

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM CITY COUNCIL
DURHAM LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
Durham, North Carolina**

Friday, May 31, 2002

12:00 Noon – 1:45 P.M.

MINUTES

Place: Durham Marriott and Convention Center

Present: Mayor William V. Bell, Mayor Pro Tempore Lewis A. Cheek, and Council Members A. J. Howard Clement III, Tamra Edwards, Cora Cole-McFadden, and Thomas Stith

Chairman MaryAnn E. Black, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Philip R. Cousin Jr., and Becky M. Heron

Senators Wilbur Gulley and Jeanne Lucas and Representatives Paul Luebke, Henry M. Michaux Jr., and Paul D. Miller

County Manager Michael M. Ruffin and four County of Durham staff members

City Manager Marcia Conner and eight City of Durham staff members

President Reyn Bowman, Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau

President Bill Kalkhof, Downtown Durham Inc.

Absent: Council Member John Best Jr., Commissioner Joe W. Bowser, and Representatives J. Russell Capps and Jennifer Weiss

Presider: Mayor Bell

Welcome and Introduction

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves.

After the introductions, Mayor Bell stated that the meeting would be conducted as informally as possible. The agenda has been structured to place first items that the City and County both agree on legislatively. City legislative items are listed second and County legislative items are listed third.

Mayor Bell asked Commissioner Cousin to offer the blessing before the beginning of the meal.

Joint City/County Items

Mayor Bell asked City Attorney Henry Blender to review for the governmental bodies the joint City/County legislative items. The four items discussed by Attorney Blender follow:

- Local Option Taxes
- Half-Cent Sales Tax
- Security of Local Government Revenue Sources
- Highway Trust Fund Projects/Urban Loop

City Manager Conner distributed the City of Durham's 2002 legislative program.

Attorney Blender reviewed the program.

The legislative delegation, City Council members, and the Board of County Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the local option taxes, half-cent sales tax, and security of local government revenue sources.

Mayor Bell asked that the discussion be moved forward to the highway trust fund projects/urban loop. City Attorney Blender led the discussion.

City Legislative Items

Mayor Bell called on Attorney Blender to explain the City's legislative items as follows:

- City Investments
- Items Relating to Crime
 - Repeated serious misdemeanors
 - Resolution supporting more rigorous standards for pretrial release of criminal suspects
 - Reducing time for Housing Code and unsafe building cases
 - Resolution supporting NCLM items

A lengthy discussion was held on the City's legislative items. Questions were answered.

Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau

President Bowman explained the request for technical fixes to various transitional issues with the new legislation to make the DCVB a local tourism development authority.

The changes proposed would:

- Smooth the transition of DCVB as it has been constituted since 1989 to reclassification of DCVB as a local tourism development authority.
- Enable DCVB to begin immediately but gradually to phase in the transition from the old board make-up to the make-up required in the new legislation and outlined in the new Interlocal rather than juggling two organizations until 2004.
- Enable the DCVB Board to establish additional qualifications for members, consistent with the Interlocal as it is or may be amended from time to time and the legislation, e.g. that the appointee be a decision-maker.
- Clarify the conditions for termination of the DCVB board.

The elected officials asked questions and made remarks to which Mr. Bowman responded.

A lengthy discussion was held about reclassification of the DCVB.

County Legislative Items

Chairman Black asked Deborah Craig-Ray, Public Information and Governmental Affairs Director, to present Durham County's 2002 legislative agenda.

The following proposed legislation was discussed:

- Resolution Supporting Impact Tax Enabling Authority
- Resolution Requesting Modifications Relating to Mental Health Reform
- Resolution Supporting an Increase in the Cigarette Tax
- Resolution Requesting that Funding for the Criminal Justice Partnership Program be Maintained
- Resolution Supporting Increasing the Mandatory Attendance Age for School to 18
- Resolution Supporting Appeal Rights for Counties

The Durham Delegation members asked questions. The questions were answered.

The Durham Delegation requested additional information on the proposed legislation.

Club Boulevard School Wall between Highway and School Property

Commissioner Heron asked the Durham Delegation to talk to Department of Transportation officials about building a wall between the highway and the school to improve safety and security.

The Delegation urged the County Commissioners, the City Council, and other groups to make as many contacts as possible to the Department of Transportation to get support for building the wall. The Durham Delegation would follow up on the request.

Traffic Signal at Riddle Road and S. Alston Avenue

Council member Clement asked the Durham Delegation to use their influence to get a traffic light installed at Riddle Road and S. Alston Avenue. He said the Department of Transportation has refused to install a traffic signal at the intersection. City Council approved the installation.

The Legislative Delegation suggested that the Council and Commissioners talk to Mr. Ty Cox about the signal light installation; he is on the North Carolina Department of Transportation Board of Directors.

Official Action

No official action was taken at this joint meeting by the three governing bodies.

Senator Gulley said he appreciated the two governing bodies working together on the 2002 legislative program although the two bodies are not consolidated.

Adjournment

Chairman Black thanked the Legislative Delegation and everyone else for coming to the combined meeting.

Chairman Black adjourned the meeting at approximately at 1:45 p. m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board