

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

Monday, April 4, 2022

9:00 A.M. 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, Deputy Clerk to the Board, read the following Citizen Comment submitted via email:

Comment 1: DeWarren Langley

“First, welcome and congratulations new County Manager Dr. Kimberly Sowell on her historic appointment as the first permanent black female County Manager for Durham County Government. I look forward to working with you as you transition to your new role. Second, I urge (1) maintaining the My Brother’s Keeper Manager position to collaboratively and strategically work with local agencies and community-based nonprofits to oversee policy and program implementation, pursue funding streams and develop a comprehensive sustainability model for MBK Durham. I am reaching out to again advocate for the creation of a My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Durham Advisory Board to provide the leadership and accountability required for a robust collective impact strategy that can transform the quality of life of boys and young men of color. In addition, I ask commissioners to direct staff and Dr. Sowell to support a revised Boys & Young Men of Color (BYMOC) Local Action Plan for Durham County by a cross section of stakeholders to improve coordination, strengthen collaboration & shared responsibility, and systemic reforms with clear goals, measurable outcomes and timeframe to inform the collective impact strategy in partnership with the City of Durham and Durham Public Schools Board of Education. We want BYMOC to thrive not just survive. According to data from Durham Police Department, over 95% of the city’s gun violence victims and perpetrators are black boys and young men. According to academic achievement, proficiency and discipline data from Durham Public Schools, boys of color, specifically black boys, have the lowest percentage that met minimum grade level proficiency and college and career readiness while also having the highest short- and long-term suspensions and dropout since 2015. Unfortunately, the most juvenile petitions and confinements at the Youth Home have consistently been black boys. We have a systemic problem that requires a systemic strategy. We are not doing enough to educate, equip and empower boys and young men in color (BYMOC) in Durham! The data shows we are failing them, and they deserve better! Similar to the Durham Early Childhood Action Plan and Durham Master Aging Plan commissioned by the Durham Board of County Commissioners, we need the Durham Board of County Commissioners to actualize and operationalize its commitment to boys and young men of color by directing the new County Manager to create the My Brother’s Keeper Durham Advisory Board and a revised Boys & Young Men of Color Local Action Plan to build and sustain a transformative ecosystem to serve as a living, breathing document that guides work, is reported out on and is assessed and evolved as necessary. While I understand the administration is engaging in an operational assessment of MBK Durham to conduct an analysis that evaluates operations and processes to identify opportunities for improvement, stakeholder

engagement is essential if we are to ensure MBK Durham has the leadership, governance structure and community support to build and sustain an ecosystem that provides responsive services that ensure boys of color enter school ready to learn, reading at level, graduating from high school ready for college and career, completing postsecondary education or training and successfully entering the workforce. The Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation, Inc. will continue to work tirelessly to ensure boys and young men of color in our Young Men of Excellence Program and Career Pathway Program gain the skills, experiences, and support that will empower them to reach their potential through education and training to achieve career success and economic stability and mobility. We welcome the opportunity to work with the administration to coordinate this effort for this critical and important work to begin without further delay.”

Comment 2: Chris Tiffany

"PUBLIC" MEETINGS SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUSIVE....

6:30-8:30 PM CANDIDATE MEETINGS AT HOLTON CAREER & RESOURCE CENTER?

DESPITE COMPLAINTS, FOR YEARS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAS HELD MEETINGS THERE WHEN THE BUS DOES NOT STOP THERE. GENTRIFICATION EXCLUDES PEOPLE; THAT'S THE POINT OF GENTRIFICATION. Poverty reduction by displacing the poor. EVEN "POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE" AND SIMILAR MEETINGS HELD WHEN & WHERE ONLY CONVENIENT TO PEOPLE WITH CARS, NOT PEOPLE WHO RIDE THE BUS; BUS RIDERS REPEATEDLY CALLED "RIFF-RAFF" (rif-raff are scavengers who steal from the dead...) OLD & POOR? We're despised by Local government, even called "all animals" "Porch Monkeys" & "criminals" & "Liars", as well as "Riff-Raff" and then you want us to VOTE for you? ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS. Consistent with complaints from teenagers and their parents that cops there turn away people who don't come in a Church van or a Mormon boy scout troop van or in groups with cars, Twice I've gone early to PUBLIC evening meetings there, meetings with PUBLIC notice in Local papers, BECAUSE PUBLIC transportation (still) does not go there in the evenings, and turned away by your cops there, not even allowed to wait in the Lobby; told to get out, even when it was OBVIOUSLY raining. Y'all gonna continue to do that to people, Like (again) parents with school-aged children and other members of the PUBLIC, OLD, POOR &/OR HANDICAPPED who use PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO TRY TO GET TO VENUES WHERE WE ARE OVIOUSLY NOT WELCOME? SELECTED INVITEES ONLY?"

Consent Agenda

The Board was requested to review the following Consent Agenda items for the April Regular Sessions.

22-0156 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00078 Public Health to Recognize \$262,706.00 from the NC DHHS Division of Public Health Women’s and Children’s Health Section/Children and Youth Branch to Support School Health Nurses and School Health Serving Positions to Provide Services to Students

Rodney Jenkins, MHA, Public Health Director, stated additional discussions were held to ensure funds would be extended to future fiscal years and multiple avenues. He added job fairs and working in conjunction with HR would aid in receiving additional positions.

22-0169 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00079 to Recognize \$5,000 in Additional Grant Funding from the ABC Board to Durham Adult Drug Treatment Court

Vice Chair Jacobs commended Roshanna Parker, Assistant Director at the Criminal Justice Resource Center for providing extensive detail to participants in the drug program and explaining how funding would be used in wrap-around services.

22-0185 Purchase two BioQuell Sanitizing Systems for OES Emergency Vehicles Via a Sole Source Vendor - BioQuell, Inc.

Jim E. Groves, OES Director, informed the Board the initial use was for ambulances; however, the units were portable and could be used anywhere that required decontamination. Mark Lockhart, OES-EMS Chief Paramedic, stated the units were a dry system, leaving no residue or moisture and would be refueled after each use. He added the Office of Emergency Services had funds available to sustain all refuel costs.

22-0189 Approve Capital Project Amendment No.22CPA00024 and Budget Ordinance Amendment No.22BCC00084 Reducing the Main Library Upgrade Capital Project (6110DC094) by \$575,000 in 2016 GO Bonds and Increasing S.L. Warren Upgrade Capital Project (6110DC097) by \$1,580,746 Using \$575K in 2016 GO Bonds from Main Library Project and A \$1,005,746 Appropriation of Debt Service Fund Fund Balance to the PAYGO Fund; As Well as Execution of a Construction Contract with Muter Construction for Envelope Improvements and interior repairs

Peri D. Manns, ASLA, Assistant General Manager/Deputy Director Engineering, clarified Stanford L. Warren Library required above and low-grade repairs due to a water leak in the facility. He stated once the contract was executed, it would take about eight (8) to ten (10) months to complete. Mr. Manns also informed the Board that solar roofing was not included and would delay completion of project if needed, however an assessment would be done to all facilities.

Claudia Hager, General Manager confirmed a statement could be applied under the fiscal impact on the Agenda Supplement Form for all items requiring transfer of fund balances and how it would affect transfers.

22-0195 Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC Contract Amendment for Utilities Division

Jay Gibson PE, General Manager, provided additional information on this item.

Directive:

Staff to provide a memo with a list of pump stations, locations, capacities and the expected needs of those pump stations.

22-0202 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00083 Appropriating \$1,937,915 of General Fund Fund Balance for the Purchase of Seven (7) Ambulances through the SAVVIK Cooperative Agreement for the Office of Emergency Services

Jim E. Groves, OES Director, clarified due to sourcing issues the “Stealth Power” Technology was unavailable for the seven (7) ambulances, however a budget would be requested next year to install technology.

Directive:

- **Staff to provide memo listing of quantity of ambulances and fleet replacement schedules**

22-0204 Approval of FY21-22 Contract for Bull City Community Schools Project

Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff, provided additional information for this item.

Directive:

- Staff to provide community impact statement showing success over past three (3) years.

There were no questions regarding the items below:

22-0194 Standard Non-Reimbursable Utility Contracts for the Extension of the County Sanitary Sewer System

22-0196 Sole Source Exemption Approval to Purchase Pump from Carolina Pumpworks, LLC

22-0197 Emergency & Scheduled Repairs for TWWTP Contract Amendment with TA Loving

22-0198 Hoist and Crane Services for TWWTP Contract Amendment with FHS, Inc.

22-0207 Approval of Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Durham for the Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Initiative

22-0216 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00085 Durham County Library to Recognize Revenue in the Amount of \$30,000 from the Durham Library Foundation Awarded by the Forest at Duke for Collections and Annual Library Fest

Discussion Items

22-0181 Mental Health Discussion

The Board was requested to receive a presentation regarding mental health. The presentation would provide a broad overview of the range of traumatic events, impacts on children and families, mental wellness, mental illness, mental health crisis, types of providers, access to care, changing landscape of healthcare, and considerations about where support is needed.

Ernestine Briggs-King, PhD, Duke Center for Child and Family Health shared a presentation titled “*COVID-19, Children, Adolescents & Mental Health*” which highlighted the following: *Range of Traumatic Events, Impact on Children & Adolescents, Mental Health Crisis and the Toll on the Workforce.*”

The Board inquired about the rate of suicide and what were the beginning stages/age to efficiently reach children to combat the culture aspect of how society damaged black and brown people since birth. Ernestine Briggs-King, PhD, Duke Center for Child and Family Health, stated stable, safe and strong families were a good place to create a level of protection around children. She added by strengthen families and providing tools to be healthy in all aspects, health professionals would be able to assist in schools, daycares and communities. Ms. Briggs-King continued to say by giving training to providers on evidence-based treatments, as well as placing supportive people in all aspects of children lives would be a beneficial start.

Tara Bohley, LMFT, MPA, UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work shared a presentation highlighting the importance of wellness versus illness; and pointing out key differences between mental health and mental illness:

Mental Health	Mental Illness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoughts: What & How • Emotion: Feeling & Experiencing • Behavior: What & How 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impairment in work and education responsibilities • Problems performing daily activities • Difficulties in relationships • Changes and challenges in our thinking, emotions and behaviors

Ms. Bohley stated the importance of maintaining mental health and expressed it was not as simple as nature vs. nurture, more so a combination of what was inherited, in DNA and our environment. She added there were multiple avenues for citizens to receive help, whether it was a facility based or community-based - *services provided in outpatient clinics and individual private practitioners.*

Ann K. Oshel, MS, Sr VP, Community Health and Well-Being Alliance Health provided the Board with a presentation on how to: *Access Information on Alliance Health, Accessing Other Medicaid Health Plans, The Changing Landscape of Health Care and Potential Considerations for ARPA Funding.* She addressed questions regarding additional unrestricted funds provided from the State – adding extra funding was unlikely and COVID relief funds expired March 31, 2022. She added federal COVID funds were extended to June 30, 2022; however, funds would decline and become unavailable.

Ms. Oshel also expressed it would be a great idea to assess gaps within the City and County. She mentioned Alliance Health were required to post a “*Network Adequacy Report*” every year on their website. The report was designed to allow citizens to give feedback in terms of how to access services, reach services and determine what programs Alliance Health could fund.

22-0215 Black Maternal Health Discussion

The Board was requested to receive the report of the Durham County Department of Public Health regarding Black Maternal Health. The report would provide information on the current processes, programs, and efforts which address the state of Black Maternal Health. Information would be provided from Public Health and Community Based Organizations. The presentations would also address what resources were needed to sustain the work and invoke change.

Hattie Wood, Public Health Nurse Division Director, shared a presentation titled “*Black Maternal Health*” which discussed the following: *Lactation Support, Centering Pregnancy, Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies (CMHRRP), Enhanced Health Education, Maternal & Postpartum Screening for Depression, and Reducing Barriers/Access to Prenatal Care.*

Maria Small, MD MPH Duke University School of Medicine, provided the Board with a presentation titled “*COVID and Pregnancy: African American Covid Task Force*” which discussed the maternal mortality rate since COVID begun among pregnant African American women.

Joy Lampkin Foster, Joyce Spencer, Maya Jackson and Tameka Brown, Founders of Equity before Birth and HEARTS, shared a presentation to provide additional insight on black maternal

6 health. They shared the issues that plague black mothers and infants were 3.5 times higher than other racial backgrounds, 13.9 percent of babies being pre-term with increased mortality and helping teenagers with pregnancies. Chair Howerton asked the group to meet with Joanne Pierce, General Manager for an in-depth discussion.

Directive:

General Manager Pierce was asked to meet the with HEARTS and Equity before Birth Founders for further discussion.

22-0217 FY 2022-31 Capital Improvement Plan Update

The Board was requested to receive a presentation from staff on the FY 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) update. This served as a follow-up to previous CIP discussions. Representatives from the NC Museum of Life and Science, Durham Technical Community College and Durham Public Schools would also share highlights on projects that could be included in a potential 2022 bond referendum.

Keith Lane, Budget Director shared a presentation highlighting the updates to CIP. Due to timing – not related to cost – three (3) projects: DSS Main Renovation, Renewable Energy Plan and IS&T would be delayed to reduce a potential tax rate increase in 2023. He mentioned even though projects were pushed back, majority of the projects were requested for completion in the first five (5) years. Mr. Lane added the proposed November 2022 General Obligation Bond Referendum was calculated to \$550,231,000 for three (3) major areas - *DPS, Museum of Life and Sciences and Durham Technical Community College* to directly affect children of all ages. He added the County was expected to pay up to \$55M in related debt service annually and there would be a one-time 2.5 cent tax increase required to support debt expense. Mr. Lane continued to say a tax levy in FY23-24 would be recommended and should funds be left over; they would be committed in a special fund for future debt service payments.

Claudia Hager, General Manager, informed the Board the tax decreased due to the delay in some projects and would continue to be refined in hopes of continuing to decrease taxes. She also addressed questions regarding the growth in the Tax Assistance Grant Program to minimize the impact of tax increase on residents. Ms. Hager stated the overall budget allocated for grants were close to \$900,000, making the capacity to offset expenses.

Commissioner Allam asked if North Carolina could create an empty home tax - *push pressure on landlords who keep homes vacant*. She stated the tax would be separate and would increase revenue to the County as well as encourage landlords to fill vacant homes.

Vice-Chair Jacobs asked for a breakdown of projects in the CIP to be brought before the Board and asked if conversations were held to find alternative revenue sources for the County Stadium. Ms. Hager stated additional discussions would need to be made with interested parties for alternative sources.

Carrie Heinonen, President and CEO, North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, provided the Board with a presentation on the growth of the Museum of Life and Science. She also addressed the need for additional funds to inspire broader engagement and support, support sustainability upgrades and to revitalize and expand infrastructure.

Commissioner Burns thanked Ms. Heinonen and her team for providing insight on the Museum of Life and Science and commended how beautiful and welcoming the space was.

Vice-Chair Jacobs requested opportunities for Durham Pre-K and other entities to partner with the Museum of Life and Science for different programs.

J.B. Buxton, President of Durham Technical Community College (DTCC), shared a presentation with the Board to discuss three (3) main focal points for the CIP: *New facilities with focus on life sciences and health care, Repair and renovations, and Property acquisition*. He added by focusing on those points, DTCC would be able to obtain additional enrollees and address educational needs.

Kara A. Battle, VP/Chief Acad Officer informed the Board with the expansion of DTCC, it was anticipated enrollment for the life sciences department would double and would significantly increase enrollment for the health sciences department. She added DTCC and DPS partnered together to offer a Career & College Promise for bio work and life sciences program, as well as a partnership with Wake Tech to focus on student's career path.

Frederick Davis, Executive Director of Building Services with Durham Public Schools, provided the Board with a presentation on DPS 10 Year Prioritized CIP Update. The presentation touched on the current strategic plan surrounding accommodating K-3 size requirements, educational suitability, renewable energy and water efficiency. Mr. Davis also addressed questions regarding if DPS be in a deficit after bond was approved and what plans were made to start renewable energy. He stated he could not place a monetary value on deficit, but there would be one. He also added funds were allocated from the 2016 Bond to conduct an energy audit to determine opportunities for solar energy.

Vice-Chair Jacobs asked would the assessment be done pertaining to vacant school properties. Mr. Davis responded vacant buildings would be used for administrative space, public partnerships and additional programs.

Directive:

- **Staff to follow up with Dwane Brinson on creating “empty home tax”**
- **Staff to provide detailed breakdown of projects in CIP**
- **Staff to follow up for further discussion on revenue for County Stadium**
- **Staff to connect Durham Pre-K providers with Museum of Life and Science**

22-0206 Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Opportunity Analysis

The Board was requested to receive a presentation from Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) on the Opportunity Analysis for the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Study. Staff from TJCOG would deliver a presentation of the analysis including land uses, affordable housing inventories and proposals, and current employment-based travel markets related to the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail project. As part of the second phase of the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, GoTriangle staff and consultants were assessing opportunities and 8 concerns along the corridor to support informed decision-making regarding the project. TJCOG had analyzed affordable housing, travel markets, and development patterns and plans along the

rail corridor to better understand the opportunities the project created and provided insight into the communities that the project would affect.

John Hodges-Copple, Triangle J Council of Governments Metro Planning Director provided the Board with a presentation titled: “*Opportunity Analysis: A Descriptive Evaluation of the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Corridor*”. He described two (2) types of parallel analysis, one (1) being Service Analysis - what would it take to build and what could happen within the corridor and two (2) Opportunity Analysis - what could we get if we build and what could happen along the corridor.

Mr. Hodges-Copple added three (3) region-corridor-station study areas:

- Affordable Housing Analysis - Existing types and locations, opportunity sites and segments, etc.
- Travel Market Analysis - Where residents live and work, connecting workers to jobs, and emphasized areas: travel to key hubs and travel key neighborhoods
- Land Use Analysis - Place types and development status, existing population and jobs and capacity for added jobs and residents.

The Board inquired on the rationality of building a commuter rail and what was the proximity around bus stations, bike racks and parking around commuter rails. John Hodges-Copple, Triangle J Council of Governments Metro Planning Director, stated the rationality of building a commuter rail was to connect all parts of the RTP Corridor. He added not all but many stop would be able to park and ride, however individual station summaries would be made to indicate the amount of residents who would park and ride.

Vice-Chair Jacobs inquired on receiving additional clarification on the last mile connection. Mr. Hodges-Copple, Triangle J Council of Governments Metro Planning Director, informed the Board the last mile connection and commuter rail were integrated. He stated Florida had a system called “Brightline Plus” which were four (4) different last mile/first mile connections allowing residents to utilize e-bikes, an electric golf cart, shared rides or their own brand of Uber. Mr. Hodge-Copple added Florida was a good model on how to approach creating a last mile connection system.

Commissioner Carter shared how the commuter rail was of importance to the community and reinforced how achieve the goal in the most efficient way.

22-0205 Follow-Up on County Commissioner Directives

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

There were no comments or questions.

22-0211 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.

Chair Howerton highlighted events from the RTA 2022 Regional Leadership Tour to South Florida. She also discussed an email sent to Attorney Darby on what was needed from the Board

to acquire a lot owned by DPS to use for affordable housing for schoolteachers. Attorney Darby stated information had to be conveyed to DPS with restrictions.

Commissioner Burns shared she attended a forum on affordable housing for schoolteachers and requested the email to be sent to Attorney Darby for additional insight. She also shared her agreement about obtaining affordable housing and increasing teacher funding. Commissioner Burns also spoke on Coach K's dedication and leadership to Duke's Basketball Team and requested a proclamation be dedicated in his name.

Vice-Chair Jacobs thanked the Regional Transportation Alliance for hosting the 2022 Conference Tour in South Florida. She appreciated the conversations between elected officials and transportation leaders. She stressed the importance of creating a regional vision to strengthen the economy.

Directive: Attorney Darby to follow up with school board on how to acquire lot for affordable housing.

Adjournment

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

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaunecie Wardrick
Administrative Assistant