

Work Session Statement
June 1, 2020

Good morning,

It is important for me to share a few words in response to the latest round of killings of unarmed African Americans in our nation. Communities are traumatized, hurting, angry, **beyond tired**, and demand change. So often, justice delayed is justice denied. People will no longer stand idly by while systemic injustice happens right in front of their faces. Racial oppression, aggression, bias, and prejudice will no longer be tolerated—wherever it shows up. **To each of us on this board, it is time to not only talk the talk but walk the walk. Using the language of racial equity and social justice without embracing the work no longer holds any purchase.** As I stated on Saturday, in my message to those who engaged in peaceful protest. **I am so proud of our Durham residents for coming together, representing the full diversity of our county, standing in solidarity for change.** Change is coming. Let's remain focused and turn this moment into a movement for racial justice for all in Durham County. THANK YOU.\

Brenda Howerton
County commissioner