



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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## 2011 State of the County Address Highlights

**Durham, N.C.** –Michael D. Page, chairman of the Durham Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), delivered his third State of the County Address tonight at 7 p.m. during the BOCC's Regular Session Meeting.

The 2011 address, approximately 30 minutes in length, included information regarding the County's achievements and challenges experienced in 2010 and highlighted the current economic condition impacting the forecast for the upcoming budget year. Chairman Page shared with the audience the future plan to involve the community in the County's Strategic Plan for 2011-2012 and the newly established mission and vision statements.

Other highlights included in Chairman Page's address included:

- **Reflections on 2010:** In 2010, financial challenges experienced in 2009 continued on the national, state and local levels. Durham County weathered the economic slowdown and continued to move in a positive direction. Durham County answered the call to save more than 200 teaching jobs by modestly increasing property taxes last year. Unlike the previous year, Durham County made internal cuts including freezing vacant positions, reducing library hours and increasing various fees. Durham County's approach to the 2010 budget was similar to that of many counties across the state. 2010 was a tight year for county governments everywhere.

- **Financial Vitality:** Durham County continues to be a financially well-managed county. In 2010, Durham County Government fared well in comparison to many counties and is recognized as being one of the “drivers out of the recession,” according to North Carolina’s Secretary of Commerce J. Keith Crisco. Despite the economic downturn, the County’s Triple A Bond Rating enabled the County to save money when it comes to borrowing for capital projects. Durham County Tax Administration Department collected 98.88% of taxes this period; the highest ever percentage of collections. The BOCC provided a \$2 million economic incentive contract to CREE. A portion of the incentive will be used to pay for training expenses of new employees hired who are Durham residents.
- **Budget:** In the coming year, Durham County will focus on the efficient delivery of services in the midst of continuous fiscal challenges faced by the state and country. The County will experience more budget reductions in the upcoming fiscal year than that of last year and projects that the State’s budget cuts will negatively impact county governments across the state. Currently, the County’s budget and administrative teams are considering collaboration, consolidation, exploration of all opportunities for greater efficiencies, and elimination of duplicated services to produce the level of budget that will be required in 2011-2012.

At the conclusion of the State of the County Address, Chairman Page announced his newly established office hours and invited the public to schedule appointments to address concerns, questions and suggestions about the Durham community. His office hours will be held each Wednesday, from 2:30p.m.-5p.m., beginning on April 6. Citizens should call (919) 949-4022 to schedule a meeting.

To view the entire 2011 State of the County Address and PowerPoint, visit the [County’s Web site](#). For additional information about the 2011 State of the County Address, contact Michelle Parker-Evans, clerk to the Durham Board of County Commissioners, at (919) 560-0025 or via email at [mparker-evans@durhamcountync.gov](mailto:mparker-evans@durhamcountync.gov).

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