



**JOINT CITY-COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Hosted by the City of Durham

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

Presiding – Mayor Leonardo Williams

Present: Board of County Commissioners Committee Members –Vice Chair Nimasheena Burns, Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, and Commissioner Brenda Howerton

City Council Members: Mayor Leonardo Williams, and Council Members Javiera Caballero, and Carl Rist

Others – County: County Manager Dr. Kimberly Sowell; Interim County Attorney Curtis Massey; Deputy County Manager – Claudia Hager; Assistant County Managers – Dwane Brinson, Julio Delgado, and Joanne Pierce; Chief of Staff Shannon Trapp; Tax Administrator Keyar Doyle; Clerk to the Board Monica Wallace; Chief Communications Director Deborah Craig-Ray; and Community Intervention and Support Services Director Krystal Harris

Others in attendance: City Manager Wanda Page; City Attorney Kimberly Rehberg, Deputy City Managers Bo Ferguson, Bertha Winbush and Keith Chadwell; Chief of Staff Karmisha Wallace; Deputy City Clerk Paola Roland.

Call to Order/Welcome

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes

Vice Chair Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs to approve the April 9, 2024 minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Status Update on the Joint City-County DPS Housing Coalition

Council Member Caballero provided an update on the DPS Housing Coalition, mentioning that Chair Kline was leading the Coalition and there was interest in securing independent funding for it. She noted that a formal letter would be sent to appointees before the summer break to inform them of their roles. Additionally, the Durham Chamber’s Foundation (DCF) was conducting a housing needs assessment concurrently with the Coalition’s efforts. Dr. Sowell explained that the DCF has reached out to the City and County for contributions to the assessment fund, aiming to identify and address

housing needs in Durham, complementing the Coalition's work.

In the subsequent discussion, the JCC emphasized the importance of appointing members to the Coalition and ensuring it has sufficient funding. They supported the idea of independent funding to enhance the Coalition's effectiveness. The significance of DCF's housing needs assessment and its alignment with the Coalition's goals was recognized, with a stress on the importance of collaboration between the City, County, and DCF to address housing issues in Durham. The planned formal communication to appointees before the summer break was highlighted to ensure they were well-informed about their roles on the Coalition.

Overall, the JCC expressed strong support for both the DPS Housing Coalition and the DCF's housing needs assessment, acknowledging the importance of collaboration and adequate funding to effectively address Durham's housing challenges.

Discussion on Youth Violence and Governmental Response

Mayor Williams initiated the discussion by addressing several key initiatives, including the Violent Crime Reduction Roundtable and the Community Safety and Wellness Taskforce, and expressed concerns about community safety perceptions. He called for comments on gun violence from the Sheriff's Department and the Chief of Police.

Vice Chair Burns highlighted the County's budget, recent shootings, Gun Safety Week, and Hillside High School's presentations on gun violence.

Chief Andrews provided detailed statistics on youth involvement in violent crime, firearm accessibility, and mental health issues, along with information on victimization rates and gang violence.

Council Member Caballero shared her experiences with raising teenagers, the influence of education on youth, North Carolina gun laws, and the need for support for youth after incarceration.

Vice Chair Burns emphasized the evolution of discussions on youth violence, the importance of mentoring, community support, addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy, and the influence of social media on violence.

Commissioner Jacobs suggested forming a Joint City-County Taskforce on youth gun violence and discussed the importance of short-term strategies, long-term investments, and community involvement in finding solutions.

Chief Andrews highlighted the need for robust policies, youth programs, and legislative changes to prevent re-offending.

Major Tom Cote from the Sheriff's Office discussed the importance of active parenting, the School Resource Officer Program, early indicators of youth offenders, and the need for resources to support the youth community.

Krystal Harris, Durham County Intervention and Support Services Director, spoke about Project Build, its grant allocation, and the mental health resources it provides for youth aged 14-21.

Mayor Williams emphasized combining resources, developing a taskforce aligned with

My Brother's Keeper, policy changes, community relationships, and prioritizing youth safety.

Council Member Caballero proposed rescheduling future JCC meetings to a later time to accommodate more participants as a future agenda item.

Adjournment

Hearing no additional comments, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Submitted by,

Paola Roland
Deputy City Clerk

Next Meeting Date: August 13, 2024 – 9:00 am, Hosted by Durham Board of County Commissioners – Board of the Durham County Commissioners' Chamber, 200 East Main Street, Second Floor Durham