

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

RECOGNITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, throughout the past five decades, the Department of General Services has exemplified an unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement in fulfilling its vital mission to ensure that all County facilities and properties are maintained and operated in a safe, efficient, and responsible manner, thereby safeguarding public assets and enhancing the quality of service to the Durham County community; and

WHEREAS, the Department of General Services was established on July 1, 1976, guided by the leadership of Director Wade Copeland(deceased) (July 1, 1976–April 30, 1981), Director Mike Turner (May 1, 1981–December 30, 2009), and Director Motiryo Keambiroiro (January 25, 2010–present), and through their stewardship has faithfully served the Durham County community for fifty years with dedication, professionalism, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Wade Copeland, the Department of General Services was established with a staff of five (5) employees in the Building Services Division, laying the foundation for the Department’s future growth and expansion of services; and

WHEREAS, during the tenure of Director Mike Turner, who also served as Manager of the Durham County Memorial Stadium, the Department of General Services experienced significant growth, expanding to seventy-nine (79) employees, including forty-four (44) in Building Services, eighteen (18) in Animal Services, and seventeen (17) in Solid Waste; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Director Motiryo Keambiroiro, the Department of General Services successfully navigated the transition of Animal Control to a separate department under the Office of the Sheriff in 2012 and has since continued to grow and strengthen its operations, now employing one hundred and ten (110) staff members across the divisions of Buildings, HVAC, Electrical, Janitorial, Plumbing and Preventive Maintenance, Grounds, Warehouse, Fleet, Mail Services, Stadium, Facility Use, Solid Waste, Security, and Business Services; and

WHEREAS, the employees, past and present, of the Department of General Services have contributed their knowledge, expertise, and service to strengthen the organization and enhance the well-being of those it serves; and

WHEREAS, the collaborative partnerships built by the Department of General Services with internal departments, community stakeholders, and partner agencies have been instrumental in achieving meaningful and lasting impact; and

WHEREAS, the 50th Anniversary represents not only a milestone of longevity but a testament to the dedication, resilience, and professionalism that define the Department of General Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Board of County Commissioners hereby recognizes and congratulates the General Services Department and its staff on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

This the 22nd day of June 2026.

Dr. Mike Lee, Chair

Nida Allam, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

