18	
Solid Waste	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$20,000.00	\$14,414.00	
Public Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTs Refunds	\$0.00	\$26,383.06	
Gross Rec./Bev. Lic.	\$0.00	\$1,669.97	
SUB – TOTAL	\$146,877.90	\$626,305.84	\$773,183.74
Prior Year 2015-2023	Releases	Refunds	
Real Property	\$1,095.78	\$460.70	
Personal Property	\$60,860.31	\$16,217.86	
GAP Vehicles	\$0.00	\$878.97	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Solid Waste	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTs Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00	
SUB - TOTAL	\$61,956.09	\$17,557.53	\$79,513.62
GRAND TOTAL	\$208,833.99	\$643,863.37	\$852,697.36

Consent Agenda Item #25-0059

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC073**

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>
GENERAL FUND			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$10,365,563.57	\$241,500.00	\$10,607,063.57
<u>Revenue</u>			

Intergovernmental	\$79,598,006.00	\$241,500.00	\$79,839,506.00
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All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved February 24, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0069

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC074**

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	\$10,607,063.57	\$3,787.00	\$10,610,850.57
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$79,839,506.00	\$3,787.00	\$79,843,293.00

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

Approved February 24, 2025

Board and Commission Appointments

Larissa Williamson, County Attorney announced the voting results.

The Board made the following appointments (incumbents are identified with an (i). Individuals who are recommended by a Board are underlined.) Individuals listed in bold print were appointed.

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee

(i)**Angela Holmes** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Board of Health

Sarah Verbiest (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Boxing and Wrestling Commission

Eric Faust (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

City-County Appearance Commission

Nya Furtick (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Durham Planning Commission

Henry Capers (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Durham Racial Equity Commission

- (i)**Maima Kamara** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)
(i)**Sheila Mullen** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)
Henry Capers (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)
(i)**Atrayus Goode** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)
Leah Selvy (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)
(i)**Nisha Williams** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)
(i)**Ramya Krishna** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

- Beverly “BJ” Council** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)
DeWarren Langley (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

- (i)**Gracie Rogers** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Commissioner Jacobs acknowledged the annual reports submitted on the Consent Agenda and thanked the residents who served on the Board and Commissions.

Adjournment

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Vice Chair Lee to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 7:33 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board