

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

Monday, April 28, 2025

7:00 P.M. Regular Session

**MINUTES**

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, Second Floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 East Main Street, Durham, North Carolina

Present: Chair Nida Allam, Vice Chair Dr. Mike Lee and Commissioners Michelle Burton, Wendy Jacobs and Stephen Valentine

Presider: Chair Nida Allam

Zoom Hybrid  
Participants: 6

**Regular Session – 7:00 PM**

**Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Adjustments**

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Vice Chair Lee to approve the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Announcements**

Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board read the following announcements:

1. **Apply to be a Student Election Assistant** – Do you know a high school student interested in getting paid to support the Durham community and our democracy? The Durham County Board of Elections is looking for Student Election Assistants! For more information, check out the Student Election Assistant section of the Precinct Officials page on our website at [www.dcovotes.com](http://www.dcovotes.com)!
2. **CIAA Track and Field Championships on May 2-3** – The CIAA will host its annual Track and Field Championship meet at Durham County Memorial Stadium (750 Stadium Drive) on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3. Gates open at 8 a.m. each day, with events starting at 9 a.m. For more information, visit <https://theciaa.com/tournaments/?id=352>.
3. **Bullseye Awards Nomination** - The "2025 Bullseye Awards" was developed to honor organizations/person(s) who are making significant contributions to their community through

their time, actions, talents and dedication. The honorees selected should serve as role models for compassion and service and be striving to make Durham a better place. To submit your nominations, please visit [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UuYfdkZUs5hI\\_wd1hhmWSGZmtNE\\_UQJ3/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UuYfdkZUs5hI_wd1hhmWSGZmtNE_UQJ3/edit?tab=t.0). Nominations close May 2nd, 2025, at 5pm.

4. **Renegade Apartments Application Event** – Renegade Apartments, downtown Durham apartments built for comfort, convenience, and value – is hosting a pre-leasing event on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 3pm at the Durham Bottling Co. (506 Ramseur Street). For more information, please visit <https://www.renegadedurham.com/>

Learn more at <https://www.renegadedurham.com/apartments/nc/durham/apply>. The application fee is \$25 per person (18+). Bring your valid ID and money order or cashier's check (no cash, cards, or personal checks). First-come, first-served — don't miss your chance to apply! Learn about Renegade, part of the 300/500 East Main Street Redevelopment from Durham County, here – <https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-a-e/engineering-and-environmental-services/project-management-division/current-projects/300-and-500-e-main-redevelopment>.

5. **Veteran Services Wants to Honor Gold Star Families** – The Durham County Veteran Services Department will hold its annual Memorial Day Remembrance Event on Monday, May 26 at 9 a.m. at the Administration II Building. Veteran Services wants to honor Gold Star Families during the program and invites family members to email [veteranservices@dconc.gov](mailto:veteranservices@dconc.gov) or call 919-560-8387 to let them know you are interested in attending.
6. **Help Shape Durham's Future** - The Destination Master Plan was created with input from over 2200 Durham residents, and community engagement is foundational in ensuring the ongoing work of Durham Next lives up to its vision to create a welcoming, inclusive, innovative and vibrant destination while honoring its history and people. Apply now to join the Durham Next Community Advisory Council by visiting <https://durhamnext.org/community-advisory-council/>

### **Continuous Announcement for Posting Only - Will Not be Read During the Meeting Open**

**Office Hours with Planning Staff** – The Durham City-County Planning Department is updating the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)! The UDO sets the rules for how land is developed in Durham, and we want your input! We will be hosting recurring office hours throughout the project. Drop in with your questions and feedback at the Durham County Main Library (300 N. Roxboro St.) on First Thursdays 3-6 p.m. and Third Thursdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through August 2025. Website: [www.engagedurham.com](http://www.engagedurham.com) Contact: [NewUDO@DurhamNC.gov](mailto:NewUDO@DurhamNC.gov).

**Cigna Healthcare has selected Durham County Government as a recipient of their 2024 gold level Healthy Workforce Designation** for demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the health and vitality of its employees through a workplace well-being program.

Vitality is defined as the capacity to pursue life with health, strength and energy. It is both a driver and an outcome of health and work/life engagement, and Cigna Healthcare believes it is not only essential to individuals, but also a catalyst for business and community growth. Research conducted as part of the Evernorth Vitality Index confirms that those with higher vitality experience better mental and physical

health along with higher levels of job satisfaction and performance. An opportunity remains for employers as less than one in five U.S. adults report having high levels of vitality. A workplace well-being program that takes a comprehensive approach to employee health can be critical in boosting vitality and building a workforce that experiences better overall health and job productivity.

The Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation evaluates organizations based on the core components of their well-being program, including leadership and culture, program foundations and execution, policies and accommodations, and additional areas. Organizations recognized with this designation set the standard of excellence for organizational health and vitality. Cigna Healthcare is proud to honor Durham County Government with the gold level designation for having made strong progress towards a healthy work culture by establishing and growing their employee well-being and engagement program.

For more details, visit <https://cignahwd.com/>

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Commissioner Jacobs stated Lois Harvin-Ravin, Veteran Services Director was retiring at the end of April after 13 years of service. County Manager Hager added Ms. Harvin-Ravin would be honored by the County with a resolution.

Commissioner Jacobs highlighted the Biscuits and Banjos Festival held in downtown Durham from April 25<sup>th</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup> and thanked North Carolina-born artist Rhiannon-Giddens, organizers, local and international artists.

Chair Allam acknowledged the Alph Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated members in attendance at the meeting and thanked the members for their services provided to the community.

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Commissioner Jacobs report from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Secretary, Dr. Devdutta Sangvai meeting hosted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners on April 22, 2025:

*County Commissioners from across our state as well as Durham Government Leadership staff were in attendance. Secretary Sangvai and his team alerted us to concerns about proposed changes to the federal Medicaid Program that could put current North Carolinians who receive Medicaid at risk of losing their healthcare coverage and pose possible unfunded mandates and increased costs to counties. While members of Congress, including members of our North Carolina delegation, say they do not intend to “cut” Medicaid, they say they support changes that in effect will be cuts:*

- 1. If the federal funding share currently provided to North Carolina is reduced, due to the funding structure in our state, the 650,000 North Carolinians and more than 22,000 Durham residents who just received health care in the past year due to Medicaid Expansion finally being passed in our state, could immediately lose this health care coverage.*
- 2. Even though it is a known fact that a majority of Medicaid recipients are either already working or unable to work due to age, disability or because they are children, Congress is considering work requirements with no provision of local funding to implement this. This will be an*

*expensive and onerous process at the local level with little cost effective or proven positive outcomes.*

- 3. Congress is also considering changing the recertification process to make it more frequent than the current annual cycle. There has even been mention of a monthly recertification. This again would be a huge local expense and enormous and not practical/onerous burden for locally funded DSS departments.*

*North Carolina has in fact rolled out an effective and efficient Medicaid enrollment and certification process and it is estimated that there is very little potential fraud in our system.*

*NCDHHS staff shared their concerns that all these proposed changes will have the result of causing many people to lose their benefits and especially negatively impacting rural counties, hospitals and health care providers who are dependent on this source of funding to provide desperately needed care. Currently a third of the people in our state now receive their physical and behavioral health care through Medicaid- more than 3 million people. More than 10% of our population here in Durham- more than 30,000 seniors, children and disabled people receive their physical and behavioral healthcare through Medicaid. Lincoln Community Health Center depends on this funding as does Alliance Behavioral Health and our entire health system.*

*Secretary Sangvai and his staff as well as NCACC leadership are urging residents to share their stories with our Congressional delegation- Senator Tillis, Senator Budd and Representative Foushee. Congress is back in session right now and will be making budget decisions in the coming days that threaten Medicaid benefits. The message we heard loud and clear in this meeting was that personal stories matter. Our residents need to call and email our North Carolina federal leaders and share their personal stories. I am sharing this report to inform our Board, staff and all Durham residents and sound the alarm to please act on this important issue.*

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## **Minutes**

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Vice Chair Lee to approve the April 7, 2025, Work Session minutes and the April 14, 2025 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Ceremonial Items**

### **25-0204 Proclamation – Disaster Preparedness Week (Community Preparedness)**

Commissioner Valentine read the following proclamation:

#### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WEEK | 2025**

**WHEREAS,** Durham acknowledges that disasters affect people with the most vulnerable among us typically bearing the greatest impacts—from housing and food security to financial security to financial hardships; and

**WHEREAS,** Durham acknowledges that across the country, historic heat waves, flooding, and fires have tragically claimed lives and impacted many; and

**WHEREAS,** Durham knows disasters elsewhere can become disasters at our doorstep; and

**WHEREAS,** Durham desires to promote, inform and empower residents about the possible dangers from natural disasters; and

**WHEREAS,** Durham believes that an informed community is a prepared community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 28 – July 4, 2025, as

**“DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WEEK”**

in Durham County, North Carolina and hereby urge all residents to take note of this observance and take time to prepare.

This the 28th day of April 2025.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

James Chavis, Partners Against Crime (PAC) 1 Co-Facilitator thanked the Board for acknowledging the proclamation. Mr. Chavis invited residents to attend the Disaster Preparedness Community Events on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>. Charlitta Burruss, PAC 5 Co-Facilitator added the events would offer residents an opportunity to ask questions on how to be prepared for a natural disaster.

The Board thanked Mr. Chavis and Ms. Burruss for bringing the proclamation to the Board and for their efforts to educate residents in the community.

**25-0205 Proclamation – Recognizing the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Durham Library Foundation and Proclaiming June 5, 2025, as Durham Library Foundation Day in Durham County**

Commissioner Burton read the following proclamation:

**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DURHAM LIBRARY FOUNDATION | 2025**

**WHEREAS,** in the year 2000, a dedicated group of citizens established the Durham Library Foundation to ensure the long-term financial health and continued growth of Durham County Library; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2005, the Foundation demonstrated its commitment to excellence by securing a \$500,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant and successfully matching it with \$1,500,000 in private contributions, significantly enhancing library resources; and

**WHEREAS,** the Durham Library Foundation plays a vital role in supporting Durham County Library by raising funds and managing investments for capital projects, programs, collections, and special initiatives, strengthening the library’s ability to serve the community; and

**WHEREAS,** recognizing that strong, well-funded libraries are essential to education, innovation and lifelong learning, the Foundation continues to advocate for the resources necessary to provide diverse and accessible services to all residents of Durham County; and

**WHEREAS,** twenty-five years after its incorporation as a nonprofit organization, the Durham Library Foundation reaffirms its founding vision of excellence by sustaining and expanding its financial support for the benefit of Durham County residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 5, 2025, as

**“DURHAM LIBRARY FOUNDATION WEEK”**

in Durham County, North Carolina and encourage all residents to celebrate and express their gratitude for the Foundation’s unwavering dedication to enriching our libraries and our community.

This the 28th day of April 2025.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Sarah Stephens, Library Development Officer thanked the Board for recognizing the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Durham Library Foundation. She thanked the Library Foundation for their continued support of Durham County Libraries. Arthor Rogers, President of the Library Foundation Board of Directors stated the Library Foundation was privileged to partner with the County to advocate for Durham County Libraries.

The Board thanked the Library Foundation for supporting vital programs, collections and capital projects to ensure access to learning for all Durham County residents.

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Allam asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Burton requested to comment on Item 25-0194

- Item 25-0194 – Commissioner Burton explained for the public that the North Carolina Public School Lottery Fund funding was being used for capital projects including playground renovations and replacement.

Commissioner Jacobs requested to comment on Item 25-0116 and asked Meytal Barak, County Early Childhood Coordinator and Terry David, President of North Carolina Head Start Association to comment on Item 25-0236.

- Item 25-0116 – Commissioner Jacobs inquired about the solar farm offsetting approximately 70 percent of the energy cost for Durham County facilities. Tobin Freid, Sustainability Manager responded the solar farm would provide energy to offset approximately 70 percent of the

electricity used in Durham County facilities and the County's goal was 80 percent renewable energy by 2030 and 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

- Item 25-0236 – Ms. Barak stated the Federal and State funding for Head Start and Early Head Start funding was at risk of elimination and the Board was requested to approve and sign a letter to urge Congress to protect Head Start funding. Mr. David added Durham received 16 million dollars from the Office of Head Start to serve children and families in the community and highlighted the economic impact if the funding was eliminated. Commissioner Jacobs requested to send the support letter for Head Start to Senator Thom Tillis, Senator Ted Budd and Congresswoman Valerie Foushee on Commissioner's letterhead with pictures and signatures.

**Directive: Commissioner Jacobs requested to send the support letter for Head Start to Senator Thom Tillis, Senator Ted Budd and Congresswoman Valerie Foushee on Commissioner's letterhead with pictures and signatures.**

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Allam entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

25-0116 Authorization to Execute Amendments to the Service Agreement and Cooperative Agreement for Participation in Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage Program in Alignment with the County's Renewable Energy Plan

25-0175 Authorize Chair to execute a Resolution in Support of Application for a Water Resources Development Grant Program - Floodplain Resiliency Grant

\*25-0194 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.25CPA038 Appropriating \$2,000,000 of North Carolina Public School Lottery Fund Funding for Playground Renovations and Replacements at Eight Durham County Public Elementary Schools

25-0207 Request for Board Approval of \$22,097.40 Increase to Contract with Biscuits and Banjos Festival for a Total Funding of \$62,097.40

\*25-0210 Approve Capital Project Amendment No.25CPA040 and Budget Ordinance Amendment No.25BCC088 Appropriating \$1,750,000.00 of Sewer Utility Enterprise Fund Fund Balance and Transferring \$1,200,000 to the Chin Page Road Lift Station, Force Main and Outfall Capital Project (SE064); \$47,000 to the Page Park Lift Station, Force Main and Outfalls Capital Project (SE065); and \$503,000 to the Slater Road Lift Station, Force Main, and Outfall Capital Project (DC001)

25-0214 Approval of a Contract Renewal with Info-Tech Research Group to extend professional membership in the amount of \$51,016.64

\*25-0230 Approval of Property Tax Releases and Refund for March 2025

\*25-0235 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.25CPA041 and Budget Ordinance Amendment

No.25BCC089 Appropriating \$558,485 of Debt Service Fund Fund Balance and Transferring it to the PAYGO Fund to Support the New Ongoing Countywide Equipment Replacement Capital Project (4190DC089)

25-0236 Approval of a Support Letter for Head Start and Early Head Start

Consent Agenda Item #25-0194

**Durham County, North Carolina  
FY 2024-2025 Capital Project  
Amendment Number 25CPA-38**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:  
That the FY 2024-25 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase / Decrease</b>	<b>Updated Budget</b>
59105400SH325	Multiple Sites – Playground Equipment and Flooring Replacement	\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$2,000,000.00

All capital projects in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved April 28, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0210

**Durham County, North Carolina  
FY 2024-2025 Capital Project  
Amendment Number 25CPA-40**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:  
That the FY 2024-25 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase / Decrease</b>	<b>Updated Budget</b>
41301310DC001	Slater Road Lift Station, Force Main, and Outfall Project	\$22,349,654.00	\$503,000.00	\$22,852,654.00
71006011SE064	Chin Page Road Lift Station, Force Main and Outfall Project	\$1,875,250.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$3,075,250.00
71006011SE065	Page Park Lift Stations, Force Main and Outfall Project	\$4,236,671.00	\$47,000.00	\$4,283,671.00

All capital projects in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved April 28, 2025

**Durham County, North Carolina**

**2024-2025 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 25BCC088**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2024-2025 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>			
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
General Government	\$17,120,875.00	\$1,750,000.00	\$18,870,875.00
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Other Financing Sources	\$22,171,063.51	\$1,750,000.00	\$23,921,063.51

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved April 28, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0230

Releases and Refunds – March 2025

<b><u>Current Year 2024 Taxes</u></b>	<b><u>Releases</u></b>	<b><u>Refunds</u></b>	
Real Property	\$59,902.31	\$154,904.61	
Personal Property	\$534.21	\$8,665.58	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Solid Waste	\$40.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Public Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTS Refunds	\$0.00	\$27,301.33	
Gross Rec./Bev. Lic.	\$0.00	\$118.85	
<b>SUB – TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,476.52</b>	<b>\$190,990.37</b>	<b>\$251,466.89</b>
<b><u>Prior Year 2015-2023</u></b>	<b><u>Releases</u></b>	<b><u>Refunds</u></b>	
Real Property	\$0.00	\$7232.91	
Personal Property	\$5.02	\$350.00	
GAP Vehicles	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Solid Waste	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTS Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5.02</b>	<b>\$7,582.91</b>	<b>\$7,587.93</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,481.54</b>	<b>\$198,573.28</b>	<b>\$259,054.82</b>

Consent Agenda Item #25-0235

**Durham County, North Carolina  
FY 2024-2025 Capital Project**

**Amendment Number 25CPA-41**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:  
That the FY 2024-25 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase / Decrease</b>	<b>Updated Budget</b>
41904200DC089	Ongoing Countywide Equipment Replacement Project	\$0.00	\$558,485.00	\$558,485.00

All capital projects in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved April 28, 2025

**Durham County, North Carolina**  
**2024-2025 Budget Ordinance**  
**Amendment Number 25BCC089**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2024-2025 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
General Government	\$120,562,414.39	\$558,485.00	\$121,120,899.39
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$119,171,591.39	\$558,485.00	\$119,730,076.39

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved April 28, 2025

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**Board and Commission Appointments**

Larissa Williamson, County Attorney announced the voting results.

The Board made the following appointments (incumbents are identified with an (i). Individuals who are recommended by a Board are underlined.) Individuals listed in bold print were appointed.

City-County Appearance Commission

- Israfil Brandon** (Allam, Jacobs, Lee)
- (i) **Nya Furtick** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee)
- Micheal Hill (Burton)
- Terry McCann (Valentine)
- Diana Neunkirchner (Valentine)

Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team

- Andrea Couch** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

### **Closed Session**

The Board was requested to adjourn to Closed Session for the following:

- To adjourn into Closed Session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations; pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to adjourn into the Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Reconvene to Open Session**

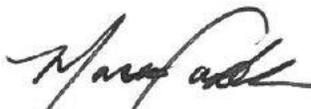
Chair Allam announced the Board met in Closed Session and provided direction to staff.

### **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 9:14 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton  
Deputy Clerk to the Board