

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

Monday, January 24, 2022

7:00 P.M. Regular Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, Second Floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 East Main Street, Durham, North Carolina

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

Presider: Chair Brenda Howerton

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Chair Howerton announced that there were no agenda adjustments.

Announcements

Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board read the following announcements:

1. **FREE At-Home COVID 19 Tests** – Residential households in the U.S. can now order one set of four (4) FREE at-home test from USPS.com.

Please visit <https://special.usps.com/testkits> to input your contact information and shipping address for your at-home test.

2. **Get Your COVID-19 Vaccination at DCoDPH** – COVID-19 cases are still on the rise. Take your shots at the Durham County Department of Public Health as soon as you can.

The vaccine clinic is open every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am – 4pm; Tuesdays from 9am – 5:45pm and closed on Fridays. No appointment is necessary. A reminder that the clinic is closed daily from 11:30am – 1pm.

3. **Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program (LIHR) Extension** – The LIHR has been extended until January 31, 2022. All details on the requirements for the LIHR are available at www.dconc.gov/dss.

Durham residents who wish to receive assistance with the application process can call 919-560-8000 Monday – Thursday to schedule an hourly appointment.

4. **Business Recovery Grant Program** - The NC Department of Revenue has created a new grant program for small businesses that had significant economic losses due to COVID. The Business Recovery Grant Program includes \$500 million for two grant programs: \$300 million for hospitality businesses to include arts, entertainment, recreation, hotel, restaurants and bars as well as \$200 million for businesses that are not in one of the categories mentioned above and were also not recipients of any previous COVID relief funding. The application period is open until January 31, 2022. For more information, visit the state’s link at <https://www.ncdor.gov/business-recovery-grant>
5. **Durham PreK for 2022-2023 Application Period Begins February 8th** – The Durham PreK Application for the 2022-2023 school year will open on February 8th. Visit www.durhamprek.org to receive more information – this is just an interest form, not the official application.

If you have questions, please visit www.durhamprek.org, call 1-833-773-5338 or email prekchildcareservices.org for assistance.

6. **DCHC MPO Seeks Public Comment on Transportation Plan Amendment by February 22nd** – The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking public input on Amendment #4 to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Some changes include the removal of the former Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit and add bus access improvements. The plan in its entirety can be reviewed by visiting www.dchcmo.org.

Residents who wish to provide comments may do so at the virtual public hearing on Wednesday, February 9th at 9am by emailing kayla.peloquin@durhamnc.gov or by calling 919-560-4366, ext. 36419.

7. **IGNITE Business Bootcamp Now Accepting Applicants** – The IGNITE Business Bootcamp is a 10-week, 10-session, business bootcamp, featuring 20 hours of cohort style training. This bootcamp will provide growth and development opportunities for participants and their businesses. Participation is **FREE** of charge with support provided by the US Black Chambers CEDC and Durham County. The cohort will meet on Wednesdays beginning February 2 - April 6 from 1-3pm, via Zoom.

Applications will be considered until 5pm on February 1. Participants are encouraged to join every session; but may miss some if necessary. Please apply at <https://gdbcc.org/ignite>.

8. **Durham Residents Can Receive Help with Their Energy Bill** - As of January 3, 2022, all Durham residents will be eligible to apply for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), you can make a virtual appointment by phone for assistance, or simply visit the state’s website to complete their application.

Durham residents are to call (919) 560-8192 to make a virtual appointment with LIEAP specialists on staff. For those residents who are comfortable completing the LIEAP application without assistance, must visit, <http://epass.nc.gov> to apply for the one-time energy assistance benefit. The LIEAP program ends March 31, 2022.

Additional comments from Commissioners:

- Commissioner Burns suggested all small business research the guidelines for the Business Recovery Grant Program for qualifications and recommended for businesses to apply even if previous funds were received for COVID relief.
- Commissioner Jacobs requested that the Business Recovery Grant Program and the Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program Extension announcements to be publicized and promoted.
- Chair Howerton announced that January was Cervical Cancer Health Awareness Month an encouraged women to get a yearly cancer screening.

Minutes

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Vice Chair Jacobs to approve the January 10, 2022 Regular Session Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

22-0061 Resolution – Honoring the life and legacy of Fashion Icon and Durham Native Andre Leon Talley

Chair Howerton ready the following resolution:

ANDRE LEON TALLEY

WHEREAS, Andre Leon Talley was born on Oct 16, 1948, and transitioned on December 26, 2022, at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in Durham where he was raised by his grandmother and attended Hillside High School before going on to North Carolina Central University where he majored in French studies, and continued his education by earning a master's from Brown University; and

WHEREAS, following positions with Interview Magazine and Women's Wear Daily, Talley was hired in 1983 as Vogue Magazine's news director, its first male African American creative director, and also served as editor at large where he continued to build his reputation as a fashion icon, influencer, stylist and trailblazer in the fashion industry; and

WHEREAS, Andre Leon Talley was frequently the only person of color seen on the front rows of cutting edge fashion shows in Paris, and New York and is credited with paving the way for minority men and women to find careers in modeling, design, fashion journalism, and other related careers; and

WHEREAS, we pause to honor this author, public speaker, television personality and citizen of the world who freely shared his knowledge, creativity, sense of humor, quick wit, deep faith and enduring love for others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby resolve to pay tribute to the life and legacy of

ANDRE LEON TALLEY

An amazing man who shared his southern grace, manners, and charm around the globe, never forgetting his roots. We call upon all citizens of Durham County to remember how he fought tirelessly to bring diversity into the fashion industry throughout his magnificent career.

This the 24th day of January 2022.

Brenda Howerton, Chair

Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair

Nida Allam, Commissioner

Nimasheena Burns, Commissioner

Heidi Carter, Commissioner

Ava Thompson, cousin of Mr. Talley thanked the Board for the resolution and for honoring their beloved family member. She stated Mr. Talley was nicknamed “Ray” by his grandmother Bennie Davis and was a kind, compassionate and a generous spirit raised in love, family and faith. Cynthia Mitchell-Alexander, cousin of Mr. Talley also stated the family appreciated the love and support from his hometown.

The Board thanked the family for attending the meeting and accepting the resolution honoring the Mr. Talley.

Consent Agenda

Chair Howerton asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda.

Vice Chair Jacobs requested to have Interim County Manager Claudia Hager comment on Item 22-0048.

Interim County Manager Hager stated General Services and Janitorial Contractors maintained County facilities during the pandemic by cleaning, disinfecting and sanitation services. She added the Before Group, Inc. offered a three (3) step cleaning system that provided a residual surface protection for up to 90 days. Motiryo Keambiroiro, General Services Director stated Public Health contributed \$300,000 in grant funds to help cover the cost of the contract and this contract would include cleaning the Youth Home.

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Howerton entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

22-0037 Approve a \$1,824,391 contract with “Davenport Group” for IS&T hardware and services

*22-0042 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for November 2021

*22-0046 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for December 2021

22-0048 Award Contract for Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Sanitation Services to Belfor USA Group, Inc.

Consent Agenda Item #22-0042

Due to property valuation adjustments for over assessments, listing discrepancies, duplicate listings and clerical errors, etc. The attached report details releases and refunds for the month of November 2021.

Releases and Refunds – November 2021

Releases & Refunds for 2022

Personal Property	\$	0.00
Real Property	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$	0.00

Releases and Refunds for 2021 Taxes

Real Property	\$	41,579.33
Personal Property	\$	100,897.86
Motor Vehicle	\$	0.00
Solid Waste	\$	212.00
Stormwater Utility	\$	0.00
VTS Refunds	\$	<u>18,581.57</u>
Total	\$	161,270.76

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years
2016 - 2020

Real Property	\$ 230.55
Personal Property	\$ 4,595.80
Solid Waste	\$ 0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$ 0.00
VTS Refund	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 4,826.35
 Grand Total	 \$ 166,097.11

Consent Agenda Item #22-0046

Due to property valuation adjustments for over assessments, listing discrepancies, duplicate listings and clerical errors, etc. The attached report details releases and refunds for the month of December 2021.

Releases and Refunds – December 2021

Releases & Refunds for 2022

Personal Property	\$ 0.00
Real Property	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 0.00

Releases and Refunds for 2021 Taxes

Real Property	\$ 343,019.77
Personal Property	\$ 131,725.40
Motor Vehicle	\$ 0.00
Solid Waste	\$ 0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$ 0.00
VTS Refunds	\$ 16,632.04
Total	\$ 491,377.21

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years
2016 - 2020

Real Property	\$ 230.55
Personal Property	\$ 26,105.73
Solid Waste	\$ 0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$ 0.00
VTS Refund	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 26,336.28
 Grand Total	 \$ 517,713.49

Other Business

22-0054 Durham County Public Health Focused Update on the COVID-19 Crisis

Rodney Jenkins, Director of Public Health shared the *COVID-19/Vaccine Distribution Updates* which highlighted the following: COVID-19 Prevention – Do Your Part, Current COVID-19 Statistics, Current COVID-19 Race and Ethnicity Trends, Hospitalizations, Number of Vaccine Doses Delivered, COVID-19 Percent Positive Labs, Vaccine Info, CDC Vaccine Updates Durham Co. Residents, Vaccine Dashboard Data for Durham Residents, Weekly Data Reflections, Free COVID-19 Testing, Mask Distribution Update and Final Thoughts.

The Board inquired about the closest testing site to downtown Durham. Mr. Jenkins responded El Centro Hispano located at 2000 Chapel Hill Road and weekends only at 414 East Main Street. The Board asked if Public Health collected data on small businesses with fully vaccinated employees. Mr. Jenkins replied no adding, residents could check the “Back on the Bull” website for small businesses that pledged – the Board noted that the “Back on the Bull” website was not being maintained and would discuss with the City. There was a discussion about residents who were not vaccinated; and Mr. Jenkins responded he was continuing to work with community partners and staff to reach all residents.

The Board questioned at-home COVID test being provided by the County and the additional mask from the State. Mr. Jenkins replied no test were received from the State due to shipping delays and the State was sending mask to schools and other entities before sending additional mask to Counties.

22-0063 Office of the Sheriff Update to the Board of County Commissioners

Sheriff Clearance Birkhead, Durham County Sheriff stated he was following guidelines and working attentively to keep employees and detainees safe and the facilities clean. He added the Sheriff Department vaccinated 340 detainees, tested 1973 employees and 45 employees tested positive since December 2021.

The Board asked if the COVID-19 booster vaccine was available for detainees and how many detainees received the booster. Sheriff Birkhead replied the booster was not available for detainees and he would discuss offering the booster with Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director and Wellpath staff. He added he would inquire to see if any of the detainees received the booster and share those findings with the Board. Mr. Jenkins stated if the Sheriff and Wellpath desired to provide the booster to detainees, the County would provide the Sheriff Department with the vaccine.

The Board thanked Sheriff Birkhead and staff for properly handling COVID-19 protocols during the pandemic.

22-0747 American Rescue Plan Act Update

Claudia Hager, Interim County Manager and Deborah Craig-Ray, General Manager shared the *American Rescue Plan Act Update* which highlighted the following: Emergency Federal

Funding, Key Dates – Recap, Illustration Only of Allowable Uses of Recovery Funds, Per U.S. Treasury Guidance, ARPA Allocations of Data, Example ARPA Fund Use Categories Bases on Budget Discussions and/or Funding Gaps Related to COVID-19, Durham County Government Timeline for Engagement, Review and Funding, Durham County Government On-line Survey, ARPA Funding Survey Results as of January 21, 2022, NACo Update Overview of U.S. Treasury*, Key Highlights of the Guidance, Replacing Lost Revenue, Public Health Responses, Negative Economic Impacts, Capital Expenditures and Next Steps – February 2022.

The Board asked how County departments were involved in the ARPA funding. Interim County Manager Hager did not provide an exact number but stated the departments were asked to submit proposals in December 2021 for desired usage of funds. The Board inquired about additional information to assist with funding usage decisions. Interim County Manager Hager replied the Board would be provided with additional comments from surveys, prior request proposals and priorities and suggestions from staff.

The Board thanked Interim Manager Hager and staff for providing updates and changes on the ARPA funding.

Board and Commission Appointments

Willie Darby, Senior County Attorney announced the voting results.

The Board made the following appointments (incumbents are identified with an (i). Individuals who are recommended by a Board are underlined.) Individuals listed in bold print were appointed.

Animal Welcome Advisory Committee

Marianne Bond (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Board of Adjustment

George Kolasa (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Board of Health

(i) **Joshua Brown** (Allam, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

(i) **Spencer Curtis** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Anthony Gregorio (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

(i) **Rosemary Jackson** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Lascel Webley, Jr. (Burns)

Durham County Women’s Commission

Tiffany Foster (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Closed Session

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

- To qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officers or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a compliant, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer of employee, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene to Open Session

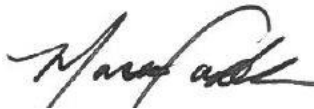
Chair Howerton announced the Board met in Closed Session and provided direction to staff.

Adjournment

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 10:28 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board