

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DEWARREN K. LANGLEY

- WHEREAS,** the Durham County Board of Commissioners joins our community in honoring the life of DeWarren K. Langley, a devoted public servant, mentor, and advocate who gave his life’s work to lifting others and building a more just Durham; and
- WHEREAS,** DeWarren believed that every young person, especially young Black boys and men, deserved someone who would stand beside them and fight for their future; and
- WHEREAS,** he was not a man of empty words but a man of daily action. When others spoke about change, DeWarren showed us what it looked like. He created programs, built relationships, and walked with young people until they could walk on their own; and
- WHEREAS,** born and raised in Durham, DeWarren was shaped by this community and gave everything he could to give back. He was a proud graduate of Durham Public Schools, earned degrees from Hampton University and North Carolina Central University, and carried those experiences back home to strengthen his county; and
- WHEREAS,** through his work as Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation, DeWarren built pathways of opportunity for young men of color. He created spaces where they could lead, learn, and believe in their own potential. His vision was rooted in love, education, and purpose; and
- WHEREAS,** he served with distinction as Chair of the Durham Civilian Police Review Board, Vice Chair of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Durham Workforce Development Board, and as a founding voice for the Durham Youth Commission. He never stopped finding new ways to help young people claim their seat at the table; and
- WHEREAS,** DeWarren was foundational to the Kids Voting Durham program. He was a founding member of the Kids Voting Durham Advisory Board joining in March 2008 and served on it continuously since, most recently as Vice Chair. Over the past 18 years, DeWarren contributed significantly to the development and growth of Kids Voting’s youth voice efforts and our commitment to having our programs being youth-led; and
- WHEREAS,** in many ways, Kids Voting’s Candidate programming connecting youth with decision-makers was built upon DeWarren’s own work as a student at Jordan High School, creating “Teens Politically Active”; and
- WHEREAS,** DeWarren’s leadership was steady and full of grace. He held others accountable while treating everyone with dignity and care. He showed that courage and kindness can live in the same heart; and
- WHEREAS,** his passing leaves a deep ache in the city he loved, but his legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched. The young men he mentored will carry his lessons forward, and our community will continue to be shaped by his example.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby resolve to honor the life and legacy of

DEWARREN K. LANGLEY

and extends our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who loved him. We commit to continuing the work he began: to lift up our youth, to build community with compassion, and to make Durham a place where every young person has the chance to rise and thrive.

Let this resolution serve as both a tribute and a promise to carry forward the light that DeWarren Langley brought into this world.

This the 27th day of October 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

