

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Resolution*

KEVIN UNDERHILL

**WHEREAS**, for nearly 26 years, Kevin Underhill has been an integral part of the success of Durham County's Emergency Medical Services Department and indeed Durham's healthcare continuum; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1992 Kevin joined Durham Regional Hospital as an Unscheduled Part-Time EMT-Paramedic and in 1994, he became a Regular Full-time Paramedic and shortly thereafter a Paramedic II; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1998 when the Emergency Medical Services function was transferred from Durham Regional Hospital to Durham County Government, he quickly demonstrated his professional skills and leadership capabilities, and in 1999 Kevin was promoted to Special Programs Coordinator where he was responsible for coordinating EMS continuing education, identifying community needs, and managing an enhanced hiring process; and

**WHEREAS**, over his tenure he assumed more challenging positions including a stint as the Quality Assurance Coordinator, where he was responsible for performance improvement and quality management for each EMS agency and fire department that provides prehospital care as a first responder, advanced life support or basic life support transport in Durham County; and

**WHEREAS**, Kevin successfully served as a member of the EMS Senior Management Team which led to his reclassification as Managing EMS Officer II, to better capture the full scope of his duties for the Department; and

**WHEREAS**, following the departure of the Director of EMS in March 2017, Kevin was appointed to serve as the Interim Director of EMS during which time he led the organization with integrity and distinction; and

**WHEREAS**, most notably, Kevin worked with world-renowned cardiologist Dr. Chris Granger at Duke Health to develop what is now the national standard of care for the AMI (acute myocardial infarction) patient; Kevin, Dr. Ganger and Dr. Jamie Jollis developed this standard that involves the field transmission of ECG data directly to the cardiologist at the receiving hospital. This also led to transporting patients directly to the cardiac catheterization lab in the hospital, avoiding treatment delays caused by a stop in the ED, and thus saving more lives; and

**WHEREAS**, during his illustrative tenure with Durham County EMS, Kevin worked with a variety of peer professionals in leadership roles with numerous organizations serving as Chair for National EMS Management Association Committee on Accreditation, and as a member of the NC Violent Death Committee Advisory Board to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, Kevin Underhill will long be remembered for his professionalism, enthusiasm, innovation, compassion and his true and abiding concern for the health and wellbeing of all.

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

KEVIN UNDERHILL

for 26 years of dedicated service to Durham County Government and the citizens of Durham County and beyond.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we wish him abundant favor, health and joy upon his well-deserved retirement.

This the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.

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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

