

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Proclamation*

**MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK | 2024**

**WHEREAS,** it is the policy of the County of Durham that purchasing by the County and contracts with the County be open to all people and be free of discrimination on the basis of race and gender; and

**WHEREAS,** diverse entrepreneurship encourages progress toward innovative solutions to the challenges of economic growth, and supports the promise of thriving communities that embrace inclusion and a better life for all families; and

**WHEREAS,** the Durham County Minority and Women Enterprise Ordinance Section 8-132 provides minorities and women equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of the County’s contracting program, including, but not limited to, employment, construction projects, and/or materials and service contracts, consistent with law; and

**WHEREAS,** North Carolina G.S. 143-128, provides for Good Faith Efforts to be made in an effort to ensure fair participation of minority and women business owners in all County projects; and

**WHEREAS** according to the Minority Business Development Agency, “By 2044, the Nation’s prosperity will rely even more on minorities, the fastest growing segment of the population. Entrepreneurship is a sure pathway to wealth creation and a thriving national economy. Today, U.S. minority business enterprises (MBEs) represent 29% of all firms but only 11% have paid employees. If MBEs were to obtain entrepreneurial parity, the U.S. economy would realize 13 million more jobs; and

**WHEREAS,** it is further the policy of the County to conduct its contracting programs so as to prevent such discrimination, correct present discrimination and to resolve claims of such discrimination; and

**WHEREAS,** the County of Durham is a sponsor of the Minority Enterprise Development Week in partnership with the City of Durham. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, we recognize that our County and our economy are stronger because of the hardworking men and women who comprise America’s minority business community. They consistently demonstrate the courage it takes to overcome adversity, seize opportunity, and contribute to our shared prosperity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I,** Nida Allam, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 14 – 17, 2024 as

**“MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK”**

in Durham County.

This 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2024.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

