

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

Monday, August 26, 2024

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 Nimasheena Burns and Commissioners Heidi Carter, Brenda Howerton and Wendy Jacobs

Presider: Chair Nida Allam

Zoom Hybrid  
Participants: 5

**Regular Session – 7:00 PM**

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

**Agenda Adjustments**

Curtis Massey, Interim County Attorney asked to add a Closed Session to the end of the agenda pertaining to a personal matter.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Howerton to add a Closed Session to the end of the agenda pertaining to a personal matter.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Announcements**

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

1. **Register for Durham MED Week** – Minority and women-owned business owners are encouraged to register to participate in Durham’s 2024 Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week. The City of Durham and Durham County governments, in partnership with multiple community, state, and local businesses, will observe “Solidifying Your Next – Durham MED Week 2024 – from October 14-17. Participants can attend a HUB Certification Day event, a Business Fair, and a Luncheon and Keynote Address at the Durham Convention Center with The Kars Group Chief Change Officer and President Keisha Rivers. Registration deadline is October 3. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/solidifying-your-next-durham-med-week-2024-tickets-965280629347>

2. **Duke Forest Deer Herd Reduction Program Starts Sept. 23** – The Office of the Duke Forest announces that the 2024 Deer Herd Reduction Program begins on Monday, September 23 and ends on Friday, December 13. During this time, the Durham, Korstian, and Blackwood Divisions will be closed to the public and for all recreation Monday through Friday. Saturdays and Sundays are open for normal use. Learn more about this program, and read a frequently asked questions here – <https://dukeforest.duke.edu/management/deer-management/>.
3. **Extension Master Food Volunteer** – Are you passionate about food, community service, and making a meaningful connection to other residents? The Durham County Cooperative Extension has a new and exciting opportunity for residents, the Extension Master Food Volunteer (EMFV) Program! To apply for the program, interested individuals are required to attend an information session to learn more about the program, meet Extension staff, and get their questions answered. The session will cover an overview of the program, volunteer expectations, and how to apply. A limited number of applicants will be accepted to the EMFV program, which will begin in January 2025. Zoom information session dates and registration information are: Friday, Sept. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-info-session-extension-master-food-volunteer-program-tickets-1010798083277>; and Wednesday, Oct. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Register here – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-info-session-extension-master-food-volunteer-program-tickets-1016566576997>.
4. **New UDO Engagement Opportunities for Residents** – EngageDurham invites residents to attend one of its five engagement events for the draft rules for the new Durham Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Each session will include a presentation on proposed new zoning districts and zoning map, as well as time for discussion and input. Snacks, children’s activities, and Spanish language materials and interpretation will be provided. Dates, times, and locations are as follows: Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 5:30 p.m. at East Regional Library; Saturday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. at South Regional Library; Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. virtually – register at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SnipZmTvRzK9MpigNhBUWg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SnipZmTvRzK9MpigNhBUWg#/registration); Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10:30 a.m. at North Regional Library; and Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. at Main Library. More information at <https://engagedurham.com/newudo>.
5. **Sock-Tember with Welcome Baby** – What’s cuter than kids socks? Kids in socks! Welcome Baby is hosting a month-long drive collecting socks to share with families through our Giving Closet. New and gently used socks size NB-9 children’s. Donation may be dropped off throughout the month. Feel free to ring the doorbell so we can snap a picture for our “SOCK-HOP” scrapbook. Donations accepted 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday at 721 Foster Street. Please call 919-560-7319 or email [ckriley@dconc.gov](mailto:ckriley@dconc.gov) should you need to make alternate arrangements for your donations.
6. **DCo Board of Elections App** – The Durham County Board of Elections has launched a new mobile application – DCo Votes – designed to help residents stay informed and be prepared for upcoming elections, including the Statewide General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024. This free, easy-to-use app offers instant access to important information, including election dates, sample ballots, personalized voter details, and more! The mobile app is available for download via the App Store for Apple Devices or in the Google Play Store for Android devices.
7. **PreventT2 Lifestyle Change Program** – The Durham County Department of Public Health will begin classes in October for the year-long PreventT2 Lifestyle Change Program. This is part of

the CDC’s National Diabetes Prevention Program and aims to help you make lasting changes to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes that is facilitated by a trained lifestyle coach. For more information, call 919-560-7995 or email [mrtorres@dconc.gov](mailto:mrtorres@dconc.gov).

8. **National Night Out** – The Durham County Sheriff's Office invites the community and all neighborhoods to participate in “National Night Out”. This year’s annual law enforcement/community partnership event will take place on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Event will be scheduled throughout Durham County and more information can be found at [www.durhamsheriff.com](http://www.durhamsheriff.com).

Commissioners shared the following additional announcements.

- RTI International was hosting the Black-Owned Business Fair on November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Research Triangle Park.
- The W.G. Pearson Center Kitchen Ribbon Cutting was at 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The state-of-the-art kitchen was designed to nourish the Durham community.

## Minutes

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Vice Chair Burns to approve the September 3, 2024 Work Session minutes and the September 9, 2024 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

## Ceremonial Items

### **24-0591 Proclamation – Minority Enterprise Development Week**

Commissioner Carter read the following proclamation:

#### **MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK | 2024**

- WHEREAS,** it is the policy of the County of Durham that purchasing by the County and contracts with the County be open to all people and be free of discrimination on the basis of race and gender; and
- WHEREAS,** diverse entrepreneurship encourages progress toward innovative solutions to the challenges of economic growth, and supports the promise of thriving communities that embrace inclusion and a better life for all families; and
- WHEREAS,** the Durham County Minority and Women Enterprise Ordinance Section 8-132 provides minorities and women equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of the County’s contracting program, including, but not limited to, employment, construction projects, and/or materials and service contracts, consistent with law; and
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina G.S. 143-128, provides for Good Faith Efforts to be made in an effort to ensure fair participation of minority and women business owners in all County projects; and

**WHEREAS** according to the Minority Business Development Agency, “By 2044, the Nation’s prosperity will rely even more on minorities, the fastest growing segment of the population. Entrepreneurship is a sure pathway to wealth creation and a thriving national economy. Today, U.S. minority business enterprises (MBEs) represent 29% of all firms but only 11% have paid employees. If MBEs were to obtain entrepreneurial parity, the U.S. economy would realize 13 million more jobs; and

**WHEREAS,** it is further the policy of the County to conduct its contracting programs so as to prevent such discrimination, correct present discrimination and to resolve claims of such discrimination; and

**WHEREAS,** the County of Durham is a sponsor of the Minority Enterprise Development Week in partnership with the City of Durham. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, we recognize that our County and our economy are stronger because of the hardworking men and women who comprise America’s minority business community. They consistently demonstrate the courage it takes to overcome adversity, seize opportunity, and contribute to our shared prosperity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** I, Nida Allam, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 14 – 17, 2024 as

**“MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK”**

in Durham County.

This 23rd day of September 2024.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners\

Shannon Trapp, Chief of Staff, thanked the Board for recognizing Minority Enterprise Development Week. The Board asked if minority entrepreneurs and business professionals were registering for the event. Ms. Trapp responded that registration numbers were high and trending.

The Board thanked Ms. Trapp for the proclamation.

**24-0592 Proclamation - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual North Carolina Black Alliance Rooted in Wellness Day**

Vice Chair Burns read the following proclamation:

**3RD ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA BLACK ALLIANCE ROOTED IN WELLNESS DAY | 2024**

**WHEREAS,** Rooted in Wellness Day is a day of collective action, where communities come together across the state to offer local resources that support community well-being and agency, such as heart health screenings, mammograms, immunizations, and information about health insurance; and

**WHEREAS,** Rooted in Wellness Day is a statewide event hosted simultaneously in multiple local communities across the state of North Carolina to advance health equity; and

**WHEREAS,** St. Mark AME Zion Church is a trailblazer in addressing community health and transforming the lives of those in their community through the Health Ministries and will host Durham’s Rooted in Wellness Day at their church; and

**WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Black Alliance believes every American should have access to healthcare in time of injury or illness; and

**WHEREAS,** Black and Brown communities carry the burden of inequitable healthcare policies and disparities in the North Carolina healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS,** the impact of Rooted in Wellness Day is bringing communities not reached by the traditional healthcare system closer to resources that support their overall health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS,** local leaders from faith communities and grassroots organizations directly impact the progress of health equity in their communities through health policies and mutual aid by convening local Rooted in Wellness Day sites; and

**WHEREAS,** greater access to resources and screenings that support community health and well-being and receiving education on healthcare issues impacting communities locally and statewide creates healthier communities that are more informed about the interconnectedness of democracy and health equity.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2024, as

**“ROOTED IN WELLNESS DAY”**

in Durham County, North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens in recognition of the positive impact of Rooted in Wellness Day on our community.

This the 23rd day of September 2024.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Karida Giddings, Access to Healthcare Coordinator with NC Black Alliance, thanked the Board for the proclamation. The Board inquired about the location of the event. Ms. Giddings responded the event would be held at St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church located at 531 S. Roxboro Street.

The Board thanked Ms. Giddings for providing the community with health-promoting resources.

**24-0615 Resolution – Honoring the Services and Leadership of Governor Roy Cooper**  
Chair Allam, Commissioner Howerton and Jacobs read the following resolution:

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF GOVERNOR ROY COOPER**

**WHEREAS,** Roy Asberry Cooper III has served with distinction as the Governor of North Carolina since January 1, 2017, dedicating his life’s work to improving the well-being of all North Carolinians, and in particular, enhancing the quality of life for residents of Durham County; and

**WHEREAS,** Governor Cooper’s leadership throughout the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, guided by a commitment to science and the safety of North Carolinians, was instrumental in protecting the health and welfare of Durham County residents, providing access to critical healthcare resources and support during this difficult period; and

**WHEREAS,** Governor Cooper has been a steadfast advocate for Medicaid expansion, a policy which stands to increase access to affordable healthcare for thousands of uninsured residents in Durham County, improving health outcomes and addressing longstanding inequities in healthcare coverage; and

**WHEREAS,** Durham County has greatly benefitted from Governor Cooper’s focus on economic development and job creation, with major investments in the technology, life sciences, and clean energy sectors, which have fostered significant growth and prosperity in the region, creating high-quality jobs and boosting the local economy; and

**WHEREAS,** under Governor Cooper’s administration, North Carolina has seen increased investments in public education, including higher teacher pay and expanded access to early childhood education, significantly benefiting Durham County public schools and supporting the success of students and educators across the county; and

**WHEREAS,** Governor Cooper has championed affordable housing initiatives, including crucial investments in the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund, which have contributed to the development of affordable housing in Durham County, helping to alleviate housing challenges faced by many local families; and

**WHEREAS,** the Governor’s leadership in advancing racial and social justice has led to meaningful progress on criminal justice reform, police accountability, and measures to reduce mass incarceration, with Durham County benefitting from his commitment to equity and justice for all its residents; and

**WHEREAS,** Governor Cooper has been a tireless advocate for environmental protection and sustainability, advancing policies that promote clean energy and environmental justice, ensuring that Durham County residents enjoy a healthier, more sustainable environment for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS,** Governor Cooper’s enduring commitment to Durham County has fostered a spirit of collaboration, civic engagement, and optimism, ensuring that our community continues to thrive and prosper under his leadership.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Durham County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and honor

**GOVERNOR ROY COOPER**

for his outstanding service, exemplary leadership, and unwavering commitment to the people of Durham County, whose lives he has touched and whose future he has helped shape for the better; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Durham County Board of Commissioners extends its deepest appreciation to Governor Cooper for his many contributions to the betterment of Durham County and the State of North Carolina and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors.

This the 20th day of September 2024.

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Nida Allam, Chair

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Nimasheena Burns, Vice-Chair

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Heidi Carter, Commissioner

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Brenda Howerton, Commissioner

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Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

The Board thanked Governor Cooper for his leadership, momentum and allowing residents in North Carolina to live lives of purpose and abundance.

The Board thanked Chair Allam for presenting the resolution and Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board for framing the resolution.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Chair Allam requested to pull 24-0602 due to a citizen comment.

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

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda except 24-0602.

The motion carried unanimously.

24-0590 Renewal of Existing Lease Between Cato of North Carolina, LLC and Durham County at the Shoppes of Hope Valley, Suite 129 for an annual amount of \$51,480.00

\*24-0595 Approval of Property Tax Releases and Refund for August 2024

24-0604 Approval of Interlocal Agreement with the City of Durham to Use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to Support Efforts to Improve Digital Equity totaling \$750,000

24-0605 Approval of Annual Settlement of 2023 Property Taxes and Charge of 2024 Property Taxes to the Tax Collector

Consent Agenda Item #24-0595

Releases and Refunds – August 2024

| <b>Current Year 2024 Taxes</b> | <b>Releases</b>     | <b>Refunds</b>     |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Real Property                  | \$100,391.80        | \$12,656.04        |                     |
| Personal Property              | \$61,384.80         | \$627.98           |                     |
| Motor Vehicle                  | \$0.00              | \$0.00             |                     |
| Solid Waste                    | \$0.00              | \$0.00             |                     |
| Stormwater Utility             | \$0.00              | \$0.00             |                     |
| Public Service                 | \$0.00              | \$0.00             |                     |
| VTS Refunds                    | \$0.00              | \$21,854.92        |                     |
| Gross Rec                      | \$0.00              | \$0.00             |                     |
| <b>SUB – TOTAL</b>             | <b>\$161,776.60</b> | <b>\$35,138.94</b> | <b>\$196,915.54</b> |

| <b>Prior Year 2019-2023</b> | <b>Releases</b>    | <b>Refunds</b>     |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Real Property               | \$16,177.50        | \$5,580.48         |                    |
| Personal Property           | \$39,999.55        | \$7,646.50         |                    |
| GAP Vehicles                | \$0.00             | \$0.00             |                    |
| Motor Vehicle               | \$0.00             | \$0.00             |                    |
| Solid Waste                 | \$0.00             | \$0.00             |                    |
| Stormwater Utility          | \$0.00             | \$0.00             |                    |
| VTS Refunds                 | \$0.00             | \$0.00             |                    |
| <b>SUB - TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$56,177.05</b> | <b>\$13,226.98</b> | <b>\$69,404.03</b> |

|                    |                     |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>\$217,953.65</b> | <b>\$48,365.92</b> | <b>\$266,319.57</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|

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### **Other Business**

#### 24-0609 Discussion and Approval of 2025 Federal Legislative Goals for NCACC

Deborah Craig-Ray, Chief Communications Officer stated the deadline to submit the goals was October 4, 2024 and the Board would not have another meeting before the deadline. Ms. Craig-Ray provided an overview of the Federal Legislative goals submitted in 2022.

The Board requested to support:

- The Homes Act introduced by United States Senator Tina Smith and Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez.
- Expanding funding for the Federal Housing Tax Program and allowing flexible restrictions.
- Expanding access to artificial intelligence and drone technology for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- Domestic Worker Bill of Rights.
- Paying family caregivers that do not get paid.
- \$6,000 earned income child tax credit.
- Moving forward with items not moved from the 2022 submitted Federal Legislative Goals.

Ms. Craig-Ray stated she would provide the 2025 Federal Legislative Goals to the Board before submitting the goals to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC).

### **Board and Commission Appointments**



Curtis Massey, Interim 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

**Nick Galvez** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Audit Oversight Committee

**(i)Nicole McCoy** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Durham County Women's Commission

**Mikisha Markam** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Jacobs)

**Rachel Saywon** (Allam, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

La-Tasha Best-Gaddy (Burns, Howerton)

Durham Workforce Development Board

**La-Tasha Best-Gaddy** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

**Christian Rebuli** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Historic Preservation Commission

**(i)Kenneth Webb** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Homeless Services Advisory Committee

**Jay Mebane** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

**Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda**

24-0602 Appointment of Deputy County Manager Claudia Hager as Acting County Manager

Amanda Wallace, Citizen

Ms. Wallace asked for transparency regarding the reason for the County Manager, Dr. Kimberly J. Sowell's placement on leave of absence.

Chair Allam responded the Board would not make any comments due to it being a personnel item.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Vice Chair Burns to approve Consent Agenda 24-0602.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Closed Session**

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

- To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or

grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee; pursuant to G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Commissioner Howerton moved, seconded by Vice Chair Burns to adjourn into the Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Reconvene to Open Session**

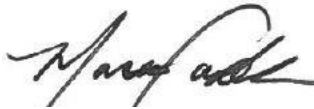
Chair Allam announced the Board met in Closed Session and provided direction to staff.

### **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 8:18 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