

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

Monday, March 28, 2022

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 Brenda Howerton, Vice-Chair Wendy Jacobs and Commissioners Nida Allam, Nimasheena Burns and Heidi Carter

Presider: Chair Brenda Howerton

**Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Adjustments**

Chair Howerton announced that there were no agenda adjustments.

**Announcements**

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

1. **DCo Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Hours** – The COVID19 vaccination clinic at the Durham County Department of Public Health, 414 E. Main St., has the following hours to get your free vaccination: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Appointments and walk-ins welcome. All doses available. Please note, clinics are closed between 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. daily. For more information, please visit [www.dcopublichealth.org/COVIDVaccines](http://www.dcopublichealth.org/COVIDVaccines) or call 919-560-9217.

2. **Durham County Seeks Input on Potential Use of ARPA Funds for Broadband Services** – Durham County is holding an information update and listening session on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 7pm – 8:30pm. This session will be held at Durham Technical Community College's Northern Durham Center located at 2401 Snow Hill Rd, Building 1. This session will provide updates on previous efforts to improve broadband and explain the current Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

For those who can not attend in person will be able to access the meeting on the Durham County YouTube Channel and the Durham County Facebook page.

3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Library Fest: The Food Edition** – The Durham County Library and Durham Library Foundation are hosting the Second Annual Library Fest from April 18-23. Library Fest is a celebration of public libraries and this year’s theme is all about food! Fest will be comprised of in-person and virtual programs for all ages. Learn more by visiting [www.durhamcountylibrary.org/libraryfest](http://www.durhamcountylibrary.org/libraryfest)
4. **Poultry with a Purpose** – Are you thinking about getting backyard birds or starting a small egg or pasture poultry business? Sign up for this FREE virtual workshop on Thursday, March 31 from 6:30-8 p.m. from the Durham County Cooperative Extension today. Registration required at <https://bit.ly/DCoPoultryPurpose>.

Have questions, please contact [janel\\_ohletz@ncsu.edu](mailto:janel_ohletz@ncsu.edu)

5. **DCo Tax Live-Chat Communication** – Have a question for the Durham County Tax Administration? They have a live-chat communication feature for obtaining property tax information. Residents can ‘chat’ online with a member of the Durham County Tax staff by visiting [www.dconc.gov/tax](http://www.dconc.gov/tax) and look for the “Chat Now” link.
6. **Subscribe to SCOOPS!** – Be sure to check out the latest information and inspiration news bulletin entitled SCOOPS! from the Durham County Department of Social Services with YOU in mind! It’s full of program updates and practical living tips. To get your SCOOPS delivered to your inbox, email [dcodsspublicinformation@dconc.gov](mailto:dcodsspublicinformation@dconc.gov)
7. **Need Help Buying Food?** – **SNAP** or Food Stamps may be able to help you. For help with the SNAP application call Katy Forrest at 919-909-7469 (para Español contact a Milagros Guzman al 910-705-5504). Also, WIC is a special program for women, infants, and children. To get more information call Lincoln Community Health Center at 919-956-4042.
8. **Rabies Vaccinations** – The Durham County Sheriff’s Office, through its Animal Services Division, offers Rabies Vaccinations by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. There is a \$10, cash-only fee (exact change only). Photo ID required. You must stay in your car with cats in carriers and dogs on leash/in carrier. Don’t be late! The Animal Services Division is located at 3005 Glenn Rd. For more information, call 919-560-0630.
9. **Sign Up for Alert Durham Emergency Notifications** – Spring is here and that means the potential for severe weather, including strong thunderstorms and flooding. Durham County wants to keep its citizens informed and safe in the case of an emergency. Sign up for Alert Durham to receive notifications about severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

To sign up, visit [www.alertdurham.com](http://www.alertdurham.com)

Commissioners shared the following additional announcements.

- Residents were able to sign-up for the Durham County This Week E-Newsletter on the County Website.
- The Durham Pre-K Program held a Family Information Session on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. for residents to learn more about the program.
- The City of Durham launched the Down Payment Assistance Program to help first-time homebuyers with \$20,000 for down payments and closing cost assistance.
- The House of Representatives passed the Crown Act banning discrimination based on hairstyles and texture.
- Congressman David Price secured the Omnibus Bill funding for community projects including \$250,000 for the Bull City United Program, \$1 million dollars for the Harriet Tubman YWCA – Harriet’s Place Renovation and \$1.2 million dollars for the RTP-Bio Workforce Development Program.

## **Minutes**

Vice Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve the March 7, 2022 Work Session and March 14, 2022 Regular Session Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Ceremonial Items**

### **22-0201 Introduction of Claretta Foye, New Lincoln Community Health Center CEO**

Claretta Foye, Chief Executive Office (CEO) of Lincoln Community Health Center stated she served key positions at Lincoln including CEO/Human Resources Director, Human Resources Director/Corporate Compliance Officer/Personal Director, Personnel Analyst and Personal Technician. Ms. Foye stated she was raised in a small town where access to personal healthcare was unavailable and explained the importance of quality healthcare for residents.

The Board inquired about the Lincoln Community Health Center locations. Ms Foye responded service was available at the Durham Recovery Response Center, Early Intervention Clinic, Healthcare for the Homeless, Hillside Wellness Center, Holton Clinic, LiveWell Primary Center, Lyon Park Clinic, Primary Care Clinic at Durham Public Health Department and Walltown Neighborhood Clinic; adding and additional location would be available in Lakewood to serve more residents and improve the overall community health. The Board asked about the Medicated Assistance Treatment (MAT) Clinic. Ms. Foye replied, the MAT Program was dedicated to help residents recover from medicated addictions and other substance use issues.

Ms. Foye thanked the Board for working closely with Lincoln to help serve the community. The

Board thanked Ms. Foye and the Lincoln team for providing healthcare and healing the Durham community.

**Introduction of Yesenia Merino, Durham County’s New Racial Equity Officer**

Joanne Pierce, General Manager introduced Yesenia Merino, Racial Equity Officer and gave a brief overview of her previous work experience and education. Ms. Merino stated she was excited to work for Durham County and looked forward to working with the Board.

The Board welcomed Ms. Merino to Durham County and looked forward to solving language and systemic issues related to racial equity.

**22-0179 Proclamation- Public Health Week**

Commissioner Allam read the following proclamation:

**PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK | 2022**

**WHEREAS,** the Durham County public health workforce is a critical component of our emergency response to natural and man-made disasters and widespread disease outbreaks in our county, including COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** our county and state public health workers have been courageous, inventive and tireless in their work to protect our residents from the threats of the COVID-19 pandemic, while continuing to perform their other essential public health functions, often times at the risk of their own safety and health; and

**WHEREAS,** public health measures to control and eliminate infectious diseases, improve environmental sanitation, and promote healthy lifestyle practices have been the greatest cause of improved health status and increased life expectancy for the residents of Durham County and all North Carolina's residents; and

**WHEREAS,** public health plays a critical role advancing health equity and preventing chronic diseases and injuries, resulting in improved productivity and decreased health care costs for all North Carolinians; and

**WHEREAS,** the Durham County Board of Health is committed to a continued emphasis on prevention in public health, and to helping Durham County and all North Carolina reach a better state of health through actions outlined in the Healthy North Carolina 2030 objectives; and

**WHEREAS,** communities, local health departments, employers, hospitals and health care providers, individuals and families, insurers, county leaders and policy makers, faith-based communities, and schools and child-care facilities must work together to identify and develop innovative solutions to health problems facing the people of Durham County; and

**WHEREAS,** the Durham County Board of Health/Commissioners encourages all residents to recognize that public health is working to ensure that all residents are protected

from threats such as COVID-19, influenza, foodborne disease, injury, and chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and asthma.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Brenda A. Howerton on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of April 4-10, 2022 as

**“PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK”**

in Durham County, and commend its observance to all county residents and convey our deepest gratitude to those public health professionals who serve our county every day.

This the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022

---

Brenda Howerton, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director thanked the Board on behalf of the Public Health Department and the Durham County Board of Health for the recognition. He stated Public Health Week was important to recognize the diligent work of Public Health employees and workers.

The Board thanked Mr. Jenkins and the Public Health Department for their dedication to keeping Durham County safe and for receiving awards during the pandemic.

**22-0208 National County Government Month**

Chair Howerton read the following resolution:

**NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH | 2022**

**WHEREAS**, the nation’s 3,069 counties serving more than 315 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

**WHEREAS**, counties provide health services, administer justice, keep communities safe, foster economic opportunities and much more; and

**WHEREAS**, Durham County Government and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Larry Johnson, NACo is demonstrating how “Counties THRIVE,” especially in supporting residents and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; and

**WHEREAS,** 2022 National County Government Month activities for Durham will include promotion of the I Love My County Because Art Contest sponsored by the National Association of Counties, DCo Educational Webinar Series, DCo Insider featuring Communications in COVID, DCo Library App and more, and an employee celebration of county programs and services; and

**WHEREAS,** the State of the County will be presented by Chair Brenda Howerton during National County Government Month. The annual highlight is scheduled for Monday, April 11 during the Board of County Commissioners Regular Session.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Brenda A. Howerton on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as

**“NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH”**

and encourage all residents, county officials, and county staff, schools and residents to recognize this annual celebration of counties, participate in county government celebration activities, and learn more about Durham County’s rich history of community-enriching programs and services.

This the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022

---

Brenda Howerton, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Deborah Craig-Ray, General Manager stated the County would celebrate National County Government Month in-person and would honor employees with special programs and surprises.

The Board thanked Ms. Craig-Ray for planning events for National County Government Month and looked forward to celebrating in-person with employees.

Dr. Kimberly J. Sowell, County Manager stated she was amazed with the talent and dedication of County staff after overcoming the malware attack and additional work with the pandemic.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Vice Chair Jacobs requested to comment on Item # 22-0149. She stated the Board would approve the expansion of the Bilingual Latino Outreach Coordinator from a part-time to a full-time position and thanked Donna Rewalt, Cooperative Extension Director.

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

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

22-0134 Request for refund of excise tax for CSC eRecoring

\*22-0149 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00075 Cooperative Extension to appropriate \$29,146.13 of General Fund fund balance to expand the Bilingual Latino Outreach Coordinator Position from .6 FTE to 1 FTE

22-0162 Authorize the County Manager to execute a Contract Amendment with Steel City Services in the amount \$38,350 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$78,317 for the Stainless Steel Rails at the Administration II Main St. Plaza Retail Patio Areas

22-0165 Contract Amendment between the County of Durham and Diana Phillips Consulting

\*22-0170 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00081 Appropriating \$149,500 of General Fund Fund Balance and Authorizing Human Resources to Enter Into a Contract for a Classification and Compensation Study for the County of Durham

\*22-0171 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00082 the Department of Social Services to recognize HCCBG funds in the amount of \$50,233.00 which includes the required Durham County DSS local match of \$5,023.00 that will be funded with a General Fund fund balance appropriation

\*22-0174 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for February 2022

22-0180 Request for Approval of Legal Descriptions, Surveys, and Plats for the 500 E. Main St. Mixed-Use Development

22-0183 Removal of Citizen Board member Due to Poor Attendance

Consent Agenda Item #22-0149

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2021-2022 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 22BCC00075**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2021-2022 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<u>Budget</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$9,688,976.80	\$29,146.13	\$9,718,113.93
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Services	\$47,076,871.68	\$29,146.13	\$47,106,017.81

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

Approved March 28, 2022

---

Consent Agenda Item #22-0170

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2021-2022 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 22BCC00081**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2021-2022 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<u>Budget</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
General Government	\$142,241,942.24	\$149,500.00	\$142,391,442.24
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Services	\$47,626,017.81	\$149,500.00	\$47,775,517.81

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

Approved March 28, 2022

---

Consent Agenda Item #22-0171

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2021-2022 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 22BCC00082**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2021-2022 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<u>Budget</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$9,768,613.93	\$50,233.00	\$9,818,846.93
<u>Revenue</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$88,570,505.11	\$45,210.00	\$88,615,715.11
Other Financing Services	\$47,775,517.81	\$5,023.00	\$47,780,540.81

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

Approved March 28, 2022

---

Consent Agenda Item #22-0174

Due to property valuation adjustments for over assessments, listing discrepancies, duplicate listings and clerical errors, etc. The attached report details releases and refunds for the month of February 2022.



Releases and Refunds – February 2022

Releases & Refunds for 2022

Personal Property	\$	8.13
Real Property	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$	8.13

Releases and Refunds for 2021 Taxes

Real Property	\$	71,462.06
Personal Property	\$	16,800.28
Motor Vehicle	\$	0.00
Solid Waste	\$	0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$	0.00
VTS Refunds	\$	<u>18,456.64</u>
Total	\$	106,718.98

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years  
2016 - 2020

Real Property	\$	2,699.95
Personal Property	\$	0.00
Solid Waste	\$	0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$	0.00
VTS Refund	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$	2,699.95
Grand Total	\$	109,427.06

\*\*\*\*\*

**Other Business**

**22-0054 Durham County Public Health Focused Update on the COVID-19 Crisis**

Rodney Jenkins, Director of Public Health shared the *COVID-19/Vaccine Distribution Updates* which highlighted the following: Current COVID-19 Statistics, Current Covid-19 Race and Ethnicity Trends, Case Data Overview, COVID-19 Percent Positive Labs, New COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 People in the Last Seven Days, Usage and Capacity Hospitalization Data, Community Level, Vaccine Updates, Vaccine Dashboard Data for Durham Residents, People Vaccinated by Age Group, Free COVID-19 Testing and Final Thoughts.

The Board questioned why the 80 plus age group second dose vaccination percentage was higher than the first does vaccination percentage. Mr. Jenkins responded he would research the data and provide an answer to the Board. The Board asked if the mask recommendation was based on the number of positive cases, or the number hospitalized with COVID-19. Mr. Jenkins responded it was a combination of both. The Board asked if the County and Lincoln Community Health

Center would be reimbursed for vaccinations with Federal funding depleting and, also asked if there would be a second booster available in the future. Mr. Jenkins stated Durham County optimized the supply of vaccines and maintained ample funding for those vaccinations; he stated a second booster was authorized – adding, the next step would be the authorization of a vaccine for children aged six months to four years old.

The Board thanked Mr. Jenkins, the Public Health Department and community partners for assisting the Afro-American and Latin community while receiving vaccines and improving the overall health and safety of the community.

## **Board and Commission Appointments**

Willie Darby, Senior 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.

### Durham County Women’s Commission

**SaKoyra Bullock** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

### Animal Welcome Advisory Committee

**Ahmed Ali** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

## **Closed Session**

The Board was requested to adjourn to Closed Session for the following:

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations; pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).

Vice Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to adjourn into the Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Reconvene to Open Session**

Chair Howerton announced the Board met in Closed Session and provided direction to staff.

## **Adjournment**

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to adjourn

the Regular Session meeting at 9:17 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