

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

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

9:00 A.M. Virtual Budget 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

**21-0364 Durham Technical Community College (DTCC)**

John B, Buxton, President of DTCC thanked the Budget Department for discussions on how to budget for the community while dealing with COVID-19 and transitioning out of the pandemic. Mr. Buxton shared the *Durham Tech* presentation which highlighted the following: \$500,000 Recommendations for Back-to-Work (BTW) and BULLS (Building Up Local Life Sciences), BTW and BULLS Combined Budget, Budget By Initiative, BTW Initiative, BTW Initiative Success, BTW Request, BULLS Mission ad Focus, BULLS Partners, Equitable Workforce Development, Life Sciences at DTCC: Increasing Interest and Enrollment, Biotech Career Entry Courses and BULLS Request.

Chair Howerton inquired about failing freshman students who did not have coaches. Mr. Braxton responded DTCC was building out a model for success coaches to determine which students needed a coach and the best coaching style.

Commissioner Burns asked about students enrolling in community colleges and having to take equivalent courses. Mr. Buxton replied DTCC was enrolling high school senior students in college courses and pre-requisite courses to help with Biosciences.

Vice-Chair Jacobs inquired about the additional funding needed from the County. Mr. Buxton responded DTCC was asking for an additional \$175,000 funding for student and institutional needs. Vice-Chair Jacobs asked if the tracking data would be shared with the County and estimated start date of grant. Mr. Buxton replied the tracking data would be shared and he did not have an estimated start date of the grant.

Commissioner Burns inquired about programs and services available for students with learning disabilities. Kara Battle, Chief Academic Officer of DTCC replied DTCC had a center for students with learning disabilities. Commissioner Burns asked about financial aid available for students with a record or had been incarcerated. Mr. Buxton responded part of the Cares Act money had provided funds for non-credit students to pay for courses, food, housing and debt owed to DTCC. Ms. Battle added partners in the Park were willing to share their Care Act

funding with DTCC to purchase laptops and tuition for students who do not qualify for financial aid.

Commissioner Carter inquired about the median age for the Back-to-Work Program. Ms. Battle responded the median age was 35 to 55 years old.

### **21-0365 Economic Development Discussion**

Andrew Miracle, Economic Development Officer shared the *Economic Development* presentation which highlighted the following: Program Areas, Business Recruitment, Workforce Development, Building Up Life Sciences, Durham County Nonprofit RFP, Durham YouthWorks Program 2021, Small Business Recovery Fund, Small Business Support, Durham Small Business Opportunity Loans, Durham Small Business Opportunity Loan: Next Steps, Budget Highlights and Requested Resources.

Chair Howerton stated the Minority Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) report did not provide an accurate breakdown of all numbers. Mr. Miracle responded he addressed the breakdown and would show all the numbers on the MWBE report.

Commissioner Burns asked for the job role of the new Economic Development positions. Mr. Miracle replied coverage of the three program areas and support administrative duties.

Vice-Chair Jacobs asked how the incentive policy could directly support the economic system and address barriers. Mr. Miracle replied he would start the conversation to discuss the matter with the County Manager and staff. Vice-Chair Jacobs stated Discover Durham could be a partner with economic development.

Commissioner Carter asked about incorporating food into economic development. Jay Gibson, General Manager responded the County planned to increase support for local farmers to help all in the community. Commissioner Carter asked about a plan for equitable economic development. Mr. Miracle replied the briefing sheet included policy language around equitable economic development.

### **21-0367 Office of the Sheriff Discussion**

Clarence Birkhead, Sheriff shared the *Budget Focus Areas and Priorities* presentation which highlighted the following: Priority One – Vehicle Replacement, Priority Two – Procurement Specialist, Priority Three – Four (4) Animal Services Officers, Priority Four – Key and Tool Control Officer, Priority Five – Licensed Clinical Addition Specialist, Priority Six – Health Care Worker, Priority Seven – Loading Dock Officer, Priority Eight – Three (3) Transportation Officers, Priority Nine – Officers for Duke Regional Hospital, Priority Ten – Microsoft Office 365, Priority Eleven – Laserfiche Enhancement, Priority Twelve – Security Risk Enhancement, Budget Breakdown – Personnel, Salary Comparison (2020) Detention Officer, Salary Comparison (2020) Law Enforcement Officer, Sheriff's Office Budget and Breakdown, Comprehensive Overview – Detention, Detention Facility – Key Contracts, Law Enforcement, Training, Courthouse Services, Other LEO Supportive Services, Civil Process – Evictions – Executions, Civilian Services, Communications, LEO At-A-Glance, Drug Seizures, Traffic Safety and Crime Statistics.

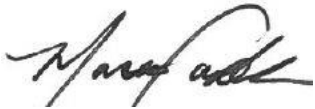
Commissioner Allam asked for the detention center population not including Federal detainees. Sheriff Birkhead responded the average daily population was 335 to 340 and was decreasing.

Vice-Chair Jacobs asked which vehicles were in most need of replacement. Sheriff Birkhead responded all of the vehicles with an emphasis on patrol and transportation vehicles. Vice-Chair Jacobs asked why the Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) position were under the Sheriff's Department and not under Public Health or the Criminal Justice Resource Center (CJRC). Sheriff Birkhead replied the Sheriff Department was responsible for the MAT Program and worked in conjunction with Public Health and CJRC.

Commissioner Burns asked if the new Animal Services Officers would be solely responsible for animal welfare. Sheriff Birkhead replied yes, adding no new positions had been added since 2010. Commissioner Burns asked about addressing gun violence. Sheriff Birkhead responded gun violence should be discussed with residents who want to defund the Sheriff's Office and gun violence needed addressing.

Chair Howerton asked why the Durham 911 Call Center was experiencing problems. Sheriff Birkhead responded the Durham 911 calls were being routed to the Raleigh 911 Call Center, then back to the Durham 911 Call center. Claudia Hager, Interim County Manager added Durham had cancelled 911 calls going to Raleigh. Commissioner Carter asked if a study had been conducted to characterize calls coming into the Sheriff's 911 Call Center. Sheriff Birkhead replied he would welcome a study to be conducted on the 911 calls and estimated 25% of the calls were criminal and domestic violence calls were the most dangerous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macio Carlton', written in a cursive style.

Macio Carlton  
Deputy Clerk to the Board