



## **Durham County Government**

### **Agenda Action Supplemental – Budget Ordinance and Amendment to the MOU with the Stagville Memorial Committee**

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#### **Agenda Action Form Overview**

Authorize the County Manager to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No.25BCC095 appropriating \$40,000 of General Fund Fund Balance to the Engineering Department for the Stagville Memorial Project, as well as authorize an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Stagville Memorial Committee to extend the date of the agreement until December 31, 2027, and increase the County's Commitment to the project for a total support not-to-exceed amount of \$277,000.

#### **Background/Justification**

Recent developments included securing a location for the artwork at **501 W. Main Street**, directly across from the Museum of Durham History. This site will be the plaza of the upcoming **Durham Rail Trail**. **Following this determination**, the Stagville Memorial Committee entered an MOU with City of Durham for project funding. However, while the city's financial contribution matches the County's, the allocation of funds differs significantly from the county-approved budget. Most notably, the revised budget includes a roughly 66% reduction in staff support, which presents a major challenge for managing this complex, multi-year effort. To that end, an additional \$40,000 from Durham County is requested to ensure adequate staffing and administrative support through project completion.

#### **Background**

On November 13, 2023, the Board suspended the rules and voted to authorize the County Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Stagville Memorial Committee outlining the County's Commitment to the Project in the amount of \$237,000.

The Stagville Memorial Project is a group of Durham residents organized to establish a memorial in downtown Durham in honor of those formerly enslaved at Stagville Plantation. Through this establishment, we hope to: 1.) Expand who gets included in the story of Durham's unique beginnings 2.) Bring more awareness to Stagville Historic Site to newcomers of Durham 3.) Bring Stagville's vast group of descendants together under a common purpose, and 4.) Help the larger community ponder the ongoing legacies of slavery, and how they show up in the present day. The Stagville Historic Site is approximately 9 miles north of Downtown Durham.

In June 2021, the Stagville Memorial Committee gave a presentation to the BOCC which endorsed the request to the County to fund \$237,000 in support of the project. The attached MOU outlines commitments and establishing parameters for reimbursement of the funding.

This amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding increases the date of completion of the project and increases the County's funding support by the \$40,000 to a not-to-exceed amount of \$277,000.00.

#### **Policy Impact**

This request aligns with Strategic Plan Goal 1.4: Cultural Opportunities – Foster a strong, diverse, artistic and cultural environment.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

Historical Monument installations provide a sense of meaning and beauty to places in our community, enliven our streets and neighborhoods, celebrate our unique history, diversity, and creativity, and engage, enlighten, inspire, and educate all citizens now and in the future.

#### **Recommendation**

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The County Manager recommends that the Board Authorize the County Manager to approve Budget Ordinance No.25BCC095 appropriating \$40,000 of General Fund Fund Balance to the Engineering Department for the Stagville Memorial Project, as well as authorize an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Stagville Memorial Committee.to extend the date of the agreement until December 31, 2027, and increase the County's Commitment to the project for a total support not-to-exceed amount of \$277,000.

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