

Work Session Statement
June 1, 2020

The Durham County Board of Commissioners joins our voices with those of elected leaders and community members here in Durham and throughout our state and nation to condemn the murder of George Floyd, an act of abhorrent violence, inhumanity and racism.

We support Sheriff Clarence Birkhead's strong statement of commitment "to ensuring fair and impartial treatment of all residents of Durham County regardless of their ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, religion, age, or socioeconomic class..." and to treat all in our community "with dignity and respect." As well as "making sure the men and women of the Durham County Sheriff's Office understand that wearing the uniform is a privilege and an honor" based on public trust and respect.

Our hearts go out to Mr. Floyd's family and loved ones, some who share our home of North Carolina. We call for full justice and accountability for all police officers involved in this heinous murder. We support the right of people in Durham and across our state and nation to peacefully protest and express grief and outrage, honoring the memory of George Floyd and countless others who have been victims of systemic racism and violence at the hands of law enforcement. We recommit ourselves to working for a just and equitable Durham that ensures public health and safety by addressing historic legacies of systemic racism.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair, Durham Board of County Commissioners
James Hill, Vice Chair, Durham Board of County Commissioners
On Behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners