

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Resolution*

**DR. E. LAVONIA ALLISON**

- WHEREAS,** Dr. E. Lavonia Allison was born in Durham, NC, raised by loving parents and completed elementary and secondary public schools of Durham, graduating with honors from Hillside High School as the Class Salutatorian; and
- WHEREAS,** she attended Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, graduating Cum Laude with a B. S. degree in Science, and earning a M.A Degree in Health Education, graduating Magna Cum Laude from Hampton University; and
- WHEREAS,** she additionally earned a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from New York University, graduating Summa Cum Laude; and
- WHEREAS,** Dr. Allison embarked on a noteworthy career teaching health and physical education at Whitted Junior High School in Durham, and at North Carolina Central University; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1974. she became Director of the N.C. Manpower Development Program, now known as N.C. Health Careers Access Program, where she worked tirelessly to significantly increase the number of African Americans and Native Americans entering health professions; and
- WHEREAS,** she became an effective advocate working for meaningful change, equality and equity, striving to eliminate racial, economic and educational barriers locally, nationally, and beyond; and
- WHEREAS,** Dr. Allison was thoroughly involved in the political landscape of our community, state and nation with memberships in various organizations including, The Durham Community on the Affairs of Black People, where she served as Chair for 14 years; Delegate, Democratic National Convention and Durham County, District and State Democratic Conventions; Congressional Black Caucus; National Black Women's Political Congress; Durham Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and more; and
- WHEREAS,** she received numerous awards over her legendary career including The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award; Who's Who Among Women in Politics; Durham Committee Citizen of the Year Award; Life Time Membership NAACP and National Council of Negro Women; the Longest Congressional Black Caucus Attendee Award; and many more, and
- WHEREAS,** we pause to honor the life and legacy of Dr. E. Lavonia Allison who contributed so much to our Durham community, the State of North Carolina and the nation as an activist, educator, mentor, visionary leader, and effective advocate who was not afraid to speak truth to power to help improve the quality of life for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby resolve to pay tribute to

**DR. E. LAVONIA ALLISON**

An amazing life force who shared her tenacity, determination, sense of fairness and work ethic over her lifetime. We call upon all citizens of Durham County to remember how she fought tirelessly to improve the quality of life for generations to come. Her legacy will continue to provide enduring inspiration to all who believe in justice, fairness, and equality for all.

This the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

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Nida Allam, Chair

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Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

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Michelle Burton, Commissioner

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Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

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Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

