

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

Monday, August 22, 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 Nimasheena Burns and Heidi Carter

Presider: Chair Brenda Howerton

Absent: Commissioner Nida Allam

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. DCo Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Hours** – The walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Durham County Department of Public Health, 414 E. Main St., has the following hours to get your free vaccination: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All doses available - please note, clinics are closed between 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. daily.

Visit www.dcopublichealth.org/COVIDVaccines or call 919-560-9217 for more information

- 2. Children's Vaccine Events from DCoDPH** – The Durham County Department of Public Health wants all children in our community get caught up on vaccinations required for school. They will be holding Childhood Vaccination Days at the Human Services Building on Thursday, August 25 and Thursday, September 15. Vaccines given at clinic 6 on the first floor. Call 919-560-7608 to schedule your appointment.
- 3. Next Sheriff Speaks on August 23** - On Tuesday, August 23, Durham County Sheriff Clarence Birkhead will host "The Sheriff Speaks with Durham County about Keeping Our Kids Safe – What Do Parents Need to Know?" All residents are invited to attend the community meeting at Southwest Regional Library, 3605 Shannon Rd. at 5:30 p.m. Other speakers will be Dr. Felicia

Gibson, PhD., Child and Family Psychology, Center for Child and Family Health; and Lt. J. Carden, Durham County Sheriff's Office SRO Supervisor.

4. **Dco Library Job Fair** – Join the Durham County Library for a job fair for our adult community on Wednesday, August 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We've invited a wide variety of local employers to meet with job seekers in person; you can discuss open positions, the application process, and even interview on the spot. For more information, visit <https://durhamcountylibrary.libcal.com/event/9409459> or email Natalie Killion at nkillion@dconc.gov.
5. **Sprouting Connections: Season Extension and Seed Saving** – Summer may be ending, but that doesn't mean your garden season has to be over! Join the Durham County Library and Durham County Cooperative Extension to learn how to plan for the upcoming cool season garden, including what you can do to extend your season, and how to save seeds from this year's favorites so you're ready to hit the ground running in the spring. Free virtual session is Saturday, Aug. 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Registration is required at <https://bit.ly/DcoSeeds>. Contact: Jess Epsten at jepsten@dconc.gov with questions.
6. **Logo Contest for Library Fest 2023** – The Durham County Library has a call for submissions open to all Durham County residents and students to design the 2023 Library Fest logo! Logo design must reflect the theme of Storytelling and include the words Library Fest 2023 The Storytelling Edition. Submit designs by email to choltzman@dconc.gov (high resolution pdf, jpeg, or png) OR deposit designs at any Durham County Library Front Desk. Deadline is September 16, 2022. Visit www.durhamcountylibrary.org for more information.
7. **2022 Annual Property Tax Billing** – The Durham County Tax Administration mailed 2022 Durham County property tax bills to Durham County property owners on August 3, 2022. Taxes are due on Thursday, September 1, 2022, but must be paid by Thursday, January 5, 2023 to avoid interest and additional costs. For more information, visit www.dconc.gov/tax or contact the Durham County Government Call Center at 919-560-0300.
8. **Durham Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program (LIHR)** – The new and improved Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program (LIHR) is accepting applications! LIHR will provide property tax help on current taxes for eligible homeowners. Tax assistance based upon a 3-tiered income model and other improvements. Apply between Aug. 1, 2022 and Jan. 31, 2023 at www.DCONC.GOV/DSS or call 919-560-8000 for an appointment.
9. **Solarize Durham Program** – Durham County encourages residents, landlords, businesses, and non-profits to participate in the Solarize Durham program to save on the costs of installing solar energy systems and batteries. Solarize campaigns are driven by community group purchasing and offer a tiered “bulk” purchasing concept and a fully vetted installer. The more residents, landlords, and businesses owners who contract for solar installations through the program, the more savings accrue for all participants. Yes, Solar Solutions is the exclusive solar installer for this program and they are offering costs that are 25% lower than market cost. Durham County has allocated funding to subsidize solar energy systems for some low-income households. Anyone in Durham County who is interested in participating in Solarize Durham, can sign up for a free, no-obligation solar assessment to see if installing a solar energy system on their home or office makes sense by going to www.solarizedurham.org before the December 31st cutoff date.

Tobin Fried, Sustainability Division Manager shared an overview of the Solarize Durham Program, stating the County allotted money for low-income households to participate in the program. She shared her contact number for those looking to find out additional information about the program. The Board asked how information would be shared with residents and how many residents the program would serve. Ms. Fried responded information would be shared by the Public Information Office, social media and the Nextdoor platform – she noted the program would serve five (5) County residents and five (5) City residents. The Board asked to be updated on the allocation of program funding.

Chair Howerton announced the following:

- Ms. Teka Dempson, Alliance Health Family Coordinator was leaving Alliance Healthcare after 20 years of service due to accepting the Youth and Family Program Manager position at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Ms. Dempson thanked the Board for their leadership, trust and belief in the Child and Family Support Teams.
- Commissioner Burns was selected by the incoming President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) to serve as the Vice Chair of the Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee/Juvenile Subcommittee and Vice Chair of the Resilient Counties Advisory Board. Commissioner Burns stated she looked forward to the opportunity to serve on the NACo Committees and providing a voice for Durham County.
- Vice Chair Jacobs was selected as a member of the National Association of Counties’ Familiar Faces Initiative Leadership Network. Vice Chair Jacobs stated she was the only elected official from the South and thanked Gudrun Parmer, General Manager and Helen Tripp, Emergency Medical Services Program Manager for their assistance with the application process.

Commissioner Burns announced Chair Howerton was selected to serve on the National Association of Counties Board of Directors.

Ceremonial Items

22-0505 Resolution – Supporting Reproductive Justice and Freedom

The Board read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ON REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AND FREEDOM

- WHEREAS,** the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade—a legal precedent which upheld the constitutional right to privacy and freedom of choice regarding abortion—sets the clock back approximately 50 years and jeopardizes the health and lives of countless Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** the right to safe and legal abortion is a fundamental human right and must be protected for all, especially in the aftermath of the Supreme Court’s dangerous decision; and
- WHEREAS,** the current ruling will have a chilling effect on reproductive healthcare providers and their patients, and it will create a new and limiting landscape in how reproductive healthcare providers are trained; and
- WHEREAS,** ending a pregnancy should not be criminalized by government; and
- WHEREAS,** safe, legal, accessible, and affordable abortion care is essential for safeguarding health, reducing mortality and morbidity, enabling healthy spacing of pregnancies, and promoting health equity; and

WHEREAS, eliminating constitutional rights to make decisions about one’s own body will adversely impact people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community, who encounter racism from health care providers at higher rates; disproportionately experience discrimination and access limitations to healthcare services and resources; face unequal pay; and are more likely than their White counterparts to lack health insurance; and

WHEREAS, banning access to healthcare particularly exacerbates the risk of negative reproductive and maternal health outcomes, with lasting health and economic consequences for individuals and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, existing health inequities will hold true with access to reproductive care: those populations that face systemic oppression and barriers with limited access to healthcare will be up against heightened challenges in seeking abortion care, affordable contraceptives, comprehensive reproductive health information and education, gender affirming care, and freedom from sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court ruling will make access to some abortions impossible or extremely difficult, depending on where in the US one lives, number of weeks gestation, medical conditions, and other factors; and

WHEREAS, a United States district court judge in North Carolina recently allowed a law that bans abortions after twenty weeks of pregnancy to be reinstated; and

WHEREAS, reproductive health restrictions can have long-lasting negative mental, physical health and financial impacts on people’s lives; and

WHEREAS, our historic women-led Durham County Board of Commissioners is committed to the protection of all women, trans, and gender non-conforming people’s access to reproductive healthcare and safe abortion; and

WHEREAS, President Biden has issued an Executive Order to Protect Access to Abortion and Reproductive Health Services, including access to federally approved medication abortion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby reaffirm our commitment to a broad and ambitious vision to protect and transform all the structural conditions required to ensure reproductive justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the Durham County Board of Commissioners commit to support and enhance the Durham County Department of Public Health’s provision of client-centered family planning, sexual health, and reproductive health services; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT that Durham County staff will explore ways to protect access to abortion and reproductive health services and identify all actions we can take to increase points of access for reproductive health care in the County and remove barriers to this care.

This the 22nd day of August 2022.

Brenda A. Howerton, Chair

Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair

Nida Allam, Commissioner

Nimasheena Burns, Commissioner

Heidi Carter, Commissioner

Vice Chair Jacobs thanked her fellow Board members for their unity on the resolution. She also thanked Commissioner Carter for her leadership and Joanne Pierce, General Manager for assisting with the

resolution. Vice Chair Jacobs stated the resolution was important after a federal judge reinstated North Carolina's 20-week abortion ban.

Vice Chair Jacobs asked that the resolution be shared with County partners. Deborah Craig-Ray, General Manager responded she would compile a list of partners and forward the resolution as requested.

Consent Agenda

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

Antionette Hawes, citizen requested to comment on the following:

- Item 22-0461 – Ms. Hawes stated she would like for the Workforce Development Support Services to evolve to ensure residents were ready for the workforce.
- Item 22-0464 – Ms. Hawes stated \$50,000 was not enough money to support small black businesses in Durham.
- Item 22-0489 – Ms. Hawes stated \$150,000 was a large amount for legal fees and the amount should be given to support small black businesses in Durham.

Vice Chair Jacobs requested to comment on Item 22-0491.

- Item 22-0491 – Vice Chair Jacobs inquired about the settlement of property taxes with the ten-year collection schedule. Dwane Brinson, Tax Administrator responded, the North Carolina Statue of Limitations relieved the duty to collect property after ten years from the due date.

Vice Chair Jacobs requested to pull Items 22-0485 and 22-0487.

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

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda except Items 22-0485 and 22-0487.

The motion carried unanimously.

22-0461 Approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Contract with Made in Durham for Identified Workforce Development Support Services

22-0463 Approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Contract with Downtown Durham, Inc. for Identified Downtown Economic Development and Business Support Services

22-0462 Approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Contract with Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce for Services Related to Industrial Recruitment and Economic Development

22-0464 Approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Contract with Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce for Services Related to Small Business Support

22-0482 Execution of Reach Out and Read Contract to Continue Co-Location of Early Literacy Initiative in Pediatric Sites in Durham County

*22-0489 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00025 Appropriating \$150,000 of General Fund Fund Balance to the Engineering Department to Cover Miscellaneous Legal and Due Diligence Costs Related to Capital Purchases

*22-0490 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for July 2022

22-0491 Settlement of 2021 Property Taxes and the Charge of 2022 Property Taxes to the Tax Collector

Consent Agenda Item #22-0489

**Durham County, North Carolina
2022-2023 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 23BCC00025**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2022-2023 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Environmental Protection	\$5,154,763.00	\$150,000.00	\$5,304,763.00
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$31,344,832.00	\$150,000.00	\$31,494,832.00

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved August 22, 2022

Consent Agenda Item #22-0490

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 July 2022.

Releases and Refunds – July 2022

Releases and Refunds for 2022 Taxes

Real Property	\$ 0.00
Personal Property	\$ 2,150.36
Motor Vehicle	\$ 0.00
Solid Waste	\$ 0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$ 0.00
VTS Refunds	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,150.36

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years

2016 - 2021

Real Property	\$ 0.00
Personal Property	\$ 211.51

Solid Waste	\$	0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$	0.00
VTS Refunds	\$	<u>15,058.71</u>
Total	\$	15,270.22
 Grand Total	 \$	 17,420.58

Other Business

22-0512 Durham County Public Health Focused Update on the COVID-19 Crisis

Mr. Jenkins shared the *COVID-19/Vaccine Distribution Updates* which highlighted the following: Current COVID-19 Statistics, Current Race and Ethnicity Trends, COVID-19 Percent Positive Labs, Usage and Capacity Hospitalization Data, COVID-19 Community Level, United States Nowcast, Vaccine Updates, Free COVID-19 Testing, Final Thoughts, Monkeypox Background and Monkeypox vaccinations.

The Board asked if Durham County was working with Durham Public Schools (DPS) to provide vaccinations for students returning to school. Mr. Jenkins responded he was in communication with DPS Administration staff and able to provide vaccinations to students. He mentioned the school health care nurses were educated on Monkeypox and a specialist was provided for the Town Hall event. The Board asked if Durham County would be providing Monkeypox vaccinations at the Durham Pride Event in September. Mr. Jenkins replied he was working with the LGBTQ Center of Durham to provide a tent and vaccinations. The Board inquired about age demographic data for monkeypox cases. Mr. Jenkins responded the age range was between 20 and 45 years of age. The Board asked if Monkeypox could be spread on a surface. Mr. Jenkins replied Monkeypox could live on a surface for a short period of time, although the risk of being infected by a surface was low.

22-0494 Proposed Items for 2023 NCACC Legislative Goals Process

Deborah Craig-Ray, General Manager stated the proposed items would be submitted to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) by September 12, 2022, accompanied by a letter from the Chair and an adopted resolution from the Board or a letter from an affiliated organization.

Ms. Craig-Ray shared an overview of the proposed items for consideration. Those with additional changes are below:

- Chair Howerton submitted a goal to seek increased State funding for women, children and families. Chair Howerton asked for the goal to be amended with an emphasis on childcare.
- Chair Howerton submitted a goal to support affordable housing for the workforce/teachers. Chair Howerton replied housing for teachers was being addressed by Durham Public School’s attorneys and she would inform the County of the outcome.
- Commissioner Burns submitted a goal to increase State funds for economic development. Commission Burnes added improving transparency on international and global economic development.
- Vice Chair Jacobs submitted a goal on protecting Executive, Legislative, and Court Officers. Vice Chair Jacobs stated the General Statue contained gaps in coverage.
- Commissioner Carter submitted a goal to amend gun safety laws. Commissioner Carter stated she would for legislation to join the “red-flag law” proposed by Marcia Morey, State Representative.

Ms. Craig-Ray asked that the Board email her additional goals they would like to propose.

Board and Commission Appointments

Willie Darby, Acting 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.

Boxing and Wrestling Committee

Demerius Smith (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Miran Bhima (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Durham Cultural Advisory Board

Andrew Nurkin (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Durham Planning Commission

Brandon Davis (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Durham Racial Equity Commission

Nisha Williams (Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Delvin Davis (Burns)

Homeless Services Advisory Committee

Russell Pierce (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Library Board of Trustees

(i)**Miguel Jackson** (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Ann McLain (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Kynita Stinger-Stanback (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

(i)**Willis P. Whichard** (Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Commissioner Burns inquired about the process taken if a citizen was appointed to the same board or commission by the City and the County. Willie Darby, Acting County Attorney responded the citizen would be contacted to determine if he or she would prefer to remain appointed by the City or County.

Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

22-0485 Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00023 Cooperative Extension to recognize \$15,000 from Orange County Schools for Cooperative Extension's Kids Voting Program for a 2022-23 School Year Partnership

Donna Rewalt, County Extension Director stated partners understood the importance of kids voting and provided \$15,000 to support the program. She added the funds would enable Kids Voting to enhance physical voting equipment, supplies and hire contractors for the expansion of voting activities.

Carolyn Kreuger, Kids Voting Durham Program Coordinator stated the program was recognized statewide and nationwide. She added organizations contacted Cooperative Extension to receive information about the Kids Voting Program to start similar programs.

Consent Agenda Item #22-0485

**Durham County, North Carolina
2022-2023 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 23BCC00023**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2022-2023 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$9,888,871.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,903,871.00
<u>Revenue</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$72,878,471.00	\$15,000.00	\$72,893,471.00

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved August 22, 2022

22-0487 Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00022 Cooperative Extension to recognize \$17,500 from NC Extension 4-H for Cooperative Extension’s Kids Voting Program for a 2022-23 school year partnership

Carolyn Kreuger, Kids Voting Durham Program Coordinator stated the funds would enable the Kids Voting Program to develop new training and tools for adult program leaders, youth leaders and volunteers to implement education and election programs.

The Board thanked Ms. Kreuger for continued support of the Kids Voting Program and providing opportunities for the youth in Durham. Ms. Krueger thanked the Board for allowing Durham to support and provide opportunities for youth in the community.

Consent Agenda Item #22-0487

**Durham County, North Carolina
2022-2023 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 23BCC00022**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2022-2023 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$9,871,371.00	\$17,500.00	\$9,888,871.00
<u>Revenue</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$72,860,971.00	\$17,500.00	\$72,878,471.00

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

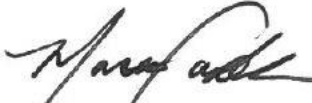
Approved August 22, 2022

Adjournment

Vice Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Macio Carlton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "C".

Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board