

# DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## *Proclamation*

### **PEACH LEAD AND HEALTHY HOMES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE AND LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK | 2022**

- WHEREAS,** in 1998, Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children’s Health (PEACH) was established with the support of Congressman David Price and EPA funding to North Carolina Central University to establish a Community University Partnership (CUP) with the Northeast Central Durham Community Reinvestment Board to explore the lingering effects of lead-based paint in older housing in the NECD community, and
- WHEREAS,** in 2007 under the leadership of community-members Marion Lamberth, Lenora S. Smith, the late Effie Steele, and NCCU Public Health Education Department Chair, Dr. Theodore Parrish, submitted application and received designation as a 501 C3 IRS Charitable organization to empower grassroots communities to mitigate home hazards, including lead, mold, pesticides, indoor air quality and home safety; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2009, the State of North Carolina enacted the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Management Program for Renovation, Repair and Painting, requiring that, prior to performing renovation, repair, and painting activities for compensation, companies and individuals must become certified by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Health Hazards Control Unit; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2014 PEACH became an authorized North Carolina and EPA training provider for the Renovate, Repair, and Painting (RRP) training program, after serving four years as a training provider with the National Center for Healthy Housing; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2016 PEACH partnered with the Mayor’s Poverty Reduction Initiative to create a Durham RRP brochure for contractors and to initiate a PEACH lead risk assessment capacity building and Healthy Homes project to educate families and to protect children from lead exposure, asthma triggers, and physical home safety hazards; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2017, as a result of lead repairs by a contractor, in violation of the RRP Lead-safe rule, and that caused lead-based paint and lead-dust contamination to two neighboring properties, and where regulatory guidelines prevented contractor accountability, PEACH began a series of Town Hall meetings that culminated with the situational assessment, Identification of Regulatory Gaps in Lead Poisoning Prevention and Lead Hazards in Housing in Durham, NC that offered immediate, short term, and long term recommendations and was presented to the joint City and County Board of Elected Officials in May 2019 with the support of the Durham County Health Director; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2019, to further the situational assessment recommendations, PEACH encouraged, and the City of Durham Community Development Department submitted a National League of Cities Healthy Housing Leaders Forum application and was one of six cities selected to receive technical assistance to advance effective healthy housing policies, programs and practices that protect residents from the hazards posed by asthma and lead and along with other community stakeholders completed the DURHAM Healthy Housing City Action Roadmap; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, PEACH contracted with Curamericas Global to increase COVID-19 awareness and coordinated and participated in activities that tested vulnerable community members, recruited and vaccinated hard-to-reach community members, and where hired staff became community-health workers; and
- WHEREAS,** with the cooperation of agencies within the State of North Carolina, including Children’s Environmental Health, the State Laboratory of Public Health, and the NC Lead and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force, PEACH will continue to train contractors in lead safe work practices and to provide academic and community internships, and to provide income opportunities for low-wealth community workers, all in an effort to assist with primary prevention of lead poisoning to the 8,300 high risk children in Durham County and to help improve healthy homes for all of Durham’s residents.



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 23 – 29, 2022 as

**“PEACH LEAD AND HEALTHY HOMES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE AND  
LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK”**

in Durham County.

This 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

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Brenda Howerton, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

