

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

ANDREA LYNNETTE HARRIS

- WHEREAS,** Andrea Harris, widely known and admired for opening doors for minority-owned businesses in North Carolina and beyond, made her transition on May 20, 2020 following an extended illness; and
- WHEREAS,** she grew up in Henderson, North Carolina, graduated from Henderson Institute and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Bennett College, Greensboro, NC in 1970; and
- WHEREAS,** Andrea chose work rather than graduate school and in 1971 she began work and the executive director of community development with the Franklin Vance Warren Opportunity Inc., working to provide social services programs helping to fight poverty; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1978, she created the North Carolina Senior Citizens Federation to advocate for the needs of our significant elderly population; and
- WHEREAS,** it was in 1986, when Andrea co-founded the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development, serving as its president for much of her career, that would bring her notoriety for breaking significant barriers in the corporate financing arena to help historically underutilized businesses obtain funding; and
- WHEREAS,** she was the recipient of significant awards and honors such as the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state's highest honor, the Abe Venable Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, an honorary doctorate from her beloved alma mater, Bennett College, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Duke University Samuel Dubois Cook Society; and
- WHEREAS,** during her stellar career, Andrea served on many boards including: Gateway CDC, Vance County Economic Development Commission, Fifth Third Bank, Vance Granville Community College, the North Carolina State University National Advisory Board of the Institute for Emerging Issues, Bennett College Board of Trustees, DOT Office of Civil Rights Advisory Council, North Carolina Central University Public Administration Program Advisory Council, and earned gubernatorial appointments to the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority Board and the Governor's Historically Underutilized Business Advisory Council; and
- WHEREAS,** as a final and fitting tribute to her life spent working for social and racial equity, Governor Roy Cooper created the "Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force" to focus on eliminating health disparities which were revealed with the disproportionate numbers of coronavirus in minority communities.

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

ANDREA LYNNETTE HARRIS

For a life of trailblazing service that helped others obtain an enhanced level of economic security. We call upon all citizens of Durham County to remember this innovative, gifted and hardworking woman who made a difference.

This the 10th day of August 2020.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair

James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair

Heidi Carter, Commissioner

Brenda A. Howerton, Commissioner

Ellen Reckhow, Commissioner

