

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

