



Legislation Text

File #: 20-0208, **Version:** 1

Item:

Introduction of Durham County's First Racial Equity Officer, Kweli Rashied-Henry (10min)

Date of BOCC Meeting: May 26, 2020

Request for Board Action:

The Board is requested to welcome Durham County's first Racial Equity Officer, Kweli Rashied-Henry.

Ms. Kweli Rashied-Henry is excited to join Durham County Government as its inaugural Racial Equity Officer. Ms. Rashied-Henry has more than 20 years of experience focused on serving communities and developing and implementing equity solutions towards improving outcomes. Ms. Rashied-Henry most recently served as the Director of Health Equity for March of Dimes, a leading non-profit organization committed to improving the health of all moms and babies. During this time, she co-facilitated the Health Equity Workgroup of March of Dimes' National Prematurity Collaborative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and guided many other collaborative projects and initiatives.

Previously she served as Policy Analyst for the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center, a partnership between SUNY Downstate Medical Center, the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, and the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. She served as Director of a state-wide infant mortality reduction initiative in New Jersey, and as Deputy Director for the Alzheimer's & Caregiver Resource Center at the New York City Department for the Aging. She has worked with several community, government, academic and healthcare programs, including the Association of Black Cardiologists, Columbus Regional Healthcare System's Community Healthcare Network, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and Clark Atlanta University.

Ms. Rashied-Henry was the 2017 recipient of the Paul Q. Peterson Award and the 2013 recipient of the Loretta Pratt Lacey Award both presented by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Ms. Rashied-Henry holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Bennet College, a Master of Public Health from Emory University and is a candidate for the Doctor of Public Health from UIC. Kweli grew up in Atlanta, Georgia and currently resides in Durham County.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Strategic Goal 2 (Health and Well-Being for All)

Resource Persons: Joanne Pierce, General Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board welcome Kweli Rashied-Henry to the position of Durham County Racial Equity Officer.

County Manager: _____