

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

Monday, March 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: 2

Regular Session – 7:00 PM

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve adding the Recognizing and Celebrating Ramadan 2025 Proclamation to the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

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

1. **Property Value Notices Have Arrived, Now What?** – The Durham County Tax Administration mailed reappraisal notices to all property owners in Durham County the week of Feb. 28. Property owners are encouraged to review the information and report any out of date/incorrect information to the tax office, compare your property value with the sale price of similar properties, and if you disagree with your assessed value, you can file an appeal with the Board of Equalization and Review. Property owners may schedule a Reappraisal Information Meeting with a tax staff representative from March 17 to April 12 at various locations in the County. See dates/times at www.dconc.gov/tax. It is preferred that appointments are scheduled to ensure property owners are allocated the proper amount of individual time with an appraiser. Find information on all of these subjects, as well as Tax Relief Programs available to eligible taxpayers, at the Tax Help webpage at <https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/tax-administration/tax-help> or by calling 919-560-0300.

2. **Moving Forward Together** – Join the Durham County Library, Sister Cities of Durham, and the Durham County Women’s Commission for an evening of celebrating and connecting with women empowering women and strengthening Durham County as a place of local and global influence and commerce at “Moving Forward Together” at Main Library on March 24 at 5:30 p.m. Durham City Councilwoman Javiera Caballero will moderate a panel discussing how women can move forward together, remain connected, and empower future women leaders in our local and international communities within and beyond Durham County. Register here: <https://durhamcountylibrary.libcal.com/event/14193625>.
3. **Planning Academy Application Open until March 14!** – The Durham Planning Academy is a free interactive course that gives residents the chance to learn more about how the planning process works in our community, how to use available planning tools, and how to engage in planning work with your City-County Planning Department. The Spring Planning Academy runs on May 2-3. Registration is open until March 14! Apply here: <https://www.durhamnc.gov/3173/Durham-Planning-Academy>.
4. **Design Budget Book Cover Illustration!** – Calling all Durham County Youth! Our Durham County Budget and Management Services is holding a contest for you to draw art for the cover of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Book! The contest is open to all DCo youth from Pre-K to 12th grade - homeschool, public school, private school. We encourage you to display your creative skills by showcasing "What is Your Favorite Part of Durham County?" One submission will be chosen by staff for the cover illustration. Other entries may be used throughout the Budget Book! Entries are due by April 15th! Download and submit entry forms online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BX2YMCN>. For more information on the contest or its rules, please contact Durham County Budget Analyst Shannon Wright at sjwright@dconc.gov.
5. **Durham 4-H Summer Camp** – Register for Durham 4-H Summer Camps today! The registration deadline is April 15. Space is limited for each camp. First, register your student at <https://v2.4honline.com> – select “Durham County Member at Large” if you are not currently enrolled. Next, pay for camp at Eventbrite links here – <https://durham.ces.ncsu.edu/4hsummercamp/>. If you’d like to be put on the waitlist, contact Durham’s 4-H Program Assistant at rawilso9@ncsu.edu.

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: www.engagedurham.com 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/>

Chair Allam stated Governor Josh Stein visited Kate's Korner in Durham to announce a new Task Force for Child Care and Early Education and highlighted the need to identify solutions to expand access to affordable, high-quality childcare across North Carolina and support the childcare workforce.

Commissioner Jacobs stated the Durham Joint Together (DJT) to Save Lives Task Force met to determine the progress made since the task force started in 2018 and thanked Dr. Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director for supporting the meeting. Commissioner Jacobs stated she would like to submit the report from the 2025 National Association of Counties (NACo) Federal Legislative Conference and shared highlights about intergovernmental partnerships and budget cuts.

Commissioner Burton stated she attended her first NACo Federal Legislative Conference and learned about the amount of money the County received from the Federal Government. She encouraged residents to reach out to their Local Delegation about the Federal funding needed for the County.

Citizen Comments

The Board of County Commissioners provided a 30-minute comment period to allow Durham County citizens an opportunity to speak. Citizens were given the option to deliver their Citizen Comments in-person or virtually via email to the Clerk no later than Sunday, March 9th at 12 noon.

Victoria Peterson spoke about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. She inquired about Afro-American organizations who received funding, earned interest, and requested a meeting with County Manager Hager to discuss ARPA funding.

County Manager Hager responded that Central Pines Regional Council received ARPA funding and was assisting seniors. She added she looked forward to meeting with Ms. Peterson to discuss other ways ARPA funding was used.

Pam Andrews spoke about the reappraisal notice she received that doubled her property value. She added annexing caused an overvaluation of property values and her land was in a watershed with limited use.

Tammie Sawaya spoke about the reappraisal notice she received that increased her property value by 166 percent. She added the Commissioners may lower the tax rate temporarily but would increase the tax rate to the current rate, which was higher than surrounding counties.

Chair Allam stated the Tax Department was holding Reappraisal Informational Meetings at various locations in Durham to meet with residents about the reappraisal and appeal process. Keyar Doyle, Tax Administrator, added the Tax Department was providing information about the reappraisal on the Durham County website and scheduling meetings with residents about property values. Commissioner Jacobs stated the County was required by North Carolina State statute to do market value reappraisals and was not allowed to hold annexing hearings. She suggested residents contact the state to ask for changes.

Minutes

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Vice Chair Lee to approve the February 24, 2025, Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

25-0139 Proclamation – Recognizing and Celebrating Ramadan 2025

Chair Allam read the following proclamation:

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING RAMADAN | 2025

- WHEREAS,** Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims around the world as a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community; and
- WHEREAS,** this sacred month commemorates the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), inspiring Muslims to seek spiritual growth, self-discipline, and closeness to God through acts of devotion and compassion; and
- WHEREAS,** one of the central teachings of Ramadan is to practice our faith by serving others, emphasizing generosity, kindness, and the importance of uplifting those in need through acts of charity, volunteerism, and support for the less fortunate; and
- WHEREAS,** the principles of Ramadan align with the values of Durham County, as we strive to foster a community of empathy, unity, and social responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** the Muslim community of Durham County contributes to the cultural, social, and economic vibrancy of our region, enriching our collective spirit through service, outreach, and interfaith collaboration; and
- WHEREAS,** the conclusion of Ramadan is marked by Eid al-Fitr, a joyous celebration of gratitude, renewal, and togetherness, further reinforcing the commitment to building a just and compassionate society for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Durham County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim February 28 through March 30, 2025, as a period of recognition and celebration of

“RAMADAN IN DURHAM COUNTY”

and encourages all residents to honor this sacred time by fostering understanding, strengthening our bonds as a diverse community, and embracing the spirit of service that defines this holy month.

This 10th day of March 2025

Nida Allam, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

25-0115 Proclamation – National Social Work Month
Commissioner Valentine read the following proclamation:

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH | 2025

- WHEREAS,** people have entered the social work profession for generations because they genuinely care about helping improve the welfare of people, families, communities and our nation; and
- WHEREAS,** this year’s Social Work Month theme, “Social Work: Compassion + Action,” embodies the fact that social workers go through years of education and training, so they have the skills and expertise to transform their care for others into action that brings positive results; and
- WHEREAS,** the Social Work Profession has worked for generations to improve living conditions in our nation, with Social Workers successfully pushing for Social Security, a 40-hour work week, Medicare, and a minimum wage; and
- WHEREAS,** Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by successfully advocating for equal rights for all people, no matter their race, sexual identity, gender, gender expression, culture or religion; and
- WHEREAS,** Social Workers follow a Code of Ethics, which sets as the primary mission of the Social Work profession the enhancement of human well-being and meeting the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of those who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty; and
- WHEREAS,** the Social Work Profession is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, with more than 800,000 people expected to be employed as Social Workers by 2033; and
- WHEREAS,** Social Workers work in all parts of our society – including schools, social service agencies, veteran centers, and government – helping people, family and communities secure services and policies they need to thrive; and
- WHEREAS,** Social Workers are at the forefront of pressing issues our nation is addressing, including increased needs for mental health care, especially for children and adolescents; and substance use disorder treatment; and increased economic and political division;
WHEREAS, Social Workers are one of the largest groups of mental health care providers

in the United States and are pressing for a Social Work Interstate Licensing Compact that will improve mental health care delivery in our nation; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers help protect millions of children from abuse and neglect, provide services and support, which helps strengthen families that are under stress, and help create new families through adoption; and

WHEREAS, research proves the presence of Social Workers in schools, hospitals, and assisted living facilities improve education and health outcomes and quality of life for students, patients and residents; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers continue to stand ready to assist our nation in overcoming present and future challenges, including ending gun violence, improving health care and mental health care for all and urging lawmakers to adopt immigration reforms.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by America’s Social Workers; I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as

“NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH”

in Durham County, North Carolina, and call upon all citizens to join the National Association of Social Workers and Durham County in celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.

This 10th day of March 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Maggie Clapp, Social Services Director, thanked the Board for acknowledging National Social Work Month and stated the department would celebrate employees on Wednesday, March 13th with breakfast.

The Board thanked Ms. Clapp and the Social Services Department for providing services with love and care to vital residents in the Durham community.

25-0117 Resolution – Women’s History Month 2025

Commissioner Jacobs read the following resolution:

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH | 2025

WHEREAS, Women’s History Month, a celebration of women and their contributions to history, culture, and society, has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987; and

WHEREAS, during Women’s History Month, the rich history of women, girls, and women-identifying individuals of all races, ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds are celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the true histories of the United States and Durham reveal generations of trailblazing women leaders whose courage, strength, and vision have built and transformed our country; and

WHEREAS, women in the United States and Durham have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and many other national and international movements; and

WHEREAS, every woman has a story to tell and gifts to share with the world; and

WHEREAS, additional attention is given to women during Women’s History Month, it is important to understand every month that countless women, girls, and women-identifying individuals have been undervalued and inadequately recognized for their contributions to our community, our nation, and our world; and

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

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

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

“WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH”

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

This 10th day of March 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Cassandra Kiger, Manager of Equitable Well-being, thanked the Board for recognizing the resolution. She encouraged residents to visit the Durham County website to view the events planned for Women’s History Month.

The Board thanked Ms. Kiger for the resolution and named a few women in Durham County that held major positions and roles.

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 25-0133.

- Item 25-0133 – Commissioner Jacobs stated the County was approving most of the funding for the New Durham School of Arts project. She requested the Board receive periodic updates on the cost and progress of the project. County Manager Hager responded that she spoke with the School Superintendent and confirmed that updates would be forwarded to the Board in a timely manner. Commissioner Jacobs stated the County does not have funding to renovate former

school sites, but the County and the community should be included in the recommendations for future use of former school sites. County Manager Hager replied she would have discussions with the Board on how to proceed forward after the budget session, then share with the planning director and have community input.

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

25-0065 Approval of a Three-Year Contract with SHI International Corp. in the amount of \$836,419.44 for Licenses, Services and the Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft for the Durham County Sheriff's Office

*25-0072 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 25BCC083 Recognizing \$124,106 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to the Durham County Sheriff's Office for the 2024 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

*25-0082 Budget Ordinance Amendment No.25BCC075 Public Health to approve a \$7,000 award from the Community Engagement Research Institute subcommittee of the Duke Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) to implement the Advancing Health Equity Together Through Education and Outreach Grant Program

*25-0083 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 25BCC077 to Recognize \$26,250 from the Communicable Disease Branch of the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services

*25-0084 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 25BCC076 Public Health to Recognize \$12,891 from the North Carolina Association of Public Health Agencies for Community Co-Leadership in the Healing-Centered Engagement program of Thriving Hearts

25-0085 Approve a Multi-Year Interlocal Agreement Between the Department of Public Health and Durham Parks & Recreation

*25-0102 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 25BCC079 Public Health to Recognize \$14,475 from NC DHHS Division of Public Health's Local and Community Support Section/Local Infrastructure and Workforce Support Unit

25-0108 Approval of a Contract Amendment between the County of Durham and Diana Phillips Consulting in the amount of \$10,000.00, increasing the total amount to \$40.000

*25-0111 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 25BCC081 Cooperative Extension to recognize \$3,423 from the Briggs Avenue Fall Festival plant sale for Briggs Avenue Community Garden Program Expenses

*25-0112 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 25BCC080 Cooperative Extension to recognize \$1,000 from the Extension Master Food Volunteer Training for Family and Consumer Sciences for Program

Expenses

*25-0133 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No. 25CPA0036 Appropriating \$186,649,809.10 of 2022 General Obligation Bond Funding to the New Durham School of Arts Project (SH299) Bringing the Total Project Budget to \$241,070,536

Consent Agenda Item #25-0072

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC083**

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> | | | |
| Public Safety | \$91,854,625.10 | \$124,106.00 | \$91,978,731.10 |
| <u>Revenue</u> | | | |
| Intergovernmental | \$79,903,909.00 | \$124,106.00 | \$80,028,015.00 |

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

Approved March 10, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0082

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC075**

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 | \$10,610,850.57 | \$7,000.00 | \$10,617,850.57 |
| <u>Revenue</u> | | | |
| Intergovernmental | \$79,843,293.00 | \$7,000.00 | \$79,850,293.00 |

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

Approved March 10, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0083

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC077**

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 | \$10,630,741.57 | \$26,250.00 | \$10,656,991.57 |
| <u>Revenue</u> | | | |
| Intergovernmental | \$79,863,184.00 | \$26,250.00 | \$79,889,434.00 |

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

Approved March 10, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0084

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC076**

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 | \$10,617,850.57 | \$12,891.00 | \$10,630,741.57 |
| <u>Revenue</u> | | | |
| Intergovernmental | \$79,850,293.00 | \$12,891.00 | \$79,863,184.00 |

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

Approved March 10, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0102

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC079**

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 | \$10,656,991.57 | \$14,475.00 | \$10,671,466.57 |
| <u>Revenue</u> | | | |
| Intergovernmental | \$79,889,434.00 | \$14,475.00 | \$79,903,909.00 |

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

Approved March 10, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0111

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC081**

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 | \$10,675,991.57 | \$3,423.00 | \$10,661,414.57 |
| <u>Revenue</u> | | | |
| Intergovernmental | \$31,867,150.00 | \$3,423.00 | \$31,870,573.00 |

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

Approved March 10, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0112

**Durham County, North Carolina
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 25BCC080**

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 | \$10,656,991.57 | \$1,000.00 | \$10,657,991.57 |
| <u>Revenue</u> | | | |
| Service Charges | \$31,866,150.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$31,867,150.00 |

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

Approved March 10, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0133

**Durham County, North Carolina
FY 2023-2024 Capital Project
Amendment Number 25CPA-36**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:
That the FY 2024-25 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

| Project # | Project Name | Current Budget | Increase / Decrease | Updated Budget |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 59105400SH299 | Durham School of Arts – New Location | \$54,420,726.90 | \$186,649,809.10 | \$241,070,536.00 |

All capital projects in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved March 10, 2025

Other Business

25-0052 Review of 2024 City-County Resident Survey Results

Jason Morado, Director of Community Research (ETC Institute) shared the *Durham County 2024 Resident Survey Presentation* which highlighted the following: Agenda, Purpose, Methodology, Location of Survey Respondents, What We Learned, Topic #1 Residents Have a Positive Perception of Durham County, Topic #2 Geographic Analysis, Topic #3 Comparisons to Other Communities, Topic #4 Trend Analysis, Topic #5 Top Community Priorities and Summary.

The Board inquired about survey questions related to Durham Public Schools (DPS). Mr. Morado replied the survey asked questions about managing the budget, recruiting teachers, the education of students and effective leadership. The Board asked if more homeowners than renters responded to the survey. Mr. Morado responded yes, adding survey data weight was an option to provide even results.

The Board stated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was a County service and needed to be added to the County survey results. The Board asked County Manager Hager for the trend data for response times for EMS and how the survey results would be used. County Manager Hager responded she would contact EMS to receive the trend data and staff would review the survey results to research causes in areas where the County was not performing well and determine if funding was an issue.

The Board asked if the results could conclude if children attended DPS or charter/private schools to determine if the results were swayed about DPS. Mr. Morado replied the survey asked which best describes the education of children in the home and the results matched with the demographics of Durham County. The Board inquired about the number of residents who responded to this survey that responded to previous surveys. Mr. Morado responded that the surveys were based on a random sample of residents.

The Board thanked Mr. Morado for the presentation on the survey results.

Adjournment

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 8:46 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Addendum to March 10, 2025 Minutes - Approved at the May 12, 2025 Meeting

Commissioner Jacobs report from the National Association of Counties Federal Legislative Conference:

I attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. from February 28, 2025, until March 4, 2024. I want to provide an update as we know there are many changes underway and being proposed that could have a profound

impact on Durham County Government. I attended the meeting of the Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee of which I am a member. Here I learned about a potential opportunity for Durham County. A new HRSA Policy allows FQHC's- Federally Qualified Health Centers like Lincoln Community Health Center to now provide up to 90 days of health services for people who are incarcerated and nearing release. This change creates the possibility that Lincoln could provide health services to residents in transition from our detention center which could be beneficial as FQHC's qualify for enhanced reimbursement for Medicaid recipients and for medications. Plus, this could support a smooth transition to a medical home and treatment for re-entering residents. As a member of the Lincoln Board, I will follow up on learning more about this opportunity.

I also attended the meeting of the Immigration Reform Task Force on which I serve as a Vice Chair and a briefing on the economic impact of changes to Federal Immigration Policies. I learned from national workforce sector representatives about the devastating impact that loss of our undocumented immigrant workforce could have on our economy. Currently 30% of construction workers, 40-45% of agricultural workers, 22% of childcare workers, 50% of hotel housekeeping staff, 45% of professional chefs and up to 80% of restaurant workers are immigrants and many of them are undocumented immigrants. Here in North Carolina alone, 53% of our agriculture labor force are undocumented immigrants. Not only do many Americans not want to do these jobs, but even if everyone was employed, we would still need these workers. I had directly from industry leaders that they are worried about not being able to build homes, provide food or care for children in our country.

During the convening of our NCACC Caucus we learned about proposed cuts to Medicaid and other proposed legislation that could have detrimental impacts to our residents and to County services and budgets. Currently in NC more than 3m people receive physical and behavioral health care coverage through Medicaid and an additional 630,000 people have already been enrolled in just about a year since we joined Medicaid expansion. With a population of about 11 million, this means that more than a quarter of North Carolina residents are dependent on Medicaid for their health and well-being. 92% of these people are working or disabled. We have heard discussion of work requirements, but very little benefit could be seen from this and this would create an expensive new requirement to be carried out by counties. In addition, many of those receiving Medicaid are our most vulnerable residents -children and dependent older adults in assisted living or nursing homes. While in DC, I heard comments from Congressional representatives Trump administration officials that they are just looking to cut waste and fraud from programs like Medicaid and social security. But as a member of our DSS Board for 12 years, I can attest to the fact that there is nothing more rigorous than providing the extensive documentation to qualify for Medicaid and other federal benefits, we have our own internal quality assurance department and no entity is audited or comes under closer scrutiny than DSS. In addition, because NC is a 90% rule state, if the federal government reduces their state funding for Medicaid below 90%, all 630,000 people including more than 22,000 Durham residents will suddenly lose all their health care coverage. It is important for us and our residents to also be aware that the current House budget Resolution includes \$880 billion cuts to safety net social programs like Medicaid that directly benefit people in our community. I also want to share concerns shared at our NCACC Caucus Meeting and the NAC0 briefing on the First 100 Days, that the federal administration proposes the elimination of Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds. This would be devastating for all local city and county governments as this is how we finance capital improvement like the GO Bonds for Durham

Public Schools on our agenda tonight. NAC0 staff leadership estimated that eliminating these tax-exempt municipal bonds would translate into a \$6500 property tax increase for every American taxpayer.

I share all this detailed information because it is vital for our residents and for Durham County Government to be informed of what proposed changes really mean for all of us. Deborah Craig Ray and I were able to meet with our US Senators and congressional representatives and some of their legislative staff. They all encouraged us to stay in close communication and keep them informed about how the cuts to many federal agencies such as the VA are already directly impacting people. I encourage everyone in our community to speak up, be active and engaged and let your state and federal representatives know what you think and what is happening to you and your loved ones.

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