

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

Monday, December 1, 2008

9:00 A.M. Worksession

**MINUTES**

Place: Commissioners' Room, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman Michael D. Page, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Joe W. Bowser, Becky M. Heron, and Brenda A. Howerton

Absent: None

Presiders: Commissioner-Elect Page and County Attorney Chuck Kitchen

Assistant County Manager Deborah Craig-Ray called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Board of County Commissioners Worksession. This is indeed a special occasion.

**Board of Elections Presentation of Certificates**

Mike Ashe, Director, Board of Elections, presented Certificates of Election to the candidates certified as having officially won the November 4, 2008 election.

Mr. Ashe made the following remarks:

“Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for letting me share this happy time with you.

I'm Mike Ashe, the Director of Elections. I'd like to introduce Chairman Ron Gregory.

In case any of you are wondering, yes, life is good and getting better.

The purpose of my being here this morning is to present Certificates of Election to the winning candidates as mandated by state law.

L&G, Democracy is alive and well in Durham County. Today's ceremony finishes a wonderful election and democratic process.

I would like to thank Ellen Reckhow for publically recognizing the BOE staff. Your kind words and thoughts were greatly appreciated by the entire Elections family.

Speaking of our Elections family, our staff of seven regular employees, we added 150 one-stop workers and 725 election-day workers. We could not have succeeded without the support of the County staff.

Perry Dixon, Skip Auld, Mike Turner, and Mike Ruffin—because of him, we are properly staffed and funded to do our job.

Democracy had a great couple of months, Durham set new records in every measureable category—number of new registrations, number of pre-election registration updates, number of votes cast, percentage of turnout, number of one-stop votes, and number of absentee by mail ballots.

I am thrilled that so many people made such an effort, some even standing in the cold rain so they could vote for Willie Covington.

L&G have the best vote counting system in the world; publically verified before and after.

People go to a user friendly, ADA compliant voting place and cast a secret ballot without intimidation that is honestly counted and reported.

We were highly scrutinized during this entire process. Because we were an important Presidential battleground state, we had partisan observers in the BOE office and in every one-stop and election-day precinct. We had multiple watchdog groups involved in every aspect of this process.

On November 14, by law, the Board of Elections met in open session to CANVASS or officially certify the results of our election.

This office has not received any written allegations of wrong-doings associated with ballots or counting of ballots. We did not receive any election-day challenges to any voter or any voter registration. I have not received nor am I aware of any charges or protests concerning any elections officials, equipment, or process. We did not have any failure of equipment or personnel that caused doubt on the validity of the process.

To the winners here today, your election was fair and honest. No one has questioned nor can anyone ever question the legitimacy of your victory.

So, on behalf of 137,358 Durhamites, I am honored to present the 2008 Durham County People's Choice Awards. Congratulations, God Bless, and God Speed."

Mike Ashe, Director of Elections, presented the Certificates of Election to the following elected officials:

Danielle Adams  
Willie L. Covington  
Joe W. Bowser  
Becky M. Heron  
Brenda A. Howerton  
Michael D. Page  
Ellen W. Reckhow

**Installation of Soil and Water Conservation District Board Members**

The Honorable William A. Marsh III, Resident Superior Court Judge, administered the Oaths of Office to Danielle Adams as a member of the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

OATH

DURHAM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

I, DANIELLE ADAMS, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as member of the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District, so help me, God.

I, DANIELLE ADAMS, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of Durham Soil and Water Conservation District member according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/Danielle Adams

Member, Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
This 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2008.

/s/William A. Marsh III

Superior Court Judge

**Installation of Register of Deeds**

The Honorable William A. Marsh III administered the Oath of Office to Willie L. Covington, Register of Deeds-Elect.

## OATH

### DURHAM COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

I, WILLIE LEE COVINGTON, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Register of Deeds for the County of Durham, so help me, God.

I, WILLIE LEE COVINGTON, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and truly, according to the best of my skill and ability, execute the duties of the office of Register of Deeds for the County of Durham, in all things according to law; so help me, God.

/s/Willie Lee Covington  
Register of Deeds

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
This 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2008.

/s/William A. Marsh III  
Superior Court Judge

### **Installation of County Commissioners**

The Honorable William A. Marsh III administered Oaths of Office to the County Commissioners-Elect.

## OATH

### DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, JOE BOWSER, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, JOE BOWSER, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/Joe Bowser  
Member, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,

This 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2008.

/s/William A. Marsh III  
Superior Court Judge

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OATH

DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, BECKY M. HERON, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, BECKY M. HERON, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/Becky Heron  
Member, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
This 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2008.

/s/William A. Marsh III  
Superior Court Judge

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OATH

DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, BRENDA HOWERTON, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, BRENDA HOWERTON, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/Brenda Howerton  
Member, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,

This 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2008.

/s/William A. Marsh III  
Superior Court Judge

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OATH

DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, MICHAEL D. PAGE, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, MICHAEL D. PAGE, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/Michael D. Page  
Member, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
This 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2008.

/s/William A. Marsh III  
Superior Court Judge

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OATH

DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, ELLEN W. RECKHOW, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, ELLEN W. RECKHOW, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/Ellen W. Reckhow  
Member, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
This 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2008.

/s/William A. Marsh III

Superior Court Judge

**Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners**

Ms. Craig-Ray recognized County Attorney Chuck Kitchen to preside over the election of the Board's chairman.

County Attorney Kitchen recognized Commissioner Howerton.

Commissioner Howerton stated that she wished to nominate Vice-Chairman Michael D. Page to serve as chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

County Attorney Kitchen called for further nominations. As no additional nominations were made, he closed the nominations and requested a vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Chuck Kitchen congratulated Chairman Page on his appointment.

Chairman Page proceeded with the election of vice chairman.

Commissioner Heron stated that she wished to nominate Commissioner Ellen W. Reckhow as vice chairman of the Board.

No further nominations were made; therefore, Chairman Page closed the nominations and called for a vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Page thanked everyone for coming to the Worksession. He stated that he looks forward to working with the citizens of Durham as well as the Commissioners in the upcoming year.

**Approval of Public Official Bonds**

Chuck Kitchen, County Attorney, introduced this item stating that the Board of Commissioners is required to approve the bonds of public officials on the first Monday of December of each year. Following approval, the bonds will be recorded in the Register of Deeds Office and then sent to the Clerk of Superior Court for safekeeping.

County Attorney Kitchen gave a brief overview of the public official bonds.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Heron, to approve the public officials bonds as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Public Official Bond Certificate follows:

NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

CERTIFICATE

As Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to certify that on Monday, December 1, 2008, the following Public Official Bonds were approved by the Board of County Commissioners of Durham County; the Public Official, the amount of bond, and the bond number with the name of the surety were set forth:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PUBLIC OFFICIAL</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF BOND</u>	<u>SURETY</u>	<u>BOND #</u>
Financial Officer	George Quick	\$250,000	Hartford	20SBAY8705
Tax Collector	Kenneth L. Joyner, Jr.	\$250,000	Hartford	20SBEBY6989
Sheriff	Worth Hill	\$ 25,000	Hartford	20SBBY9698
Register of Deeds	Willie L. Covington	\$ 50,000	Hartford	20SBBT7709

Each bond is executed under seal in the name of the surety by an agent or attorney in fact. The clerk of the Durham County Board of Commissioners has been instructed to record each of the bonds enumerated herein with the power of attorney attached thereto in the office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, together with a copy of this Certificate attached to each bond. After said bonds have been duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds, the original of bond together with the power of attorney and a copy of the Certificate shall be deposited with the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County.

Michael D. Page  
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
The 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2008

Angela M. McIver  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
My Commission expires: March 26, 2011

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Page adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela M. McIver  
Administrative Assistant  
Clerk to the Board's office