

# DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## *Resolution*

### **HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PHIL GOODWIN FREELON**

- WHEREAS,** Phillip Goodwin Freelon, an award-winning and nationally-known architect, left us far too soon when he made his earthly transition on July 9, 2019 following a three-year struggle with ALS; and
- WHEREAS,** this amazing life force brought his experience and knowledge from his hometown of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to North Carolina, earning his initial architectural degree from North Carolina State University; and
- WHEREAS,** because of his keen interest, commitment and dedication to Durham, Phil designed many of our region's unique buildings, including Durham County's Human Services Building and South Regional Library, Durham Bulls Athletic Park, the Central Parking Structure at Raleigh-Durham International Airport and the North Carolina Central University Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise facility; and
- WHEREAS,** most notably he was a member of the planning and design team for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture, and additionally he was the lead architect for several significant cultural, educational, and civic projects including the International Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, Emancipation Park in Houston, and the Motown Museum in Detroit; and
- WHEREAS,** President Barack Obama appointed him to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts in 2011 and Phil was the recipient of numerous recognitions and honors during his career; and
- WHEREAS,** he will be forever and fondly be remembered for his lasting positive impact in Durham County and beyond through his design of numerous and unique structures and for graciously mentoring many aspiring architects along the way.

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

### **PHILLIP GOODWIN FREELON**

for his lifelong work as a gifted architect and for leaving an indelible mark on the culture and beauty of all the communities in which he designed and built masterful structures that will stand as a monument to his incredible artistic talent.

This 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019.

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Wendy Jacobs, Chair

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James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair

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Heidi Carter, Commissioner

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Brenda A. Howerton, Commissioner

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Ellen Reckhow, Commissioner

