

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Resolution*

**“GUNS DOWN, LIVES UP” RALLY**

**WHEREAS,** In reaction to the increasing cycle of gun violence across Durham, Southern High School football team members recently organized and conducted the “Guns Down, Lives Up” Rally to focus on ways to reduce the incidences of gun violence in the community; and

**WHEREAS,** Durham Athletes United Against Violence was formed to begin to focus attention on educating and sharing strategies to begin to break the cycle of violence; and

**WHEREAS,** a rally was held in November bringing together students, elected officials, Project Build, clergy, community members, law enforcement and others to sound the alarm that more needed to be done; and

**WHEREAS,** while the “Guns Down, Lives Up” initiative began at Southern High School, the goal is to grow the outreach to the other Durham High Schools and use a standard format to involve other athletes, students, community groups, clergy and other youth serving organizations in developing successful ways to stem the tide of violence;

**WHEREAS,** the larger goal of this group is to work to combat peer pressure, to begin with middle school students by intervention strategies and to work on prevention with high school age students.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that we, the members of the Durham Board of County Commissioners do hereby thank the founders and supporters of “Guns Down, Lives Up” initiative and encourage them to be a model for other communities to follow as they seek to reduce gun violence everywhere.

This 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019

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Wendy Jacobs, Chair

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James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair

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Heidi Carter

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Brenda A. Howerton

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Ellen Reckhow

