

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

TREATMENT COURT MONTH | 2026

WHEREAS, according to All Rise, a training, membership and advocacy organization for justice innovation addressing substance abuse and mental health at every intercept; treatment courts are the most successful justice system intervention in our nation’s history for reducing crime by addressing substance use and mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, All Rise is a standard of justice that measures success by the number of lives saved, families reunited, and communities made safer; and

WHEREAS, there are now more than 4,000 treatment courts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Justice Services Department has successfully implemented an Adult Recovery Court and Mental Health Court that are both operational and providing much needed treatment services to Durham County residents; and

WHEREAS, treatment courts provide a range of economic benefits to a community, such as reduced costs in court and prison expenditures, increased tax revenues, lowered foster care expenses, and decreased costs related to victimization; and

WHEREAS, treatment courts combine accountability with evidence-based treatment; and

WHEREAS, treatment courts annually refer more than 150,000 people to life-saving treatment and recovery support services; and

WHEREAS, according to All Rise, treatment courts significantly improve substance use and mental health disorder treatment outcomes and prevent fatal overdoses; and

WHEREAS, treatment courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health; and

WHEREAS, treatment courts demonstrate that when one person rises, we all rise.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Mike Lee, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

“TREATMENT COURT MONTH”

in Durham County and urge all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, faith communities, and schools throughout Durham, North Carolina to join in promoting awareness and understanding the importance of treatment courts for accessible and appropriate treatment services for all residents of Durham County.

This 11th day of May 2026.

Dr. Mike Lee, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

