

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Monday, May 5, 2003

9:00 A.M. Worksession

AGENDA

1. **Citizen Comments?Community Project Proposal (Use of Oakley Center)**

The following citizens have requested time on the agenda to speak to the County Commissioners regarding the community project being proposed (use of Oakley Center) by the partnership of the community development organization from Greater St. Paul Baptist Church and the Durham Community Home of Recovery:

Police Chief Steven Chalmers
Dr. William Hazel Height
Roland Staton
Melvin Whitley
Carrissa Dixon
Reginald Stephens
Thomas B. Bass Jr.
Dr. Lavonia Allison
James W. Smith
Regina George-Bowden
Howard Clement III
Sharon Lovette
Laura Dixon
Peter Baker

2. **Citizen Comments?Domestic Partner Benefits**

The following citizens have requested time on the agenda to speak to the County Commissioners regarding domestic partner benefits:

Attorney Matt Stiegler
Mandy Carter
Reverend Mary E. Grigolia
Cynthia D. Brown

3. **Report from El Centro Hispano on the Community-Wide Human Resources Forum to Address the Health and Well-Being of the Latino Population**

The Latino population in Durham has grown by 300 percent in the last ten years. This is one of the largest growths in the country. Durham County is faced with the challenge to provide bilingual services to its consumers. El Centro Hispano has been working with a group of representatives from various health and human service agencies (public and private) to increase the access and utilization of healthcare services by the Latino community in Durham.

On April 3, 2003, a forum was held at the Durham County Library to look at increasing the health of

Durham County residents. Invited to the forum were: County Commissioners, members of the health and human services agencies, professors and representatives from various universities and technical schools, and community members. Small group discussions were held to look at strategies and ideas for increasing the capacity of these agencies to serve the Latino community.

The forum focused on three main priorities: how can agencies work with their current employees to increase their abilities to serve the Latino/Spanish speaking population; how can agencies alter the way they solicit for open positions and encourage more bilingual people to apply for positions within these agencies; and where are the future and potential employees of these agencies and how do we work with them.

This presentation will:

- summarize the forum;
- summarize any changes that have taken place to date;
- summarize the future plans for these actions of the group that worked to put together the forum; and
- ask for support from the County Commissioners on working together to achieve these objectives for the community.

Resource Person(s): Leslie deRosset, Program Coordinator, El Centro Hispano; Ivan Parra, Executive Director for the Latino Community Development Center; and Angelina Schiavone, Executive Director for El Centro Hispano

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive the presentation.

4. **Renewal of Workforce Investment Act Interlocal Agreement**

The 1998 Workforce Investment Act requires the establishment of a designated local workforce investment area and a local board to administer the workforce development funds from the Department of Labor. Historically, the City of Durham and Durham County have jointly appointed members of this board, and the City has been responsible for overseeing the administration of funding.

The City of Durham and Durham County have drafted an updated interlocal agreement to serve as a designated local workforce investment area, to establish a local workforce investment board, and to administer the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. This local board is known as the Greater Durham Workforce Development Board and oversees programs under the Workforce Investment Act, expenditure of Welfare-to-Work grant funds, North Carolina Employment and Training grants, and other programs that may be referred to the Board for implementation by the City and County.

This Interlocal Agreement has been reviewed by the County Attorney's Office, the County Manager's Office, and the Department of Social Services. The Durham City Council approved this Interlocal Agreement at its April 21, 2003 meeting.

Resource Person(s): Alan DeLisle, Director of the City of Durham's Office of Economic and Employment Development; Steve Smith, Chair of the Greater Durham Workforce Development

Board; and Dan Hudgins, Director of the Department of Social Services

County Manager's Recommendation: Review the interlocal agreement and provide direction to staff. Place this item on the May 12, 2003 Regular Session consent agenda for approval.

5. **Farmland Protection Board Revised Ordinance and Update**

The Board of County Commissioners created the Durham County Farmland Protection Board in May 1996. The advisory board oversees farmland protection efforts in Durham County. The revisions to the Durham County Farmland Protection Program Ordinance offer several changes to the existing ordinance intended to improve the operations of the program and the effectiveness of the board. The revisions have been prepared over the past year in a joint effort between Farmland board members, the County Attorney's office, and Open Space program staff.

Resource Person(s): Wayne Cash, Chair, Durham County Farmland Protection Board, and Lowell Siler, Deputy County Attorney

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board consider the proposed changes and place the item on the Board of Commissioners? May 27, 2003 Regular Session consent agenda.

6. **City-County Planning Commission Annual Report**

The City-County Planning Commission is required to submit an annual report to the elected leaders. The 2002 Annual Report fulfills that requirement. The Planning Commission and the Joint City County Planning Committee reviewed the report.

The Planning Department recommends that the Board receive the report and hear a brief presentation by a commission representative.

Resource Person(s): Frank Duke, Director of City/County Planning

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager's recommendation is that the Board receive the report and provide the Commission with any feedback deemed appropriate.

7. **Application of the Discovery Penalty on Real Property**

This item is presented to discuss the application of the discovery penalty on real property.

North Carolina General Statute 105-303(b) establishes the opportunity for a county to be a permanent listing county. Durham County is a permanent listing county and thereby the assessor is responsible for listing all real property on the abstracts and tax records each year in the name of the owner of record as of the day as of which property is to be listed" [NCGS 105-303(b)(1)]. This is a huge responsibility?one that takes many control measures to ensure that all work is done correctly. However, inevitably some parcels will "slip through the cracks" and an improvement may not be listed until a year later and, in some cases, multiple years may go by. For the most part, the Tax Office relies on the Building Inspections Department to give this office permits. From these permits are found the new construction, remodels, and additions for both residential and commercial properties. People do not typically "knock down the doors" to notify this office that they built a new home or an addition, but the statute in section (b)(2) states "such persons shall furnish the assessor

with the information concerning improvements on and separate rights in real property." Thus they are required to inform this office of new home construction, remodeling, additions, or other changes to their real property. The only time an individual or business is penalized is when the permit is lost between our office and inspections.

The Tax Administrator historically has not penalized real property. The property for all applicable years has been discovered, but the Tax Administrator has taken the stance that the citizen notified the Tax office by applying for the required permit and not charged the penalty.

The Tax Administrator would like to discuss this matter with the Board of County Commissioners to determine how these matters will be handled in Durham County.

Resource Person(s): Kenneth L. Joyner, Tax Administrator

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager's recommendation is that the Board receive the report from the Tax Administrator.

8. **Substantial Equivalency**

On March 3, 2003, Human Resources presented the Board of County Commissioners with preliminary information regarding the application for Substantial Equivalency in the area of Employee Relations (Discipline, Dismissal, Grievances, and Appeals).

The attachment provides additional information resulting from further research and conversations with the Office of State Personnel.

Resource Person(s): Jackye Knight and Elaine Hyman

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board discuss this item and provide Human Resources with further instructions.

9. **Review of Budget Calendar**

The Manager has organized the calendar for budget hearings consistent with the dates and time approved by the Board. The hearing dates are May 20 (1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.), May 21 (1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.), May 22 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon), May 29 (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.), and June 12 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon). The Board also approved hearings for June 3, the afternoon of June 12, and June 18, if these dates are needed to accommodate additional appointments.

The Budget Public Hearing is currently scheduled for June 9; however, since much of the Board's review will be concluded by that date, the Manager believes an earlier date for a public hearing should be considered. Rescheduling the public hearing for the May 27, 2003 Board meeting would provide sufficient time to appropriately notify the public regarding the change of hearing date.

Resource Person(s): Mike Ruffin, County Manager, and Pam Meyer, Director of Budget and Management Services

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager requests that the Board review the calendar of hearing dates and appointments, and advise the Manager if additional hearings with any other departments or agencies are desired. Change the date for the budget hearing from June 9 to May 27, 2003.



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