

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

Tuesday, January 16, 2001

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners and Senior Management Staff Retreat

MINUTES

Place: Durham Arts Council Building, 120 Morris Street, Durham, North Carolina

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Joe W. Bowser, Philip R. Cousin Jr., and Becky M. Heron

Staff: County Manager Michael M. Ruffin, County Attorney Chuck Kitchen, Deputy County Manager Carolyn P. Titus, Deputy County Manager Wendell Davis, Interim Finance Director Susan Fox-Kirk, Budget Director Pam Meyer, Human Resources Director Jackye Knight, Public Information/Governmental Affairs Director Deborah Craig-Ray, and Clerk to the Board Garry E. Umstead

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Black

Chairman Black opened the retreat and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Ellen J. Solomon, President, Strategic Change Inc., was the facilitator for the retreat.

The agenda was prepared to provide activities to establish Commissioner goals for the next two years and to determine and focus on the top priorities.

The main agenda objectives were:

1. To provide introduction, purpose of session, and set the tone;
2. To get a better understanding of each other;
3. To revisit previous goals and continue moving forward;
4. To reaffirm the mission, philosophy, and shared vision;
5. To set 3-4 goals to achieve by the end of 2002;
6. To determine and focus on the top priorities;
7. To develop the message to the County Manager and staff;
8. To discuss in a preliminary way, how to operationalize the goals; and
9. To get closure and specify “next steps.”

Ms. Solomon led the retreat participants in a discussion to revisit the original mission, philosophy, and vision for Durham County. The discussion areas follow:

Mission

The mission of Durham County Government is to enhance the quality of life for its citizens by providing education; safety and security; health and human services; economic development; and cultural and recreational resources.

Statement of Philosophy

We work together to create an environment in which our citizens are treated fairly and equitably, and to enable them to reach their highest potential.

Vision

Our vision for Durham County is a city, county, and school system working together to enhance the quality of life and provide the best service to all its citizens.

People want to live here. We have pride in our community.

We live as partners in a community, working to maintain its health by providing lifelong learning, social and economic opportunities for all.

Our tax rate reflects our desire to provide exemplary goods and services necessary to keep our community healthy. We diversify our tax base to share these costs responsibly as home and business owners.

We enhance the livability of our community by helping to rejuvenate our downtown, and by providing green space, clean water and air, alternative transportation including bikeways and greenways, and adequate public facilities.

The proposed Commissioner goals from the retreat are:

1. To invest in our community and our citizens by the successful implementation of the Capital Improvement Program.
2. To enhance community livability.
3. To help prepare our citizens for the jobs of the future by working with the school system, Durham Technical Community College, and other related agencies.
4. To provide more efficient and effective county services, including the restructuring of human services.

No official action or vote was taken at the retreat.

Adjournment

Chairman Black adjourned the retreat at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board