

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Proclamation*

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT NUTRITION PROGRAM | 2022**

- WHEREAS,** fifty years ago, on March 22, 1972, President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for individuals 60 years and older; and
- WHEREAS,** for five decades, this landmark law has helped to fund community-based organizations – like Meals on Wheels – and it is still the only federal program designed specifically to meet the nutritional and social needs of older adults; and
- WHEREAS,** this year, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining together for the March for Meals awareness campaign to celebrate 50 years of success and garner the support needed to ensure these critical programs can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence, and improve health for years to come; and
- WHEREAS,** Meals on Wheels Durham has provided home-delivered meals in our Durham County communities admirably for 47 years; and
- WHEREAS,** volunteers for our Meals on Wheels Durham program are the backbone of the organization and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their welfare; and
- WHEREAS,** Meals on Wheels programs Durham provides nutritious meals to seniors throughout the county that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby helping to prevent unnecessary falls, hospitalizations, and/or premature institutionalization; and
- WHEREAS,** Meals on Wheels Durham provides a powerful opportunity for social connection for seniors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and
- WHEREAS,** Meals on Wheels Durham deserves recognition for the heroic contributions and essential services they have provided amid the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to provide to local communities, our State, and our Nation long after it is over; and
- WHEREAS,** the senior population is increasing substantially, and action is needed now to support our local Meals on Wheels Durham program through federal, state, and local funding; volunteering; donations; and raising awareness to ensure these vital services can continue to be delivered for another 50 years.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Brenda A. Howerton on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of March 2022 as a month to celebrate the

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in Durham County. We urge every community member to take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels Durham program, the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national celebration can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022

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Brenda A. Howerton, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

