

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

Monday, January 11, 2010

7:00 P.M. Regular Session

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

Presider: Chairman Page

Opening of Regular Session—Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

The Chairman called for any adjustments to the agenda. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Announcements

Chairman Page made the following announcements:

- “In Touch with Durham County”, the Durham County television show, airs on Cable TV channel 8 at 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon daily; 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday – Sundays. Our County Commissioners’ meetings are also rebroadcast on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m., Saturdays at 9:00 p.m., and Sundays at 9:00 p.m.
- The FY 2010-2011 Nonprofit Agency Funding process began on December 15, 2009 with the opening of the agency prequalification period. All Durham community nonprofits interested in applying for FY 2011 nonprofit funding must first submit a Pre-application Questionnaire no later than 5:00 pm January 15, 2010. The Chairman emphasized that this is a requirement and the deadline date will be enforced. All nonprofits that submit a Pre-application Questionnaire and meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the County’s nonprofit policy will be invited to apply for FY 2011 funding. The Pre-application Questionnaire and the Nonprofit Agency Funding Program policy are available on the County’s website through January 15, 2010. For additional information, please contact Laura Jensen in the County Manager’s Office at 560-7065.

Recognition of Friends of the Durham Library Volunteer for Receiving Statewide Award

The Chairman recognized Skip Auld, Durham County Library Director, who came forward to introduce Jane Goodridge, the recipient of the Friends of the North Carolina Public Libraries Volunteer of the Year award. Ms. Goodridge serves as Friends of the Durham Library volunteer

and book sale chair. Mr. Auld acknowledged the commitment of Ms. Goodridge as a Library volunteer and congratulated her on receiving the award.

Ms. Goodridge thanked the Friends of the Library for nominating her for the award and indicated that the work was a team effort.

Mr. Ruffin, County Manager, added that this award was a statewide award held in Salisbury, North Carolina in October, 2009. He thanked Ms. Goodridge for her work in Durham County.

Vice Chairman Reckhow and Commissioner Heron commended Ms. Goodridge on all the additional services she provides to the Library and our community.

Ms. Goodridge received a round of applause for her dedication and hard work.

Recognition of Library Director for Being Named 2009 UNC-CH Distinguished Alumnus

Chairman Page recognized Skip Auld, Durham County Library Director, for being named 2009 Distinguished Alumnus of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science (SILS).

Mr. Auld thanked the Commissioners for their support to library services and added his thanks to his great staff and County agency. He thanked his wife for her support in his accomplishments.

The Chairman noted that Mr. Auld was also the SILS fall commencement speaker in December. He thanked Mr. Auld for representing Durham County in so many positive ways.

The Commissioners echoed the sentiments of the Chairman and congratulated Mr. Auld on his distinguished honor.

Resolution Supporting 2010 Events Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Chairman read the following Resolution into the record in support of 2010 events honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Durham Community Martin Luther King Jr. Steering Committee will pay tribute to the King Legacy from January 15-18, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a brief but significant impact on our nation and our world thanks to his wisdom, his words, his actions, and his commitment to the ideals that all people were entitled to equal rights; and

WHEREAS, tribute is also paid to the late Coretta Scott King who established a distinguished career in activism in her own right, by working side by side with her husband and by founding the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change; and

WHEREAS, each left a lasting legacy for others to model, challenging all persons to remain committed to the principles of equality, justice, and peace for all humankind; and

WHEREAS, the Durham Community Martin Luther King Jr. 2010 Holiday Celebration has selected as its theme, "From the Dream to the Reality;" and

WHEREAS, a youth celebration will be held at Antioch Baptist Church located at 1414 Holloway Street on Friday, January 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., featuring music by the MLK Youth Choir and other community youth; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Community March and Rally to demonstrate solidarity and unity on behalf of this community will begin on January 18 at the Hayti Heritage Center at 10:15 a.m. and proceed to First Presbyterian Church, 305 E. Main Street; and

WHEREAS, later that same day, the community will culminate its activities at the Kings Park International Church, 1305 Odyssey Drive, with the Annual Worship Service celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at 6:00p.m.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby acknowledge

**THE DURHAM COMMUNITY MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. STEERING
COMMITTEE**

for its continuing efforts to provide a comprehensive series of activities designed to celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all Durham County citizens to support these events designed to commemorate the King legacy by personally living out his teachings and continuing to work for the dignity and humanity of all.

This the 11th day of January, 2010.

/s/All Five Commissioners

The Chairman thanked the County for supporting this resolution. He expressed appreciation to the community for sharing in the events to commemorate the life of Dr. King.

The Chairman announced that the City and County of Durham will host a celebration in Dr. King's memory on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church, 305 E. Main Street. He invited the community to participate in the event.

Proclamation for “TALK IT UP! LOCK IT UP! CAMPAIGN” by Durham TRY

The Chairman read the following Proclamation into the record for the ‘TALK IT UP! LOCK IT UP! CAMPAIGN:”

WHEREAS, widespread health, social, and economic problems result from the misuse of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, underage drinking is a common factor in youth risk-taking behaviors; and

WHEREAS, youth in grades six through twelve obtain alcohol from home, with or without parental consent 22% of the time, or from the home of friends, with or without parental consent 43% of the time; and

WHEREAS, minimizing access to alcohol creates a barrier, which can protect children from harm caused by the use and abuse of alcohol:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Michael D. Page, Chairman of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim January 2010 as the beginning of the

“TALK IT UP! LOCK IT! CAMPAIGN”

I hereby urge all Durham County citizens to take note of this special observance and to stand up for the health of our community’s youth and families by participating in activities associated with it.

This the 11th day of January, 2010.

/s/Michael D. Page, Chairman

The Chairman recognized the founders of this campaign, Ms. Wanda Boone, Executive Director, and Mr. Earl Boone, Co-founder.

Ms. Boone thanked the Board for the Proclamation. She expounded on the purpose of the campaign. She emphasized the need to collaborate with other initiatives to address the issue of underage drinking. Many youth don’t realize that alcohol is a drug, according to Ms. Boone. She added that underage drinking leads to crime, gangs involvement, teen pregnancy and risky behavior. 90 percent of the youth taken into custody were high on alcohol or alcohol and marijuana in 2007. The campaign is advocating for adults to lock up alcohol in the home and talk with other adults about doing the same. Many of the youth who access alcohol do so in their homes. Convenience stores in Durham fail compliance checks 53 percent of the time when it comes to ID checks. That means youth are able to access alcohol without being asked for ID. She pleaded with adults to lock up alcohol in their homes to be aware that children have access to it, and the best way to avoid the access is by locking it up.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Boone for her presentation and informed her that the Proclamation would be mailed to her.

Consent Agenda

The Chairman announced that items (a) and (b) had been requested to be pulled for discussion by a citizen. Vice Chairman Reckhow requested to pull item (c) and Commissioner Bowser requested to pull item (e) for discussion.

Consent Agenda Item (d): Set the salary of the Sheriff for the Election Filing Period (\$89,228) and assess and set the salary of the sheriff when the new or incumbent sheriff takes office after the election.

Commissioner Bowser moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Reckhow, to approve Consent Agenda Item (d):

The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Bowser, Heron, Howerton, Page, and Reckhow
Noes: None

Consent Agenda Items Removed for Discussion

Consent Agenda Item (a): Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 10BCC000045-Cooperative Extension to recognize funding (\$175,000) from the N.C. Committee on Dropout Prevention targeted at middle and high school dropout prevention and reentry.

Chairman Page pulled this item to allow the signed speaker to comment.

Victoria Peterson, PO Box 101, Durham 27702, raised several questions regarding the funding. She inquired about the nonprofit 501-3c status of Cooperative Extension, the location of the dropout program, and the salary of the instructor. Ms. Peterson expressed concern that Cooperative Extension has been given dollars several times in recent months.

Mike Ruffin, City Manager, replied that Cooperative Extension is not a 501-3c organization. The Cooperative Extension is the result of an agreement between Durham County Board of County Commissioners and North Carolina State University. He added that like many other departments, Cooperative Extension applies for and receives grants for many purposes.

Delphine Sellars, Director of Cooperative Extension, stated that Cooperative Extension applied for the grant through the North Carolina Committee on Dropout Prevention to focus on four schools in Durham County—Southern and Hillside High Schools which have less than a 65 percent graduation rates; and Neal and Carrington Middle Schools which have a high rate of individuals not making progress on end of year tests, high absentee rates, and other factors that contribute to high dropout rates. She stated that even though the focus is primarily on the four schools listed, other youth in need will not be turned down for assistance. The approximate salary and fringe benefits for the Program Manager are \$42,000, and the Family and Parent Involvement Specialist will receive \$35,000.

Ms. Sellars indicated that the programs will operate out of the Cooperative Extension Agency at 721 Foster Street. She invited parents or others who are interested in the program to call the Agency at 919-560-0525 for more information.

Vice Chairman Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Bowser, to approve Consent Agenda Item (a):

The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Bowser, Heron, Howerton, Page, and Reckhow
Noes: None

Commissioner Heron requested a report from Ms. Sellars after the first quarter that indicates how many children are being served, the schools they attend, and how they were referred to the program.

Ms Sellars responded that she will have to furnish the Department of Education a monthly report with the information requested by Commissioner Heron. She will forward a copy of the monthly report to the Board of County Commissioners.

Chairman Page commended Ms. Sellars on obtaining the competitive grants. Ms. Sellars indicated that there were only three grants awarded in the State of North Carolina.

DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FY 2009-10 Budget Ordinance
Amendment No. 10BCC000045

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the FY 2009-10 Budget Ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

Revenue:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$448,600,739	\$175,000	\$448,775,739

Expenditures:

<u>Function</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$5,519,178	\$175,000	\$5,694,178

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

This the 11th day of January, 2010.

Consent Agenda Item (b): Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 10BCC000046—Cooperative Extension to recognize grant revenue (\$67,475) for FY 2009-2010 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP).

Chairman Page pulled this item to allow the signed speaker to comment.

Victoria Peterson, PO Box 101, Durham 27702 posed questions to Ms. Sellars regarding how transportation in rural areas will work, specifically how will seniors know about the program and how will Work First clients be a part of the program?

Ms. Sellars responded to Ms. Peterson's questions. She stated that when NCDOT awarded the grants, they had already decided what percentage would go to the Work First program based on a formula established by DOT. The Cooperative Extension agency has no authority on how much of the funding goes to Work First. Part of the grant is separate and is required to be written by DSS. DSS makes the determination of specifically how its portion of the money will be allocated.

As Ms. Peterson continued to ask questions, the Chairman reminded her that the Board meetings are not meant to be a dialogue between citizens and staff. He asked Ms. Peterson to make sure all of her questions were posed in the beginning within the 2-minute time allotment for speakers.

Commissioner Heron asked for clarification regarding the monies from the State that would serve the elderly and disabled and be distributed by Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA). Ms. Sellars confirmed Commissioner Heron's question. Ms. Sellars added that senior citizens learn about the ROAP money through partnerships with a number of organizations in the community to support transportation.

Ms. Heron requested that the money set aside for elderly citizens in the County be used solely for that purpose and that it remain a high priority. Ms. Sellars concurred and stated that the funds are kept separately so the transportation funds for the elderly will be used for that purpose.

Commissioner Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Heron, to approve Consent Agenda Item (b):

The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Bowser, Heron, Howerton, Page, and Reckhow
Noes: None

DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FY 2009-10 Budget Ordinance
Amendment No. 10BCC000046

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the FY 2009-10 Budget Ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

Revenue:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$448,775,739	\$67,475	\$448,843,214

Expenditures:

<u>Function</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$5,706,178	\$67,475	\$5,773,653

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

This the 11th day of January, 2010.

Consent Agenda Item (c): Approve the Contract between Durham County, the City of Durham, and the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition for Implementation of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Chairman Page pulled this consent item at the request of Vice Chairman Reckhow.

Vice Chairman Reckhow stated that she was not satisfied with the proposed contract. The 10 year plan to end homelessness was adopted in 2006, which is 1/3 way through the implementation phase of the plan. Commissioner Reckhow remarked that the plan adopted in 2006 was an excellent document and very detailed plan. She commended the 90+ member steering committee for preparing an excellent blueprint. She further elaborated on the components of the original plan which included indicators, strategies for moving forward, and time lines for implementation. The time lines were broken down into short term, midterm, long term, a cost estimate, and named the parties responsible.

Commissioner Reckhow referenced the Auditor's critique of the Department of Social Services' contract with faith-based initiatives. She recalled that the Board asked the County Manager to look at future contracts to make sure they were much more iron-clad and clear so the Board doesn't end up in similar situations as those with past contracts.

The greatest concern for Commissioner Reckhow was the short term and low-cost strategies that she felt should have been implemented by this time. She indicated that she does not see that many of those strategies have been completed. That raises an issue of the status of implementation since the County has spent more than \$100,000 each year on implementation. She expressed dissatisfaction with results of the short term strategies.

The County Manager responded to Commissioner Reckhow's concerns. He stated that he has directed all County agencies to revisit all contracts next year to ensure much clearer deliverables and measurables are provided for the Board's assurance that contract are being carried out with the appropriate intent. This contract would be included in the list of contracts to be revisited.

The Manager recalled that he expressed concern to the Board over the past two years about the progress this group is making towards helping to achieve the recommendations of the 10-year plan to end homelessness. He reminded the Board that the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition (DAHC) is not the only organization that is working in the community addressing the recommendations of the 10-year plan. The County will conduct a thorough assessment this Spring as part of the budget process before a decision is made on funding for the next year. Mr. Ruffin indicated that DAHC had undergone staff changes this year and made changes to provide

better performance. He added that he will wait until the Spring to make an assessment on the changes.

Mr. Ruffin informed the Board that the County has not paid anything on this contract because it still needs Board approval. He apologized for the delay in bringing the contract before the Board. He assured the Board that a candid and thorough assessment of the Agency's performance will be conducted before bringing the matter back before the Board.

The Chairman commented that he serves on the committee. He attended a recent meeting with the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and a company in this community. He agreed that the Plan probably has not moved quite the way the Board would like to see, however, he feels significant strides are being made especially with one of the corporate entities in the community to help move this forward. He stated that this is a major step to help to end homelessness.

One of the concerns of the Chairman is "how do we nationally define the 10-year plan to end homelessness?" He asked that the Board continue to engage and be supportive of this effort. It will be necessary to engage more players in the community because the problem is much bigger than City and County governments. It will take the aid of faith community, the business community and many other partners to make a difference.

Vice Chairman Reckhow would like to see the contract amended to take the outline and timelines laid out between pages 23-31 in the Plan and the short term strategies, particularly the ones that are low cost, highlighted and focus placed on them.

The County Manager responded that the contract could be amended, but it would require City Council approval as well. The City Council has already approved the contract that is currently before the Board. He added that to amend the contract would probably take another 30 days to resubmit to the Board which would mean a February date. There would only be four months left in the fiscal year. The Manager recommended that the amendments requested be a part of next year's contract.

Commissioner Heron concurred with some of Commissioner Reckhow's concerns. Commissioner Heron specifically alluded to Attachments A & B which contained responsibilities of DAHC. She remarked that she highlighted several areas that had not been implemented in keeping with the contract.

Chairman Page asked if it would settle some of the confusion if the Board requested DAHC to appear. He attested that he knows some of the items referred to have been completed.

Manager Ruffin suggested inviting the group to the February worksession.

Commissioner Howerton stated that she could not vote on the contract. The contract indicates that the Board would receive a monthly report. She added that she has been a Board member for a year and has only seen one report.

Vice Chairman Reckhow was concerned about the generality of the language in the contract. She felt it would be hard to assess at the end of the year whether progress had been made. She added that the Auditor's concept for measurable outcomes so the Board could be clear on whether the

agency performed well was not being followed in this contract. She noted that at this time of tight budgets, she is troubled by approving any contract that does not have tight deliverables and the County is getting its money's worth from the contract agency.

Chairman Page remarked that when the group came before the Board, the Board did not ask a lot of questions; therefore, the group was under the assumption that the Board was satisfied with the direction they were moving in. He added that the Board needs to be very clear and very specific about the questions it asks the group. He recalled that there were very few questions asked when DAHC appeared before. He added that maybe the concerns could be conveyed in writing so the group will understand the concerns. Chairman Page added that we serve some very critical populations in the community and they should not become the victim because the Board is not clear. He stated that the Board needs to be clear on what it wants so the services can be rendered.

The County Manager stated that he would talk with DAHC and have them come to the February 1 Worksession. He will speak with them about time lines and talk with the City Manager. If an acceptable contract is reached, the Board could take action in February.

Commissioner Reckhow stated that she hoped staff will look at strategies and tactics laid out on pages 23-31. She noted an outcome "Homeless People Have the Income Necessary to Obtain and Sustain Permanent Housing," and then strategies related to working with Work Force Development to help them gain employment, financial education, etc. She would like to know if DAHC is not responsible for this whole strategy, who is? She added that this is a big outcome. If no one is working on this, who is implementing the plan? She stated that during her tenure on the Workforce Development Board, she did not recall anyone approaching the Board or asking them to target the homeless.

The County Manager replied that he would have DAHC address Commissioner Reckhow's concerns.

Commissioner Heron would like to have more information about the scope of work for DAHC.

The Chairman deferred action until the February 1, 2010 Worksession.

Consent Agenda Item (e): In the matter of: Appeal of IBM Credit Corporation, NO. Coa08-1514, N.C. Property Tax Commission No. 01 PTC 544 (authorize the County Manager to enter in an agreement with Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein, LLP, not to exceed \$10,000.00; and waive any conflict that Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein, LLP may have with County of Durham as it relates to their representation of a client against the Durham Center).

Commissioner Page pulled this item at the request of Commissioner Bowser.

Commissioner Bowser indicated that he realized this item was one that everyone agreed to support; however when he received his agenda packet, he learned that the law firm was representing another organization with a lawsuit against Durham County. He asked if the County Attorney was at liberty to discuss the case.

Attorney Siler stated that the case involving the Durham Center was one where a contractor had not complied with some of the rules and properly billing the Durham Center. Commissioner Bowser asked whether it was a financial dispute. Attorney Siler responded in the affirmative. Commissioner Bowser indicated that he would not hold the item up, but he could not vote in favor of the item because he felt there was a conflict with the law firm.

The Chairman apologized for leaving the room and asked Commissioner Bowser to repeat his reason for requesting the item be pulled. Commissioner Bowser reiterated that he could not support a law firm who is working for Durham County and against Durham County.

Chairman Page asked the Manager or the Attorney to explain the ramifications of the Board being represented by a firm who was also representing the party against the Durham Center. The County Manager responded that it is not unusual in a law firm of this size to have a conflict. The firm has to disclose the information to the satisfaction of our attorney, and assure the attorney that a conflict will not rise to the level of creating problems for our lawsuit.

Attorney Siler concurred with the Manager's explanation. The County Attorney was under the impression that the Durham Center case had been resolved, but he found out that it was still active. Both sides have to waive the conflict. Attorney Siler was comfortable with the law firm representing the County.

Commissioner Heron commented that she believes the attorney who has been selected will represent the County to the best of his ability. The County Attorney reiterated that the attorney who is representing the County is not involved in the opposing case.

Vice Chairman Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Heron, to approve Consent Agenda Item (e):

The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Heron, Howerton, Page, and Reckhow
Noes: Bowser

Public Hearing to Consider Allocating Economic Development Investment Funds to Innovative Emergency Management (IEM) Inc.

The Chairman recognized Ms. Carolyn Titus, Deputy County Manager, to introduce the item. Ms. Titus informed the Board that it was requested to hold a public hearing to consider allocating economic development investment funds to IEM, a leading provider of risk management services.

Ms. Titus briefed the Commission on the history of IEM. IEM is currently headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with full service offices in eight (8) states. Since 1985, IEM has provided emergency management, homeland security, military, and information technology solutions to Federal government agencies including the Department of Defense, and FEMA; a host of services to state and local governments; and critical infrastructure structures including ports, healthcare, and transportation. IEM plans to relocate its company headquarters from Baton Rouge. Durham competed with Raleigh, Charlotte, Baton Rouge and several other sites

along the eastern seaboard. If approved, the project would bring approximately 210 new jobs. Durham County is IEM's first choice subject to the investment funding.

Staff recommended that the Board approve \$100,000 over a three-year period as a match to the NC One Fund Grant for relocating company headquarters to Durham County and creating approximately 210 new jobs. The public hearing was advertised on January 1, 2010 as required by law.

The Chairman asked the Board if there were questions for staff. Hearing none, he opened the public hearing.

Ted Conner, 300 W. Morgan Street, Vice President of Economic Development and Community Sustainability with the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber is honored to have IEM consider moving to the area. He assured the officials of IEM that the Chamber would continue to show "southern hospitality" and ongoing welcome. Mr. Conner introduced other speakers who would come forward. He thanked the Board of Commissioners and asked them to consider approving the item.

Randy Egsegian, 1637 Lawson Street, Program Director of the Emergency Preparedness Degree program and the Fire Degree program with Durham Technical Community College, spoke about the educational opportunities of the Emergency Preparedness program in partnership with IEM. The Emergency Preparedness program teaches students the techniques required to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from disasters. The current focus of the program is homeland security. Graduates of the Program can receive the North Carolina Emergency Management Certification Levels 3 and 4. Mr. Egsegian stated that since the announcement about IEM moving to Durham County, he had received several calls from potential, current and past students who have an interest in receiving more education in this field.

Keith Burns, 300 W. Morgan Street, Past Chair of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, indicated that the IEM negotiations began during his tenure, and he was very excited to see it near completion. He spoke about the importance of economic development. Last year, in partnership with the business community, approximately \$3 million was raised in connection with economic development. He felt that IEM was a very good investment and economic opportunity for Durham. He asked the Commissioners to continue to support this opportunity.

Victoria Peterson posed several questions about IEM. She wanted to know how many minorities currently work for the company; how many of those minorities are women and how many are African-American; whether the company is a minority-owned or woman-owned company; and will there be a contract?

Ms. Peterson expressed concern to the Board about companies moving to Durham, but not hiring Durham residents. She wanted to know whether IEM was committed to hiring Durham residents. She also inquired how Durham Technical Community College will make sure trainees are Durham residents. She emphasized supporting existing businesses and those businesses that are committed to employing Durham residents.

Ms. Peterson posed a question to the County Manager about the number of CEO's and employees from IEM who planned to buy homes in Durham. She stated that homeownership would help the County's tax base.

The Chairman closed the public hearing and asked the County administration to respond to Ms. Peterson's questions.

Ms. Titus gave the following responses to Ms. Peterson's questions. The business is a woman-owned business. Regarding the contract, the County will enter into the same type of performance contract that is used for all economic development contracts. The contract will be a 5-year contract that would have performance measures, and each year a payment would be received by IEM. At the end of the five years, if IEM has not performed according to the performance measures, the County has a clawback clause which would allow Durham County to receive back all the monies that had been paid out.

The Chairman questioned Mr. Egsegian regarding the training provided by Durham Technical Community College. The Chairman asked whether students would complete a training program or would they actually earn a degree that would prepare them for jobs with IEM? He asked whether the students would be prepared for employment after the training or would they further their education?

Mr. Egsegian replied in the affirmative to all of the Chairman's questions. He reported that there are new students who will work through the system and earn a degree, as well as students from other degree fields who will come back and earn a degree in Emergency Preparedness.

The Chairman acknowledged how pleased he was with the company and their willingness and commitment to this community. He feels it is a win for our community. He further thanked Keith Burns, the outgoing chair of the Chamber, for his leadership and helping to bring this project to Durham.

Commissioners Reckhow and Heron echoed the sentiments of the Chairman. Commissioner Bowser announced to Ms. Peterson that the President of the IEM was sitting in the audience. Commissioner Howerton welcomed IEM to Durham.

The Chairman recognized Ms. Madhu Beriwal, President and CEO of IEM and invited her to speak. Ms. Beriwal stated that after a very competitive process for more than a year, she is delighted to relocate to Durham. She believes the move is the right decision for the company. The employees of IEM are excited about calling Durham home, beginning this year.

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Reckhow, to approve entering into an economic development incentive contract between the County of Durham and Innovative Emergency Management, Inc. in the amount of \$100,000 over a five-year period.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Bowser, Heron, Howerton, Page, and Reckhow

Noes: None

Five-Year Consolidated Plan “Needs” Public Hearing

The City of Durham Department of Community Development requests that the Board of County Commissioners hold the FY 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan “Needs” public hearing to receive citizen comments. The purpose of this meeting is to receive citizen comments on how City-County HOME Consortium funds can be used to address housing needs in Durham over the next five fiscal years.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Mike Barros, Director of the City of Durham’s Community Development Department.

Mr. Barros stated that each year, the Community Development Department comes before the Board to participate in a public meeting to hear the needs expressed by the Commission as well as by the public. He introduced Ms. Wilma Conyers, Federal Grants Coordinator, to elaborate on the process.

Ms. Conyers explained the purpose of the meeting is to receive citizen comments on the needs in the Durham neighborhoods. The needs will be met through the HOME Investment Partnership Consortium funds. She indicated that the City of Durham anticipates receiving a \$1.2 million allocation (2010-2011). As a part of the annual action plan, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that two public hearings be held. This is the first of the two hearings. In addition, Ms. Conyers informed the Commission that it is time for the five-year plan (2010-2015). HUD required that a report be submitted by May 15, 2010. Said report will incorporate all comments.

The Chairman asked the Board if they had questions of the staff. Hearing none, the Chairman opened the public hearing.

Victoria Peterson pleaded with the Community Development Department to please keep an eye on boarded up houses in the community, particularly in the inner city. She added that there are many youth in the community who could be taught skills needed to repair the boarded up houses. She would like to see Durham hire local contractors and local youth.

She addressed the Chairman and stressed the importance of helping residents to become homeowners and not renters. According to Ms. Peterson, Northeast Central Durham has hundred of empty houses, and families could be living in the empty houses instead of in homeless shelters.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Howerton inquired about the frequency of meetings to solicit interest in homeownership. Mr. Barros addressed Ms. Peterson’s comments before responding to Commissioner Howerton. He stated that one of the initiatives of the City Manager is to develop a comprehensive plan to address boarded up houses. Regarding youth participation, he responded that any time work is going on in neighborhoods, the Department makes an effort to

involve youth. He agreed that not only does it give them useful skills, but they have a vested interest when they help and are more inclined to protect their neighborhood.

In response to Commissioner Howerton's inquiry, Mr. Barros stated that his department receives approximately 20 callers or visitors daily seeking information on homeownership. He added that there are several programs that assist potential homeowners. There is a 2 percent 2nd mortgage program that gives a larger buying power, and there is a good relationship with realtors and bankers in the area who make referrals from potential homeowners. The Durham Affordable Housing Coalition conducts classes on homeownership. The class is a requirement for the program.

Mr. Barros spoke about the desire to encourage homeownership in older neighborhoods. Before, the Department of Housing and Urban Development would not allow the program to offer houses that contained lead paint. Since most of the houses in older neighborhoods were built prior to 1978, they contained lead paint. Recently, \$16,000 has been made available to abate the issue.

Chairman Page concurred with Ms. Peterson's concerns. He stated that it was distressing to ride through communities and see so many boarded houses. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Barros for addressing the problem.

The Chairman commented on the need to partner with schools and the Holton Career Center to give students an opportunity to learn skills such as painting. He pointed out the ramp projects that took place in the Drew Street area that involved youth participation. He stated that he hoped the Department would continue to promote those kinds of opportunities.

Mr. Barros discussed three strategies that had been used in specific areas. In Southwest Durham, Community Development partnered with homeowners, realtors, and other key players and went house by house for over 20 years. He indicated that the program doesn't necessarily purchase property, but they work with other agencies such as Habitat for Humanity to increase homeownership.

In the Eastway community, the City built new houses. He added that the program in Eastway had been very successful. According to Mr. Barros, three out of seven people who have bought homes in the neighborhood are above low and moderate income so they are changing the dynamics of the neighborhood.

The Rolling Hills/Southside project is a partnership with Community for Self Help and McCormack Baron Salazar to acquire all the property in the Rolling Hills and Southside neighborhoods. Rehabilitation, demolition and new houses will be built to make the communities "neighborhoods of choice."

Commissioner Reckhow expressed concern about the percentage of homeowners. She asked Mr. Barros if he had the current homeowner percentage. Mr. Barros responded that Durham homeownership is between 44-46 percent. Commissioner Reckhow responded that it is essential that we focus to improve the percentage rate of homeowners.

Commissioner Reckhow suggested that the RBA Housing Committee make increasing homeownership a priority task for the coming year. She spoke about the importance of teaching financial literacy.

Commissioner Bowser commended Mr. Barros for his efforts in the area of homeownership. He added that many members of the community are unemployed or underemployed and cannot afford to purchase houses. Commissioner Bowser emphasized the need to help our community become economically empowered so they can afford to buy homes.

Mr. Barros ended his comments by vowing to work closer with the Department of Social Services in the coming year.

Chairman Page thanked Mr. Barros for his work and his report.

Closed Session

The Board is requested to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the performance of a public officer or employee.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Bowser, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the performance of a public officer or employee.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Bowser, Heron, Howerton, Page, and Reckhow
Noes: None

Reconvene to Open Session

Chairman Page announced that the Board met in closed session; directives were given to staff; no action was taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Page adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Parker-Evans
Clerk to the Board