

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

Monday, May 27, 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, Commissioners Michelle Burton, Wendy Jacobs and Stephen Valentine

Excused Absence: Vice Chair Dr. Mike Lee

Presider: Chair Nida Allam

Zoom Hybrid  
Participants: 2

**Closed Session – 6:00 PM**

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

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).
- To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee; pursuant to G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

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

## Regular Session – 7:00 PM

### Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

### Agenda Adjustments

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve an excused absence for Vice Chair Lee for the May 27, 2025 Regular Session meeting and an excused absence for Chair Allam and Vice Chair Lee for the May 29, 2025 Budget Work Session meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

### Announcements

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

1. **Wear Orange Day** – The community is invited to observe Wear Orange Day on June 6th, which also coincides with National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Community members, elected officials, and law enforcement officials from across the Triangle are invited to participate in an event that will be held at noon in front of the Franklin Street Post Office in Chapel Hill. The goal of the observance is to work to bring an end to gun violence. #WearOrange Campaign.
2. **Real Property Tax Appeal Deadline** – The Durham County Tax Administration reminds all taxpayers that the deadline to file an appeal of your 2025 real property tax appraisal is 5 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025, when the Board of Equalization and Review concludes its term. You can file an appeal online at <https://appeals.spatalest.com/nc-durham/> or with a paper form (download [here](https://www.dconc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/32724/637320420616970000)). Find more information at <https://www.dconc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/32724/637320420616970000>). Find more information at [www.dconc.gov/taxhelp](http://www.dconc.gov/taxhelp) or call 919-560-0300.
3. **Dco Redwood Convenience Site Closure** – The Durham County General Services Department announces that the Redwood Convenience Site, located at 100 Electra Road, will temporarily close for 4 weeks to allow for tree removal and road construction to set up a new traffic pattern. The site will close to the public on Monday, June 9, 2025, and reopen on Monday, July 7, 2025. The Northern (11894 N. Roxboro Road) and Parkwood (5828 Highway 55) will remain open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday: 7 a.m. -12 p.m. Closed Sundays and County Holidays/Training Days (June 13, June 19 and July 4). More info: <https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/general-services/solid-waste-recycling-and-litter-control/durham-county-convenience-sites>.
4. **Sun Meals: Free Summer Meals for Kids** – Durham Public Schools will once again provide free meals for students during the summer months! The Sun Meals program from the Department of Health and Human Services, is open to those age 1 to 18 to pick up breakfast and lunch,

Monday through Friday, June 16 to August 1. No identification or registration is ever needed! Site locations vary each year. Text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304 during the summer months to find a site near you or visit [www.dpsnc.net/o/dps/page/summer-meals-program](http://www.dpsnc.net/o/dps/page/summer-meals-program). For a map of more summer meal sites and directions, visit: Durham Area Food Resources Locator Map – <https://durham-area-food-resources-durhamnc.hub.arcgis.com/>. Questions? Call the DPS School Nutrition Services at 919-560-2370.

5. **Opioid Settlement Annual Community Meeting on June 5** – Join us for an annual community meeting to learn more about how Durham County is using its national opioid settlement funds to address the opioid epidemic and give your input. Speakers include: Jaeson Smith, DCo Public Health Collaborative Strategic Planning; Morgan Culver and Dennis Hamlet, Community Naloxone and Syringe Distribution; Lacie Scofield, Community Linkages to Care (CLC), Peer Support Program; and Dr. Anjni Patel Joiner, Post Overdose Response Team. Light refreshments will be provided. Event will be held on Thursday, June 5, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., inside Board Chambers, on the second floor of Admin. I Building, 200 E. Main St.
6. **Juneteenth Flag-Raising Ceremony on June 2** – Everyone is invited to attend the third annual NC Official Juneteenth Flag-Raising ceremony at the Durham County Courthouse (510 S. Dillard Street) at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 2. This event serves at the kick-off of the Annual NC Juneteenth Celebration in Durham, scheduled for Saturday, June 21, hosted by Spectacular Magazine and the Triangle Cultural Awareness Foundation. The event will feature the Monford Port Marines and Durham County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard and other local officials. More information at [www.spectacularmag.com/juneteenth](http://www.spectacularmag.com/juneteenth).

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Commissioner Jacobs stated the BULLS Life Sciences Academy recruitment for Cohort 12 was open and the next virtual information session was Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

## Minutes

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the May 5, 2025, Work Session minutes and the May 12, 2025 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

## Ceremonial Items

### **25-0228 Proclamation – Jewish American Heritage Month**

Commissioner Jacobs read the following proclamation:

#### **JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH | 2025**

**WHEREAS,** Jewish American Heritage Month is a time to honor the significant religious, cultural, political and economic contributions Jewish Americans have made to our state, nation and Durham County; and

**WHEREAS,** since 2006, May has nationally been recognized as Jewish American Heritage Month and all citizens are invited to celebrate the vibrant and varied American Jewish experience; and

**WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans represent communities across the globe in their diverse racial and linguistic make up; and

**WHEREAS,** Jewish communities have existed in North Carolina since the 1600's; and

**WHEREAS,** Jewish North Carolinians have been participants and leaders on the front lines of fights for women's suffrage, racial and gender justice, and social movements supporting diverse North Carolinians; and

**WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust teaches us that combatting prejudice, indifference, and systemic bias can create a stronger, more inclusive society, and North Carolina's Jewish community continues to work with members of all faiths and backgrounds so that "never again shall any peoples suffer the evils of discrimination and racial or religious hatred".

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as

**"JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"**

in Durham County, North Carolina, and call upon all citizens to observe and celebrate the successes of Jewish Americans and to mark this month with appropriate observances honoring endless possibilities of Jewish Americans everywhere.

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Raina Bunnag, Food Security Coordinator thanked the Board for recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month and thanked the Equitable Well-Being Department for submitting the proclamation. Ms. Bunnag gave a brief overview on life as a Jewish American citizen, a Durham County Government employee and how being Jewish influenced her career decision.

The Board thanked Ms. Bunnag and the Equitable Well-Being Department for highlighting Jewish American Heritage Month.

**25-0229 Proclamation – Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

Commissioner Burton read the following proclamation:

**ASIAN AMERICAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH | 2025**

**WHEREAS,** Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month has been celebrated nationally since 1992 to recognize the contributions, rich history and diversity that Asian Americans-Pacific Islanders bring to our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** North Carolina has been home to members of the Asian American-Pacific Islander community since the mid-nineteenth century, when the first Chinese immigrants began to settle in our state; and

**WHEREAS** over 20,000 Asian Americans-Pacific Islanders call Durham County their home; and

**WHEREAS,** throughout history, Asian American-Pacific Islanders have faced adversity and used their strength and resilience to become leaders and trailblazers in our nation, including but not limited to our first female Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris; and

**WHEREAS,** the efforts and contributions of Asian American-Pacific Islanders can be seen in every aspect of society, including education, history, politics, health care, economics, and science, playing a pivotal role in the history of the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** the State of North Carolina and Durham County are proud to commemorate May as Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month and to recognize the contributions of Asian-Pacific Americans to diversity, leadership, and empowerment throughout our nation’s history.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as

**“ASIAN AMERICAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH”**

in Durham County, North Carolina, and call upon all citizens to observe and celebrate the AAPI community and to mark this month with appropriate observances honoring endless possibilities of Asian Americans everywhere.

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Dr. Brent Lewis, Director, Equitable Well-Being thanked the Board for recognizing the proclamation. He stated Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month was celebrated on May 8<sup>th</sup> with a training session from Dr. Felix Wang, Assistant Dean of the Honors College at James Madison University.

The Board thanked Dr. Lewis and the Equitable Well-Being Team for the proclamation and celebration highlight.

**25-0273 Proclamation – National Foster Care Month**

Commissioner Valentine read the following proclamation:

**NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH | 2025**

**WHEREAS,** the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the foundation of our communities and our State; and

**WHEREAS,** 390,000 children are currently in foster care nationwide because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential well-being; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 11,000 children live in foster care, and approximately 407 young adults ages 18 -21 in extended foster care in North Carolina because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential well-being; and

**WHEREAS,** foster families, who open their homes and hearts as a support to families and not a substitute for parents, play a vital role in helping children and families to heal and reconnect and launching children into successful adulthood; and

**WHEREAS,** in Durham County, there were 187 children and youth in foster care on April 30, 2025, being provided with a safe, secure, and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family or kinship family, and 32 young adults ages 18 -21 in extended foster care; and

**WHEREAS,** the needs of the foster care population result in a greater call for skilled foster families, community resources and partnerships; and

**WHEREAS,** when children are placed with relatives or close family friends, they benefit from preserved family relationships and cultural identity; and

**WHEREAS,** the Durham County foster care system depends on the active support and involvement of the Durham community; and

**WHEREAS,** the Durham County Department of Social Services is joined by numerous individuals, public, and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care; and

**WHEREAS,** Foster Care Month is an opportunity to recognize the foster parents, kinship families, child welfare professionals, and advocates working to ensure children's safety, permanence, and well-being, and to spread awareness on behalf of children in foster care while being "Centered on Family, Strengthening Connections"; and

**WHEREAS,** The Durham County Department of Social Services encourages residents to volunteer their time, energy, and talents on behalf of children and their biological families, kinship caregivers, and foster parents during this month and throughout the year.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as

### **"NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH"**

in Durham County and commend this observance to our community and urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will help raise hope and foster dreams of children and youth in foster care.

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Maggie Clapp, Director, Department of Social Services (DSS) thanked the Board for recognizing the National Foster Care Month Proclamation. Ms. Clapp stated she was aware that the Child Welfare System in the United States was broken and needed repair. She added foster parents were needed to help support children when they are not able to stay with their parents or family. Ms. Clapp stated National Foster Care Month provided a chance to celebrate foster parents.

The Board thanked Ms. Clapp and the DSS Department for providing services and continued care for children in Durham County.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

Chair Allam stated citizens requested to pull Item 25-0266 and Item 25-0289.

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

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda except Item 25-0266 and Item 25-0289.

The motion carried unanimously.

\*25-0198 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No 25BCC087 Tax Administration to Appropriate \$277,500 of General Fund fund balance for Increased Costs Related to Revaluation

25-0226 Approval of the contract with Boiler Masters, Inc. in the amount of \$226,000.00 to replace the air-cooled chillers at the East and North Regional Libraries, and the authority to execute change orders/amendments to the contract as long as funds are available in the CIP fund

25-0238 Approval of amendment with HDR Engineering Inc of the Carolinas to provide design, bidding, and construction contract administration for the installation of a whole site generator at the Northern Durham Convenience Center in the amount of \$6,000 for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$666,832

25-0247 Approve a contract with Wilson and Cofield Electric Service, Inc to procure and install a whole site diesel generator at the Northern Durham Convenience Site for an amount not to exceed \$395,413.64

25-0264 To authorize the County Manager to approve a contract with Brady Trane Services, Inc in the amount of \$53,292.42 for the replacement of three compressors that are a part of the HVAC system for the Durham Center for Senior Life Facility

25-0274 Approval of Contract Renewal with Tritech Software Systems, a CentralSquare Technologies Company (CentralSquare Technology) in the Amount of \$206,612 for Computer-Aided Dispatch and

Report Management Systems for the Sheriff's Office

25-0282 Award Contract for Administration of Durham PreK (RFP No. 25-039) to Early Years

\*25-0297 Approval of Property Tax Releases and Refunds for April 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0198

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2024-2025 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 25BCC087**

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	\$196,116,911.19	\$277,500.00	\$196,394,411.19
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Other Financing Sources	\$56,134,855.15	\$277,500.00	\$56,412,355.15

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

Approved May 27, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0297

Releases and Refunds – April 2025

<b>Current Year 2024 Taxes</b>	<b>Releases</b>	<b>Refunds</b>	
Real Property	\$26,003.52	\$113,854.11	
Personal Property	\$12,080.15	\$5,451.07	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$45.40	
Solid Waste	\$40.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Public Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTs Refunds	\$0.00	\$22,544.72	
Gross Rec./Bev. Lic.	\$0.00	\$105.00	
<b>SUB – TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,083.67</b>	<b>\$142,000.30</b>	<b>\$180,083.97</b>

<b>Prior Year 2015-2023</b>	<b>Releases</b>	<b>Refunds</b>	
Real Property	\$6,171.34	\$1501.21	
Personal Property	\$4,104.49	\$23,343.39	
GAP Vehicles	\$268.05	\$0.00	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$48.00	
Solid Waste	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTs Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00	



<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,543.88</b>	<b>\$24,892.60</b>	<b>\$35,436.48</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$48,627.55</b>	<b>\$166,892.90</b>	<b>\$215,520.45</b>

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## **Public Hearings**

### 25-0287 – Public Hearing on the FY 2025-26 County Manager’s Recommended Budget

Chair Allam opened the public hearing.

The following citizens requested full support of the Durham Public Schools funding request: *Mika Twietmeyer, Ann Rebeck, Retha Daiei-Ruth, Vanessa Barnett-Leno, Syndey Schlecht, Luna Gomez, Andre Cunningham, Kesha Bailey, Brittany Frost, Maggie Rodrick, Allision Swain.*

The following citizens requested funding to support expanding the Holistic Empathetic Assistance Response Team (HEART) Program in Durham: *Robin Magee, Shanise Hamilton, Rayna Rusinko, Sydney Schlecht Maya Bracy, Fern Hickey, Evon Azul Basilio Castizo, Jacob Coker-Dukeries, Anna Mullen, Allison Swain.*

The following citizens requested a reduction in taxes and tax revaluations in southeast Durham: *Tony Bordeaux, Donna Stainback, Randolph Coly,*

#### Antionette Hawes, Citizen

Ms. Hawes asked the Board to invest in humanity.

#### Amanda Wallace, Citizen

Ms. Wallace asked the Board to stop funding Child Protective Services.

Chair Allam thanked the citizens for attending the meeting and sharing their comments on the budget.

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## **Comments Submitted Via Email for May 27, 2025 Budget Public Hearing**

### **Jim Svara – Received Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 1:02pm – via email**

As I was reviewing the budget reports from the county and city managers, an issue occurred to me that has not been raised before to my knowledge. Given the tax increase that is likely for most homeowners, it would be important for the Board of Directors of the Department of the Department of Social Services to examine and increase the amount of the grant in the LIHR Program and for the County Commission to approve the change.

Currently, the LIHR Program has these limits:

- For extremely low-income homeowners, the grant will pay 60% of the tax bill up to \$1,500. Or it may pay the full tax bill if the homeowners are 60 or older.
- For very low-income homeowners, the grant will pay 50% up to \$1,250.
- For low-income homeowners, the grant will pay 40% of the tax bill up to \$1,000.

A property worth \$250,000 previously is now worth \$400,000 outside the city limits (average increase of 60%) and \$415,000 inside the city limits (average increase of 71%). The county and city managers have proposed tax rates that are not limited to the tax neutral level.

Tax neutral and proposed tax rates:

--City 38.23 and 43.71

--County 51.92 and 55.42

--Combined 90.15 tax neutral and 99.13 proposed tax rates

Most tax bills will be increasing. For a house formerly worth \$250,000, the tax increase is likely to be \$140 for residents outside the city limits who pay only the county property tax for a total tax bill of \$2217. For residents inside the city limits who pay both, the tax increase is \$373 for a total tax bill of \$4114. The increase is estimated by comparing the tax paid at the revenue neutral rate and the proposed new rate.

It would be useful if the payment limits for the LIHR Program could be increased to \$2,000 for extremely low-income homeowners, \$1750 for very low-income homeowners, and \$1500 for low-income homeowners.

The Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit has actively promoted the Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program with flyers explaining the program and how to apply for it that have been distributed by an additional ten community organizations.\* Due to lack of time available before the County Commission budget hearing, it has not been possible to obtain a formal endorsement of this recommendation from CAHT or these other organizations. I assume that there would be general support for maintaining the same positive impact of the LIHR Program for low-income homeowners despite the increase in tax bills likely to occur this year.

James H. Svara, Co-Chair, Policy Committee, Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit  
12 Susanna Drive, Unit L-103  
Durham, NC 27705  
[svarajh@gmail.com](mailto:svarajh@gmail.com)

\*Aging Well Durham—Housing Committee; Bragtown Community Association, Southside Neighborhood Association, and Walltown Community Association; Community Empowerment Fund; Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People; Durham CAN; Durham Congregations in Action; Partnership for a Healthy Durham—Health & Housing Committee; and People's Alliance.

**Ethel Simonetti – Received Sunday, May 25 2025, at 10:28pm – via email**

Dear Commissioners ~ Chair Allam, Vice-Chair Lee, and Commissioners Jacobs, Burton, and Valentine:

I am in support of our County Manager's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. It is a masterpiece. We are fortunate to have Claudia Hager serving as our Manager. I appreciate her work and her efforts to communicate to the public.

Proposal: I wish to propose that the Commissioners establish a task force to explore seeking additional County funding from Duke University, going forward ~ pursuant to a thoughtful formula to be determined in collaboration between the County and the Administrative Offices of Duke University and the Duke Health System.

Rationale: Durham County NC is facing a potential fiscal challenge due to a variety of emerging unmet needs. It is a challenging time, with the County's looming pay down on the Bond funding, the arbitrary trimming down of a bevy of federal government revenues to which our County is otherwise entitled by Congress and which we nevertheless see evaporate before our eyes; and the prospect of a real and comprehensive recession + all the factors that attend that reality (local job losses, stalled economic prosperity, downturn in sales tax revenues, the effects of US Governmental tariff-driven price increases, etc). Suffice it to say that we cannot assume "business as usual" when approaching our responsibilities and revenues.

As many have suggested, Duke University could and should come to the table to hear first-hand of the unmet needs of our community and its demographic. Duke has a robust endowment and has corporate ties and

investments that position it in a favorable position to weather any economic downturn such as one which would further strap the financial coffers of our generous and compassionate County.  
Kindly consider the above, as a responsible option to explore alongside and in collaboration with our wealthy neighbor, Duke University.

Thanks for your service,  
Ethel Simonetti  
2611 Vesson AVE  
Durham, NC 27707  
919-656-3870

**Terry Coyne – Received Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 10:37pm – via email**

Dear Mr. Mayor, Durham City Council Members, and Durham County Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed property tax rates in the city and county budget proposals. I consider the increases above the revenue neutral rates to greatly exceed what can be justified.

As you no doubt know, the revenue neutral rate for the city was published as 38.23 cents per \$100 of assessed value, but the city manager's proposal calls for a rate of 43.71 cents per \$100 of assessed value, an increase of 5.48 cents, or roughly 14 percent higher than the revenue neutral rate. Likewise, the revenue neutral rate for the county – including both the county tax and the capital finance tax – was published as 51.92 cents per \$100 of assessed value, while the county manager's proposal calls for a combined rate of 55.42 cents per \$100 of assessed value, a difference of 3.5 cents. Taken together, this means the proposed combined tax rate will be 99.13 cents per \$100 of assessed value, compared with the revenue neutral rate of 90.15 cents. This is a nearly 10 percent increase above the revenue neutral rate.

Put another way, the combination of the proposed rates and the reappraisal of my property will increase my property tax bill by almost 13 percent in 2025 compared to 2024. A jump of this magnitude in a single year is simply unreasonable.

Please do not claim you are making up for lost time from the last time our properties were reappraised in 2019. I note for the record that the combined tax rate for the county, capital finance, and the city have inched steadily up in years that followed. Here is a table showing the combined tax rate through those years:

Year	Combined Tax Rate (per \$100 of assessed value)
2019	\$1.2439
2020	\$1.2439
2021	\$1.2739
2022	\$1.2799
2023	\$1.3099
2024	\$1.3949

Over this period, my annual real estate tax bill increased by roughly \$630, an increase of 12 percent, or about 2.3 percent per year. If implemented as proposed, the new rates would raise my real estate bill by \$750 in a single year, more than the total increase over the past 5 years. I urge you to temper the size of the increase in the city and county tax rates. Your decision will play a big part in whether I vote for you in the next election. I am sure I am not the only Durham resident to feel this way.

Sincerely,  
Terry Coyne

**Richard Mullinax – Received Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 11:48pm – via email**

Please pass on to the Board of County Commissioners my gratitude that there are ordinances in place to keep a peaceful existence possible for those up us in the rural portions of the county. I live at 1707 Mason rd. and this evening gunshots were heard inside my house from somewhere off our property but nearby after 11pm. We were not in any danger and our peace was taken. The Sheriff's department personnel who responded to my call gave me information that another had called the disturbed peace in and they were responding. I have had to make a similar call at least twice in the last few months and more than that standing beside a housemate when they made the call. We appreciate having our peace valued enough to bring this activity down. Both of our adjacent neighbors now do not use their property to use firearms. Our sleeping guests are not disturbed. Our dog is not disturbed. And we are not disturbed as we had been.

Thank you for having guidelines in place to maintain peace. And for a Sheriff's department that takes our calls seriously.

Richard Mullinax  
1707 Mason Rd

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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.

### Audit Oversight Committee

**Zhaohui Lu** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs)  
Ricky Hart (Valentine)

### Durham County Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees

(i) **Constanza Gomez-Joiner** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)  
(i) **Hector Hidalgo** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)  
**Mark Neely** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)  
**Terry McDonnell** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)  
(i) **Paul Mosca** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)

### Durham County Women's Commission

**Zhaohui Lu** (Burton, Valentine)  
Alonza Pamplin (Allam)  
Cynthia Scarborough (Jacobs)

### Durham Racial Equity Commission

(i) **Brahmajothi Mulugu** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)

### Durham Workforce Development Board

(i) **CJ Broderick** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)  
(i) **Adrienne Searce** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)

### Memorial Stadium Authority

(i) **E'Vonne Coleman-Cook** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Valentine)

## **Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda**

### **24-0266 Approval of Contract with Dana Safety Supply, Inc, in the Amount of \$125,775 to Purchase Protective Vests for Durham County Sheriff's Office Detention Officers**

Amanda Wallace, Citizen

Ms. Wallace asked the Board to spend the money on community needs and the homeless in Durham.

Raziq Ziad, Citizen

Mr. Ziad asked the Board to find money/grants to help investigators locate the murders of children in the Durham community.

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve Item 25-0266.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **24-0289 Authorize the County Manager to Execute a Contract not-to-exceed \$176,715.00 for Pre-Planning Design Services for the New County Animal Shelter with RND Architects, PA**

Antoinette Hawes, Citizen

Ms. Hawes asked the Board to spend the money on the homeless in Durham instead of animals since residents provided care for animals.

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve Item 25-0289.

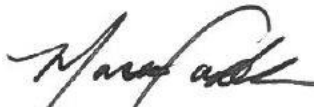
The motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 8:31 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton  
Deputy Clerk to the Board