

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

Monday, March 1, 2021

9:00 A.M. Virtual Work Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, second floor, Durham County Government
Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chair Brenda Howerton, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Commissioners Nida
Allam, Nimasheena Burns, and Heidi Carter

Presiders: Chair Brenda Howerton

Citizen Comments

Monica Toomer, Clerk to the Board, read the following email submitted by Tom Playford:

“Durham and Durham County are foolish and irresponsible to follow NC relaxation of Covid restrictions. Cases are leveling after a few weeks of declines, but mutations, particularly the UK variant, which is highly contagious, are rapidly increasing, which may cause major and rapid increases in new cases. Smarter to err on the side of caution since most states really don't know how to get people vaccinated quickly. So sad.”

Consent Agenda

The Board was requested to review the following Consent Agenda items for the March Regular Session.

20-0645 Budget Ordinance Amendment No.21BCC000079 Recognizing \$150,000 in Grant Funding from Global Tel Link Corporation (GTL) to the Durham County Sheriff's Office
General Manager Jodi Miller clarified the difference between this item and item 20-0089.

Regarding a question as to whether this item had any role in approving the actual contract with GTL, David LaBarre, Sheriff's Office Director of Planning and Development, clarified that the contract was approved in February 2020. This item was only to appropriate grant funds.

Directive: David LaBarre to provide the Board with follow-up information regarding Vice Chair Jacobs email with questions about GTL which addressed the community and inmates' concerns about the fees' GTL charged.

21-0105 Approval Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000091 to Recognize \$188,000 in Grant Revenue from The City of Durham to Soil and Water Department and Increase the Expenses to Implement the Southeastern Sustainability Community Fund Project

Staff was commended for their work with the BETC Program. Mike Dupree, Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager, confirmed three teachers from the new Northern High School were going to participate in the BETC Program.

21-0136 Capital Project Amendment No. 21CPA0000026 Creating the 500 E. Main St. Structured Parking Deck Capital Project using \$300,000 of Future Taxable Financing Funding and to Authorize the Execution of Architectural Services Agreement with Little Diversified Architectural Consulting Ltd. for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$183,200 for the Programming Phase of the 500 E. Main St. Structured Parking Deck - Project No. 47302635DC151

Peri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services, confirmed staff was already having discussions regarding the impact of employees working virtually in future trends and County needs. He stated that the Transportation Manager, Ellen Beckmann, participated in meetings for the project and had a wealth of knowledge regarding how to encourage preferred parking outcomes (such as employee parking fees and incentives).

Mr. Manns discussed the language referring to a solicitation for development partners for commercial and residential components. He announced that an update would be provided in April 2021.

21-0171 Contract Approval for Recity Network, Fiscal Agent for Kate's Korner to provide Learning Centers at Three Durham Housing Authority Communities

The Board spoke on the importance of this item and how it increased access for children from vulnerable populations. The Board was thankful for the work put into this effort.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Vice Chair Jacobs, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to approve the contract for Kate's Korner Learning Centers at the Durham Housing Authority sites.

The motion carried unanimously.

There were no questions regarding the items below:

21-0019 Approval to Execute A Contract with Tyler Technologies to Purchase Eagle System Software at \$487,106 for the Office of Register of Deeds

21-0087 Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000077 Appropriating \$300,000 Risk Management Fund Fund Balance and Transferring those Funds to the General Fund to Settle a Legacy Claim

21-0089 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.21BCC000080 Appropriating \$194,207.63 of Debt Service Fund Fund Balance to replace X-Ray Machines and Metal Detectors in the Courthouse and Detention Facility and Approval of Contract with Point Security, Inc.

21-0106 Approval to Amend the Current Contract with Insight Global's IS&T Help Desk using existing funds in The IST Operational Budget to increase the Contract amount by \$72,800 for a total amount of \$145,600

21-0115 Contract Amendment Request to Increase Contract Amount for Electronic Monitoring Services with Buddi US, LLC

21-0117 Budget Ordinance Amendment No.21BCCC000084 Increasing Youth Home Expenditure Budget by \$30K to Offset Unplanned Expenses for the Durham County Youth Home due to Increases in County Juvenile Out-of-County Placements

21-0129 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCCC000088 Increasing Youth Home Expenditure Budget by \$7,200 for Psychiatric Services for Youth Home and Contract Amendment for Services

21-0131 Board of Elections - SouthData Contract Amendment

21-0137 Durham County Matching Grants Program - Approval of FY 2020-21 Grant Cycle

21-0138 Approval of the Purchase of Goods contract(s) with various vendors for the Private Office, Conference and miscellaneous furnishings from the U.S. Communities/GSA and/or NC State Contracts Buying Programs for the Phases 3, 4 and 5 of the Durham County Administration Building 1 Renovation Project No.: 4730DC137

21-0139 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000094 - Utilizing \$731,683 of Contingency Set Aside Funds for COVID-19 Related Janitorial Services and One-Time County Facilities Cost.

21-0161 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000095 - Utilizing \$465,920 of Contingency Set Aside Funds for COVID-19 to Extend Contract with Reinvestment Partners for Non-Congregate Homeless Housing at the Carolina Duke Inn

Discussion Items

21-0074 Durham County Early Childhood Action Plan Funding Recommendations

The Board was requested to receive and consider the funding recommendations that were emerging from the planning effort toward a Durham County Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP).

In January 2020, Durham County contracted with the Durham Children's Initiative to create an Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP) for Durham County, budgeted for \$150,000 over 18 months. The full action plan was due for release in June or July 2021, but high-level recommendations for funding were due now for consideration as a part of the budget cycle for FY 2021-2022. The recommendations for funding were a part of a braided funding plan that was being developed by DCI. Signaling public investment in this plan that was catalyzed by the County in 2020 was critical in helping attract additional funds from private and philanthropic sources.

Over the past nine months, local early childhood leaders, front-line providers, and parents of young children worked together to determine ways to make our early childhood systems more

equitable in order to help Durham become a place where all young children and their families could thrive.

Because the action plan would not be finalized until the end of the fiscal year, staff did not yet make a request for specific programmatic or systems-focused investments. However, in an effort to ensure the Board had as much information as possible to consider the more general funding request of \$150,000 into the Early Childhood budget to support initial ECAP implementation, the ECAP planning team (with input from community stakeholders engaged in the process) identified the following recommendations as highest priority in this funding cycle because of their role in supporting COVID recovery in the systems serving families with young children. Staff recommended that initial County ECAP funding be used to contribute to COVID recovery in the early childhood system in one or more of the following areas:

- Childcare recovery efforts
- Housing and economic stability to reduce ACEs
- Child and family social-emotional health, trauma-informed care, and resilience
- Efforts to disrupt institutional racism and share power with parents experiencing challenges and disparities in outcomes in our early childhood system

If the request for County ECAP funding was approved, staff would report back to the Board once the action plan was finalized with more specifics about how the funds would be allocated toward the areas mentioned above.

Cate Elander, Durham County Early Childhood Coordinator; David Reese, Durham Children's Initiative; and Bonnie DeLaune, Durham Children's Initiative; provided a presentation to the Board which included an overview of collaborative efforts in the ECAP planning process to date, the 21 recommendations that were emerging from the planning process, thoughts about how initial County funding should be spent to support the plan, and an overview of how action plans were currently being built around these 21 recommendations.

The Board expressed their appreciation for all the work that went into this and spoke about the importance of looking at the process through a racial equity lens backed up with actions rather than lip service.

Directives:

- **Cate Elander to provide the Board with confirmation as to whether the childcare camp round table was still meeting.**
- **Cate Elander to provide follow-up to the Board regarding funding in the new relief bill for childcare providers.**

21-0107 Durham Master Aging Plan (MAP) Overview

Durham Master Aging Plan community planning meetings occurred from March 2019 to December 2019 and followed the AARP/World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities format and their Eight Domains of Livability. A Durham Master Aging Plan virtual celebration occurred on Thursday, May 28, 2020 in which the completed plan was formally shared with the community. It was the hope of the Durham's Partnership for Seniors and the Durham Master Aging Plan Steering Committee that funding would be considered for the implementation of this plan. The Board was requested to consider the fiscal support of

implementation of the Durham Master Aging Plan, which would require at least 1.0 FTE per year for three years.

The older adult population in Durham County was projected to increase by 85 percent in the next 21 years, compared to a total population growth of 31 percent. A Master Aging Plan would help prepare Durham for this population increase while working to make Durham a more livable community for all residents. In February 2019, Durham was formally accepted into the AARP/World Health Organization (WHO) Age-Friendly Community. A requirement of acceptance into this network was the development of an action plan within two years that was focused on the following domains of livability:

- Outdoor Spaces & Public Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect & Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation & Employment
- Community Supports & Health Services
- Communication & Information

Upon implementation of the Durham Master Aging Plan, Durham had three years to work towards the desired goals and specified strategies with an evaluation due to AARP and the World Health Organization at the end of year three.

Melissa Black, Durham's Partnership for Seniors Coordinator, and Shelisa Howard-Martinez, Durham Master Aging Plan Facilitator, provided the Board with a presentation.

Ms. Black confirmed staff was actively engaged with transportation and making efforts to ensure the aging lens was incorporated into the new comprehensive plan (which was currently being developed).

Staff was encouraged to include more state-wide partners.

Ms. Black discussed the Mayor's support of the Plan and agreed that the next appropriate step would be to present at a Joint City-County Committee meeting to loop the City into the budget ask for funding.

In terms of where Durham was in the process, Ms. Black stated it was coming up to the end of the planning phase.

Directive: Melissa Black and Shelisa Howard-Martinez to bring forward a funding request stating exactly what was needed or recommended in terms of funds and employees.

21-0170 State of North Carolina 2021 Disparity Study Highlights

On January 4, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners received an update on the Durham County MWBE program efforts. As a follow-up to that discussion the Board was requested to receive an update on the recent State of North Carolina 2021 Disparity Study. The conversation

was led by Tammie Hall, Director/Assistant to the Secretary for HUB Outreach. The State HUB office served as a partner with local governments with meeting MWBE goals.

Rodney K. Strong, Esq. CEO of Griffin & Strong, PC., reviewed the study parameters, availability data, and overall findings. Bridget Wall, BLWall Consulting, discussed the recommendations that came out of the study.

Ms. Hall discussed the process for HUB Certification. She noted the difficulty in meeting MWBE goals in terms of procurement due to the lack of specific, detailed laws (such as those that existed for construction). She stated it was important to be intentional and consider opportunities for departments to subcontract work out as this was one way to increase MWBE participation.

Staff was encouraged to consider, based on the report from the State, what the County needed in order to improve and what gaps existed in the County's policies and practices.

21-0116 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000096 Allocating \$75,325 of Contingency Set Aside Funds to Support the Durham Recovery and Renewal Task Force's (RRTF) Back on the Bull Communications Plan Phase 4

The Board was requested to fund half of the proposal submitted by RRTF's Communications Team that would fund four months of a broad-based communications campaign through the local Back on the Bull campaign that encouraged vaccination and the continuation of practices meant to mitigate community spread. The plan was designed to complement and bolster other communication efforts by partners including Duke Health and Public Health. The proposal called for a total investment of \$150,650 that RRTF recommended be split between the City and County (\$75,325 each). The City Council approved their \$75,325 portion on February 15th.

The County previously approved \$132,000 in campaign funds, which was matched by the City, to fund the first three phases of the Back on the Bull Public Health Communications Campaign. These initial funds supported activities from June - December 2020. RRTF's Communications Team—which included staff from Discover Durham, Public Health, NCCU, Duke, DDI, the Chamber, Tilde, the City, El Centro Hispano, and others—prepared a proposal to continue the momentum behind the Back on the Bull health and safety campaign into 2021. While positive case counts and hospitalizations had improved recently, more contagious variants also emerged, and a significant portion of the population was reluctant to receive the vaccination. These new messaging considerations emerged as the need to centralize information and guidance remained as critical as it was at the onset of the pandemic.

Phases 1-3 incentivized businesses to participate in a self-certification health and safety process, established campaign awareness, and encouraged residents to support local businesses that were taking the necessary steps to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Over 800 businesses completed the health and safety checklist and participated in the campaign. With Community Health Ambassadors effectively reaching hundreds of businesses each month, the Communications Group planned to shift the focus of its outreach more strategically to Durham residents, with messaging in Phase 4 (February - May) intended to encourage residents to get vaccinated and remain vigilant in practicing the 3Ws.

Durham’s recovery hinged upon most Durham residents getting vaccinated. Early data suggested that the communities at highest risk for COVID-19 infection were getting vaccinated at much lower rates—i.e. Latinx and Black residents appeared to have the highest concentration of cases and higher rates of morbidity. In addition to operational and logistical challenges of vaccine distribution, Durham needed a proactive strategy to address vaccine hesitancy that built confidence in the vaccine based on science and the voices and testimonies of trusted messengers.

Additionally, there was a risk of decrease in compliance with public health safety measures once vaccine distribution began; however, public health experts confirmed the need to continue to wear masks and practice the 3Ws—even if vaccinated—for at least several more months and likely longer. With new, more contagious variants of COVID-19 entering the U.S., it was important to remind residents to not give in to “pandemic fatigue.”

Given these considerations, RRTF recommended the City and County allocate additional funds to support ongoing communications efforts. The budget request would support a strategic communications campaign that:

- Recruited and regularly highlighted trusted messengers and influencers in Durham who had either gotten the vaccine or pledged to get it when it became available and who could educate and inform residents about the safety, efficacy, and critical importance of receiving the vaccine as early as permitted.
- Developed and promoted a local Back on the Bull pledge campaign which asked people to commit to get the vaccine as it became eligible, to keep wearing masks, and to support local businesses. The pledge provided a vehicle for trusted messengers in later eligibility phases to express their commitment to be vaccinated.
- Co-designed some materials through two to three community design workshops with residents from historically marginalized communities who resided in census tracts with higher rates of COVID-19 cases.
- Solidified the connection between getting vaccinated and returning to a new normal that included children returning to in-person instruction.
- Further empowered trusted messengers (e.g. faith leaders) to champion vaccination by providing them with a communications toolkit and specific ways to use it. RRTF’s Places of Worship Roundtable requested assistance in developing strategies to champion the vaccine among their faith communities.
- Encouraged residents to stay home as well as stay safe by practicing the 3Ws when venturing out—even after getting vaccinated—and using resources like Back on the Bull list of businesses who completed the health and safety checklist.
- Provided “I got vaccinated” buttons to everyone getting vaccinated at Duke Health or Public Health as this created greater awareness in the community of others getting the vaccine and gave people a quick, easy way to help champion the vaccine to their friends and neighbors. This was similar to “I voted” stickers, but buttons were more durable and appropriate given how long it would take to widely distribute the vaccine.
- Provided clear, user-friendly guidance to residents on how to register for the vaccine, when to register (according to which phase we were in), and what to expect.
- Promoted and raised awareness of any new resources (e.g. vaccine navigators as envisioned by Greenlight Durham) so residents were aware of them and knew how to access them.

- Shared and disseminated recordings of townhalls occurring in Durham so they could be viewed by wider audiences.

Before endorsing the proposal, RRTF requested the Communications Team provide additional information on how this effort would align with, complement, and support other communications efforts led by Public Health, Duke Health, and others. The Team met with representatives from these organizations, further refined the proposal, and confirmed with these partners that the Back on the Bull campaign played an important and complementary role in public messaging that advanced Durham's recovery. RRTF was also contacted by representatives from Alliance Health and DPS who saw opportunities for how this campaign could support their work in Durham.

The campaign would continue to rely on significant pro bono work from members of the Communications Team and represented organizations. In light of the ongoing resource requirements to plan, execute, track and report on the campaign, Discover Durham built in a 15% fee that would partially offset the resources devoted to the effort. The RRTF Communications Team estimated the pro bono time donated for the first three phases of the campaign (July - December) at 2,500-3,000 hours, involving more than 10 staff members in content and creative development, media planning and buying, video production, PR, accounting, and general management and anticipated that the ongoing efforts required to support phase 4 would be similar.

This request was not a FEMA reimbursable expense. Funds that were set aside at the outset of FY20-21 could be used to fund this request if approved by the Board.

Maticia Sims, RRTF Co-chair, discussed the criteria the RRTF used to consider and push forward proposals for funding. Katie Galbraith, RRTF Co-chair, spoke on the Back on the Bull campaign.

Daniel Edwards, Morehead Manor Bed and Breakfast Owner and Innkeeper, spoke on the campaign and what it meant to him as a small business owner. He believed it was advantageous for Durham to capitalize on the fact that many Durham residents regularly wore masks which helped create a perception of safety in Durham.

Susan Amey, RRTF Communications Committee Chair, spoke on the Back on the Bull Pledge.

Vice Chair Jacobs and Commissioner Carter expressed their support for the budget request.

Commissioner Burns shared her concerns with the communications proposal which included the reduction in media which focused on Black and brown populations as well as the use of Greenlight Durham. She read the portion of text she was referring to aloud:

“Some of the budget in 2021 original proposal was dedicated to placing advertising with media outlets targeting Black and Hispanic Latinx populations. If the RRTF subcommittee would like the Back on the Bull proposal to scale back in budget eliminating those targeted outlets and focusing with the broader reach would help make those buys most efficient.”

Ms. Amey clarified that the proposed reductions in media were to mostly print publications which reached very small niche audiences in favor of media that allowed them to reach broader audiences and target specific audiences as cost effectively as possible. She emphasized the purpose of the elimination of specific media was due to them not providing the kind of reach necessary to get to the targeted audiences.

Ms. Galbraith noted this campaign was not meant to support any one business, such as Greenlight Durham, over another.

21-0119 Update #1 from the Development Finance Initiative on the Pre-development Process for the former DSS Main St. Facility (Presentation and Request for Board Endorsement of Guiding Public Interests)

Sarah Odio, Development Finance Initiative (DFI) Senior Project Manager, provided the Board with an update from the UNC School of Government's DFI on the Pre-development Process for the former DSS Main St. facility. More specifically, this update detailed community input received from the survey and during the January 16 and 19, 2021 virtual Public Engagement Sessions. County staff and DFI requested the Board endorse the Guiding Public Interests (GPI) previously outlined in a memorandum dated February 19, 2021 and listed below. Endorsement of the GPI would allow timely progress on this project to continue.

The proposed GPI for the redevelopment of DSS Main were:

- Maintained the primary use of the building for community-oriented activities and/or office space accessible to businesses with needs unmet by downtown market.
- Incorporate ground-floor uses that increased street-level vibrancy and invited community interaction.
- Preserved the unique architectural features of the exterior and allowed for enhancements consistent with the building's prominent location at a key gateway to downtown Durham.
- Included design elements that facilitated pedestrian traffic to and from nearby commercial nodes.
- Optimized public investment and attracted private investment.

Vice Chair Jacobs suggested adding language to the first bullet point, such as "affordable spaces for small businesses, artists, nonprofits." She also suggested incorporating language about affordable retail spaces in the second bullet point. Ms. Odio cautioned against being too specific in the GPI language as it was technically a commitment to funding.

Vice Chair Jacobs suggested adding "ground-floor and outdoor uses" to the second bullet. She encouraged including language about maximizing uses during the day, at night, and on the weekend rather than just during the weekday

Commissioner Allam suggested adding language regarding opportunities of continued education and workforce development uses in the building. Ms. Odio stated staff intended this to be captured under "community-oriented activities."

Regarding the possibility of NCCU using part of the building for courses, Ms. Odio believed they could be open to continued conversations.

Ms. Odio stated staff would return to the Board in the future with information regarding a market analysis.

Directive: Sarah Odio to continue to provide the Board with the community engagement opportunities so they could be shared with as many members of the community as possible.

21-0141 Durham Housing Authority East Main Street Redevelopment - Update and Discussion of Next Steps

Anthony Scott, Durham Housing Authority (DHA) CEO, provided the Board with an update on the implementation of the Durham Downtown Neighborhood Plan (DDNP).

The intent of this update was to:

- Brief the Board and receive feedback/input on plans for the redevelopment of the Oldham & Liberty sites, the DHA Office/Criminal Justice Resource Center (CJRC) and the Roxboro Street Parking Deck project combined.
- Receive guidance from the Board on the County's interest in partnering with DHA on a potential redevelopment project on the DHA Office/CJRC site and the Roxboro Street Parking Deck project combined.
- If project partnership with DHA was supported by the Board, concurrence was needed from the Board to allow staff to continue discussions with DHA to proceed with establishing mutually beneficial goals and deal points for the joint redevelopment of the DHA Office/CJRC and the Roxboro Street Parking Deck (note: the intent was to preserve the current CJRC and its operations while redeveloping the land surrounding the facility).

Mr. Manns noted the DHA would need parking from the County to make this redevelopment work. There were 175 spaces in the Roxboro Street deck and 45 in the surface lot adjacent to the CJRC. He stated the DSS Main Street facility, contingent on what was done with it, could be leveraged to determine what could be accomplished at the DSS Main Street site. Mr. Manns stated that staff needed time to understand:

- What would be done with DSS Main so the actual parking replacement could be determined.
- What was going to be required from the County in terms of fiscal impact and human capital associated with taking on this redevelopment.

Mr. Scott stated that the RFP would be written in a way that would allow developers to include the issues raised by staff in their proposals.

Vice Chair Jacobs stated her support for the proposal.

Commissioner Burns encouraged staff to ensure that residents were made aware of the required one-to-one ratio and were provided with understandable information when signing legal documents.

Rhae Parkes, EJP Consulting Group, discussed the timing difference in implementation phasing for the various sites that were being developed.

Commissioner Allam concurred with Commissioner Burns' statements and advocated for a robust communications strategy to help gain residents' trust.

Commissioner Carter expressed her support for the County partnering with DHA on the CJRC site with the understanding that Mr. Manns' concerns were addressed to the greatest extent possible.

21-0146 Removal of Citizen Board Member Due to Poor Attendance

The Board was requested to remove the following member in keeping with the Attendance Policy approved by the Board of County Commissioners in August 2014: "If an appointee has absences (excused or unexcused) which constitute more than 50% of the meetings in any calendar year or three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or five (5) consecutive excused absences in any calendar year, he or she is obligated to resign."

- Durham Cultural Advisory Board - JaMeeka Holloway-Burrell

The Clerk's Office was notified of the absences and made attempts to contact the board member. There was no response.

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to remove JaMeeka Holloway-Burrell from the Durham Cultural Advisory Board.

The motion carried unanimously.

21-0166 Review of Commissioner Directives

The Board was requested to review staff follow-up regarding previously issued directives.

Board directives from previous meetings and staff follow-up were reviewed at monthly Work Sessions. Staff made efforts to input all directives into the system as accurately and quickly after they were issued as possible and to follow-up with the Board and/or with other relevant parties in an appropriate time frame.

General Manager Claudia Hager discussed the plans staff had to allow for Board discussion of budget follow-ups as well as the information that would be presented regarding the Board's identified top priorities from the budget retreat. Staff would provide information as to the investments the County was making in the top priorities.

21-0169 Commissioner Comments

The Board was requested to allow each Commissioner six minutes to report on conferences or make comments regarding issues that may be of interest or concern to the Board.

Commissioner Allam gave a synopsis for the budget retreat. The three top priorities that emerged were: workforce development, child health and wellbeing, and tax welfare.

Commissioner Burns announced that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) application was reopened. President Biden specifically intended for them to go to businesses with fewer than 20 employees. She encouraged the Board and staff to advocate for residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19, especially teachers.

General Manager Joanne Pierce explained what occurred to vaccinations when individuals failed to show up for their second dose.

Commissioner Carter shared her concerns regarding workers and residents of homeless shelters not being included in either of the most recently prioritized groups of people to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. She suggested staff consider reaching out to Urban Ministries of Durham if there were more situations of having extra doses that were close to expiration. Commissioner Carter spoke on the conversations had within some boards and commissions to request stipends from the Board in an effort to increase member diversity.

Vice Chair Jacobs concurred with Commissioner Carter's point about offering vaccinations to workers and residents of homeless shelters. She discussed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently passed by the House which used an unequitable formula for funding (like the previous Act in 2020). This hard wired a significant amount of money to counties with populations of 500,000 or greater while leaving a small piece of the pie to be divvied up between all other counties—the Bill dictated \$215 million to be given to four large counties and \$215 million to be divided amongst 96 counties which included Durham.

Vice Chair Jacobs described the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) CORE meeting which discussed studies looking into the relationship between the Commuter Rail Corridor, affordable housing, and quality employment. She noted her request for TJCOG to present this information to the Board once the studies were completed.

County Attorney Siler discussed the training between the Board and the County Manager as recommended from the racial bias investigation. The UNC School of Government recommended Attorney Siler seek a firm from outside of North Carolina to conduct the training sessions and he provided information and a proposal to the Board regarding the firm he felt would be most appropriate. He discussed why this firm stood out from the others.

Vice Chair Jacobs expressed her concern about the scope of work and believed Commissioners should have input into what the focus should be, the timeframe, and the cost of the training sessions. She advocated for the Board providing feedback to the Attorney.

Discussion was held regarding the Board's need for training and the past opportunities for feedback. The Board also discussed the Racial Equity Training class that only three Commissioners were able to enroll in due to limited availability. The next time this course would be offered was in April 2021 and the Clerk confirmed she would reach out to the Board once registration for the class opened.

Directives:

- **Deborah Craig-Ray to look into the recently passed CARES Act to see if there was anything that could be done about the funding distribution formula.**

Closed Session

21-0165 Closed Session

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

- To discuss 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).
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Vice Chair Jacobs, to adjourn to Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene from Closed Session

Chair Howerton announced that direction was given to staff.

Regarding the training, Chair Howerton asked the Board to send concerns, questions, and objections to the training to Attorney Siler within one week so that a final decision regarding the consultant could be made.

Adjournment

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tania De Los Santos
Administrative Assistant