

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, April 27, 1998

7:00 P.M. Regular Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Room, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black and Commissioners William V. Bell, Joe W. Bowser, Becky M. Heron, and Ellen W. Reckhow (arrived late, excused)

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Black

Opening of Regular Session

Chairman Black called the Regular Session to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Heron commented about the number of motorists who stopped to offer assistance when she had car trouble on Hillandale Road. Durham County should be called the "friendly county."

Agenda Adjustments

Chairman Black requested an item be added concerning school visitation by the Board of County Commissioners to examine capital needs of the school system.

Chairman Black removed Durham County Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees appointments from the agenda. The appointments will be considered at the June 1998 Worksession. County Attorney Kitchen will provide legislative information relative to the appointments.

Chairman Black said the Social Services Board appointment will be added to the agenda.

Minutes

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Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Commissioner Bowser, to approve the March 5, 1998 Special Session Minutes of the Board as submitted.

The motion carried with the following vote:

For: Bell, Black, Bowser, and Heron
Against: None
Absent: Reckhow

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the March 23, 1998 Regular Session Minutes of the Board as submitted.

The motion carried with the following vote:

For: Bell, Black, Bowser, and Heron
Against: None
Absent: Reckhow

Proclamation Recognizing Armenian Martyrs Day

The Board was requested to issue the proclamation recognizing Armenian Martyrs Day.

Chairman Black read the resolution into the record.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the extermination of more than one and a half million Armenians took place between 1915 and 1923; and

WHEREAS, Armenians witnessed the slaughter of their families and the loss of their ancestral homeland; and

WHEREAS, the current Turkish government rejects the existence of the Armenian genocide and denies Armenians the right to their homeland and heritage; and

WHEREAS, ancestral Armenian lands taken have not been returned, nor have the Armenians received compensation for their losses; and

WHEREAS, April 24th has been designated Armenian Martyrs Day in recognition and remembrance of those who died during the Armenian genocide:

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Board of County Commissioners, do hereby acknowledge the 83rd anniversary of

ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY

in Durham County and urge all citizens to remember the history of this tragedy so that mistakes of the past will not be repeated in future generations.

This the 27th day of April, 1998.

/s/ Five Commissioners
Durham County Commissioners

Aram Andranig Sarafian, Chairman, Armenian National Committee of North Carolina, accepted the resolution and made remarks about the Armenian genocide. He thanked the Commissioners for issuing the proclamation.

Durham Magnet Center Chorale

The Durham Magnet Center Chorale sang in County Durham, England when Chairman Black; David Powell, Durham County Director of Economic Development/Property Management; and Patrick Byker, Vice President of Government Relations, Durham Chamber of Commerce, visited County Durham, England to discuss economic development issues.

The Durham Magnet Center Chorale sang for the Commissioners.

Chairman Black read the following resolution into the minutes:

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Durham Magnet Center Chorale is a performing ensemble of 85 students in grades seven through ten and is part of the choral program at the Durham Magnet Center for the Visual and Performing Arts; and

WHEREAS, the Durham Magnet Center Chorale was officially designated as “Sister City Ambassadors to the City of Durham, England” and traveled to England from April 9 through April 18; and

WHEREAS, during the cultural exchange, the chorale made several concert appearances including performances at York, Market Square, Hexum Abbey, and Durham Cathedral; and

WHEREAS, all tour performances were outstanding and were exceptionally well-received by the audiences; and

WHEREAS, thanks and admiration go to Mrs. Scott Hill, director of the group, for her dynamic, insightful leadership of Durham Magnet Center Chorale which has led to the group’s ongoing participation in numerous concerts, festivals, and performances here and abroad:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby congratulate the

DURHAM MAGNET CENTER CHORALE

under the leadership of Mrs. Scott Hill, for representing the citizens of Durham County with outstanding performances during a tour of County Durham, England. We further thank them for being such good ambassadors of Durham County, and urge them to continue to cultivate the friendships that were forged during the visit.

This the 27th day of April, 1998.

/s/ Five Commissioners
Durham County Commissioners

Ms. Scott Hill made remarks about the trip and accepted the resolution on behalf of the Durham Magnet Center Chorale.

Public Health—Recognize “Seal the State” Participants

Brian Letourneau, Director of the Durham County Health Department, and Phyllis F. Garrison, Public Health Hygienist for Durham County, publicly recognized 16 Durham

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County "Seal the State" participants for exemplary volunteer service in a statewide dental sealant project. All participating community agency representatives were presented a certificate from the office of the Honorable Jim Hunt. The community citizens banded together to render a service that was much needed by a special segment of our community--our children.

Resolution Recognizing 30th Anniversary of "Women-In-Action"

A resolution celebrating the 30th anniversary of "Women-In-Action for the Prevention of Violence and Its Causes Inc." was prepared for the Board's approval.

Chairman Black read the following resolution into the minutes:

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Women-In-Action for the Prevention of Violence and Its Causes Inc. is a multiracial, culturally diverse organization dedicated to the prevention of violence and its causes; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elna B. Spaulding founded the organization 30 years ago in response to the climate of racial unrest which was engulfing this nation, and after attending a national conference entitled, "What Women Can Do to End Violence in America;" and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Spaulding accepted the challenge issued to attendees suggesting they return to their communities and work to prevent violence by calling together women interested in working to make a difference; and

WHEREAS, the organizational meeting was attended by 125 black and white women who voted to organize and begin their work toward the prevention of violence in Durham; and

WHEREAS, a Clearinghouse was established in 1970 for Durham residents in need of information and referral services during crisis situations, and other direct client programs were eventually implemented; and

WHEREAS, while the work of the organization has evolved over the years, the mission of Women-In-Action is to enhance human relations and improve the human condition by working with other community organizations to prevent the occasions and conditions that may breed violence; and

WHEREAS, Women-in-Action celebrates 30 years of advocacy on behalf of those who have found themselves in need of assistance due to temporary crisis situations:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby congratulate

"WOMEN-IN-ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND ITS

on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary for providing exemplary service to Durham County residents. We call upon all citizens to recognize the unique role this community-based organization has played in providing financial support, classes, information and referral, and more to area families in crisis.

This the 27th day of April, 1998.

/s/ Five Commissioners
Durham County Commissioners

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Recognition of Durham County Office of the Sheriff I-85 Traffic Enforcement Detail

Last summer, Durham area law enforcement officers set up an I-85 Intervention Committee to help patrol the portion of I-85 currently under construction in Durham County. This group was mobilized following a massive 11-car accident a month earlier which resulted in three fatalities. Until a week ago, no serious accidents had been reported since the team was activated. Certificates of appreciation were prepared for the following Office of the Sheriff employees who have participated in traffic enforcement on Interstate 85 since last summer:

Sgt. C. R. Love	Dep. W. M. Oakley	Dep. J. H. Thomas
Dep. J. A. Teer	Dep. R. L. Fairley	Dep. J. Buonadonna, Jr.
Dep. L. H. Best	Dep. M. B. Stone	Dep. R. A. Sipple
Dep. R. L. Rose	Dep. T. G. Mellown	Det. W. R. Narron
Dep. D. K. Carswell	Det. R. Aleem	Cpl. G. Barker
Cpl. T. Deck	Dep. W. M. Black	Dep. J. Daughtry
Dep. R. E. Hight	Dep. M. W. Ferrell	Dep. T. Fields
Dep. M. Crutchfield	Dep. J. Barringer	Dep. W. A. Vaughan
Det. J. S. Hatchew		

Chairman Black called on Commissioner Heron, liaison to the Sheriff's Department, to present the "On-the-Spot" awards for service beyond the call of duty as a token of the County's appreciation. A \$50 check would be given to each employee the following day.

Sheriff Worth Hill thanked the Commissioners for the recognition and for their support of the Sheriff's Department.

The Commissioners thanked the group for patrolling I-85.

Resolution Approving Financial Support for Upper Neuse River Basin Association

This resolution would enable Durham County to provide a contribution to the Upper Neuse River Basin Association for Fiscal Year 1998-99. The Association has provided Durham County its estimates of required funding for the upcoming fiscal year. Durham County's share is based on a basic participation rate, water demands, and the jurisdiction's land area. The County's share, based on the Association's estimates, amounts to \$7,927.

The mission of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association, with respect to maintaining the Upper Neuse River Basin, is to preserve the water quality of the Upper Neuse River Basin through innovative and cost-effective strategies, and to constitute a forum to cooperate on water supply issues within the Upper Neuse River Basin by:

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- Forming a coalition of units of local government, public and private agencies, and other interested and affected communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals to secure and pool financial resources and expertise;
- Collecting and analyzing information and data and developing, evaluating, and implementing strategies to reduce control and manage pollutant discharge and to manage water resources; and
- Providing accurate technical, management, regulatory, and legal recommendations regarding the implementation of strategies and appropriate effluent limitations on discharges into the upper portion of the Neuse River.

Commissioner Heron introduced the agenda item and presented an overview of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association. She asked Patrick Davis, Triangle J Council of Governments, representing the Upper Neuse River Basin Association, to share the accomplishments achieved by the association over the last two years.

The Commissioners asked questions about the resolution; Mr. Davis responded.

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Commissioner Bowser, to approve the resolution and the appropriation of \$7,927 in the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget.

The motion carried with the following vote:

For: Bell, Black, Bowser, and Heron
Against: None
Absent: Reckhow

The resolution follows:

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RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR NEUSE RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, Durham County is committed to the preservation and protection of the present high quality water in the Upper Neuse River Basin; and

WHEREAS, Durham County recognizes the increasingly complex nature of water quality and water quantity management issues in the Upper Neuse River Basin and acknowledges the need to coordinate with other affected jurisdictions on water resources management efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Neuse River Basin Association was established to provide a forum for local governments to consider and work on water resources planning and management issues of mutual concern in the Upper Neuse River Basin; and

WHEREAS, Durham County is a member government of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association, and recognizes that continued local participation in said Association can provide important long-term benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association has determined that local funding support is needed if significant progress is to be made in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Association:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Durham County hereby agrees to continue to participate fully and actively as a member of the Upper Neuse River Basin Association.
2. That Durham County hereby further agrees that ongoing funding support from local governments participating in the Upper Neuse River Basin is essential for said Association to make meaningful progress toward addressing the Association's goals and objectives.
3. That Durham County hereby agrees to provide to the Upper Neuse River Basin Association a contribution of \$7,927, and that said contribution is to be used for funding operations of the Association during Fiscal Year 1999.
4. That Durham County agrees to provide financial support to the Association subject to development of a meaningful policy by the Association to address goals for minority and women-owned business participation and equity assurance/equal opportunity participation in contracting and hiring practices of the Association.
5. That the financial support for the Association is also subject to the Association entering into a contract with Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) to provide the staffing and associated administrative support services desired by the Association for the proposed Watershed Management Program. The contract should clearly establish the respective roles and responsibilities of the Association and TJCOG for the

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hiring, management, and support of the staff needed to meet the goals and objectives of the Association.

6. That Durham County hereby requests the Upper Neuse River Basin Association provide, on or before March 1, 1999, a report summarizing the activities and accomplishments of said Association.

Adopted this 27th day of April, 1998.

/s/ MaryAnn E. Black, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Presentation of Published Centennial History of the Durham County Public Library

Ms. Dale Gaddis, Library Director, introduced Ms. Connie Watts, Co-Chair of the Centennial Steering Committee. She also introduced Mr. Robert Otterbourg, Chairman of the Durham County Library Board of Trustees, and Dr. William King, Co-Chairman of the Library Centennial History Committee.

Mr. Otterbourg said it is a pleasure to present copies of the recently published history of the Durham County Library entitled, The History of Public Service in Durham, North Carolina From 1897 to 1997. The publication was researched and written by Jessica Harland-Jacobs. The costs were underwritten with a private gift from Mrs. Willie Hill and in-kind services of the Duke Publications Group. The 56-page book spotlights the growth and development of the Durham County Library as North Carolina's first tax supported library.

Dr. King gave the Commissioners an overview of the past year's events.

Ms. Hill distributed autographed copies of the book to the County Commissioners.

The Commissioners made comments of thanks and gratitude for the publication.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Bowser moved, seconded by Commissioner Heron, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- *(a) FY 1997-98 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 98BCC000036—Durham County Mental Health Department (request Board authorization to approve \$175,134 in additional intergovernmental revenues for various programs);
- (b) Final qualifying bid to purchase County property (308 Lancelot Drive) (approve the offer of \$6,000 submitted

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- for 308 Lancelot Drive by Mr. Charles McCarter and prepare a deed for the Chairman's signature);
- (c) Final qualifying bid to purchase County property (6821 Matterhorn Road) (approve the offer of \$6,000 submitted for 6821 Matterhorn Road by Mr. Charles McCarter and prepare a deed for the Chairman's signature);
 - (d) Final qualifying bid to purchase County property (portion of N. Duke Street) (approve the offer of \$5,000 submitted by Mr. George Birmingham Jr. to purchase the northern 4,459 SF portion of parcel 326-02-001A and prepare a deed for the Chairman's signature); and
 - *(e) Property tax release and refund reports (accept the property tax release and refund reports as presented and authorize the Tax Administrator to adjust the tax records as outlined by the reports).

The motion carried unanimously.

*The documents related to these items follow:

Consent Agenda 10(a). FY 1997-98 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 98BCC000036—Durham County Mental Health Department (request Board authorization to approve \$175,134 in additional intergovernmental revenues for various programs).

The budget ordinance amendment follows:

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DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FY 1997-98 Budget Ordinance
Amendment No. 98BCC000036

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the FY 1997-98 Budget Ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments for the Durham County Mental Health Department.

GENERAL FUND

	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>Revenues</u>				
Intergovernmental	\$175,348,898	\$175,134		\$175,524,032
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Human Services	\$207,588,708	\$175,134		\$207,763,842

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This the 27th day of April, 1998.

(Budget Ordinance Amendment recorded in Ordinance Book _____, page _____.)

Consent Agenda 10(e). Property tax release and refund reports (accept the property tax release and refund reports as presented and authorize the Tax Administrator to adjust the tax records as outlined by the reports).

Due to property valuation adjustments for over assessments, listing discrepancies, duplicate listings, and clerical errors, etc., the reports detail releases and refunds for the month of March 1998.

For current FY 97-98, releases and refunds amounted to \$1,473.61 in taxes for real property, \$2,671.10 in taxes for personal property, \$46,948.96 in taxes for registered motor vehicles, \$870.00 in City vehicle fees, and \$45.00 in solid waste fees.

For FY 98-99, personal property taxes in the amount of \$22,047.55 are to be released.

For prior years, releases and refunds amounted to \$72,627.53 in taxes and fees.

(Recorded in Appendix A in the Permanent Supplement of the Minutes of the Board.)

Discussion of Durham County Legislative Agenda for Upcoming Short Session

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Staff requested that the Board conduct a discussion of the upcoming legislative session at the May 4 Worksession. The General Assembly convenes at noon on Monday, May 11 in short session. According to the adjournment resolution, the following items are allowed to be considered during the session:

- Bills directly and primarily affecting the State budget for FY98-99
- Bills introduced in 1997 and having passed third reading by May 1 in the House in which introduced and received in the other house
- Bills introducing the recommendations of authorized study commissions
- Any local bill submitted to the Bill Drafting Division by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, and filed for introduction in the Senate or introduced in the House of Representatives by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27. The bill must be accompanied by a certificate signed by the principal sponsor stating that: 1) no public hearing will be required or asked for by a member on the bill; 2) the bill is noncontroversial; and 3) the bill is approved for introduction by each member of the House of Representatives and Senate whose district includes the area to which the bill applies.

Staff requested that a discussion of legislative issues focus on the following items:

- Alternatives for revenue generation
- Concern of over loss of State funds
- Pursuit of a Drug Court

The NCACC will hold its Legislative Briefing on June 3 in Raleigh. The Board was asked to consider directing staff to invite the Durham Delegation to dinner after that meeting at a convenient Raleigh location.

County Manager's Recommendation: Discuss and direct staff for upcoming May 4 Worksession.

Deborah Craig-Ray, Public Information Officer, said staff would like direction from the Commissioners relative to the legislative agenda items to be placed on the May 4, 1998 agenda. Staff also wished to know whether the Commissioners wanted to schedule dinner with the Durham Delegation on June 3 after the Legislative Briefing in Raleigh.

Chairman Black responded that dinner arrangements should be set up for the Durham Delegation on June 3, 1998.

Commissioner Heron want to see a copy of the City's legislative package. Department managers should be given an opportunity to include their legislative agenda items in the County's legislative package.

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Commissioner Heron wanted the Commissioners to support legislation relative to the "Increase in Facilities and Officer Fees under G.S. 7A-305 and G.S. 15-209" that counties statewide are supporting.

County Manager David F. Thompson said there are two large-dollar issues. The \$49,300,000 deficit in state match dollars for Medicaid services could cost the County \$712,000 by reducing state funding to Durham County due to the shortfall.

Dan Hudgins, Social Services Director, stated Durham County could lose \$440,000 in state funding due to a new formula used by the state for distributing funds for child welfare staff. Durham County is being penalized because the child welfare staff was increased to improve the program.

Commissioner Heron requested Chairman Black attend the meeting with Mr. Hudgins, Senator Gulley or Senator Lucas, and Secretary Bruton of the Department of Human Resources to discuss the \$440,000 Durham County will lose because our child welfare staff was enlarged.

County Manager Thompson referred to the proposal concerning Mental Health funds remaining in Mental Health rather than reverting back to the counties' general fund. The proposal states that County Commissioners cannot reduce the local appropriation to Mental Health. If the proposal is approved, Durham County would have to establish a designated fund balance of \$1.6 or \$1.7 million in the Mental Health budget.

Commissioner Heron said a majority of the counties are favoring the 1-cent optional county sales tax. However, there is a question regarding the distribution of the tax. The state association wants counties to use it for schools. Individual counties will decide how the sales tax will be used. The sales tax will not be on food.

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Work First Plan Update

Daniel C. Hudgins, Director of Social Services, presented the monthly Work First Plan update for March. The four indicators in the short term plan were met in March. The caseload dropped 237 from the March 1 to April 1 cash payment case load count. This represents 8 percent of the case load at March 1, 1998 (26.2 percent for the entire year).

The Commissioners asked Mr. Hudgins questions about the report to which he responded.

County Manager David F. Thompson responded to several questions.

Elimination of Discount for Early Payment of Real Estate Taxes

The Board was requested to authorize the Tax Administrator to eliminate the 1-percent discount, effective tax year 1998, offered for early payment of real estate taxes. The primary reason for offering a discount was to obtain first- and second-quarter operating cash flow before the January 6 regular payment deadline. However, Durham County has been able to schedule investment maturities to meet the needed cash flow during these early quarters. The transition is expected to be seamless and will follow for additional revenues of approximately \$450,000 to benefit Durham County.

The general trend among North Carolina counties has been to eliminate early payment discounts. Currently, only 40 percent of North Carolina counties offer a discount.

County Manager's Recommendation: The Commissioners discussed this issue during last year's budget preparation but were concerned about the impact of eliminating this discount on our cash flow. One of the benefits of our positive financial position and timing of investments is that the Board now has the option of reviewing the remaining 1-percent discount for early payment. I recommend eliminating this discount.

County Manager David F. Thompson presented the agenda item.

The Commissioners had a lengthy discussion before the vote was taken.

Commissioner Bell moved, seconded by Commissioner Heron, that the Commissioners eliminate the 1-percent discount for early payment of property taxes.

The motion carried with the following vote:

For: Bell, Heron, and Reckhow
Against: Bowser and Black

The resolution follows:

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RESOLUTION REPEALING DISCOUNTS FOR PREPAYMENT OF TAXES

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Durham on March 25, 1996 adopted a resolution pursuant to G.S. 105-360 which set the prepayment discount for *ad valorem* taxes at one percent; and

WHEREAS, it now appears to be in the interest of the County that such prepayment discount be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the elimination of the prepayment discount will result in substantial revenue savings to the County:

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NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF DURHAM DO TH RESOLVE:

1. The discount for prepayment of *ad valorem* taxes is hereby repealed.
2. This resolution shall be in full force and effect on its adoption.

This the 27th day of April, 1998.

/s/ Garry E. Umstead
Clerk to the Board

Adoption of a Resolution Requesting NCDOT Improvements to Highway Directional Signs In and Around Durham

The Board of County Commissioners considered adoption of the resolution with a recommendation that the resolution be sent to the NCDOT accompanied by a letter signed by the Mayor and Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners encouraging NCDOT to cooperate with the Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau in this effort.

County Manager's Recommendation: Adopt the resolution as per the recommendation of the Joint City/County Planning Committee. Planning Director Norby will be prepared to comment if necessary.

Bonnie Estes, representing the City-County Planning Department, said this proposal refers to interstate highway signs in Durham or leading to Durham that are causing confusion because they misrepresent the location of Durham. Staff is requesting the Commissioners endorse the resolution asking NCDOT to make corrections to these signs to more clearly portray Durham's location.

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Commissioner Bowser, to approve the resolution.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow asked if funding is available for the complete project. If not, the signs should be prioritized as to which ones to be changed first.

Ms. Estes replied that staff would work with the N.C. Department of Transportation to select the signs that could be changed quickly.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow said the signs causing the most confusion should be changed first. The project could be spread over a two- or three-year period.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

The resolution follows:

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A RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS
IN AND AROUND DURHAM

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation provides directional signs for motorists along Interstate Highways and at interchanges adjacent to these Interstate Highways; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of these signs to provide accurate information to the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, these signs have created confusion in directing motorists to their destinations in Durham; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Durham wish to enhance the clarity of directional highway signs which guide motorists in and around Durham; and

WHEREAS, the messages on these signs have important effects on tourism and the local economy as well as providing assistance to local residents; and

WHEREAS, the current sign messages create misconceptions about the location of Durham relative to the Interstates and misdirect travelers, and travelers may consume unnecessary driving time seeking their intended destination; and

WHEREAS, the Durham economy has been negatively affected by inappropriate sign messages; and

WHEREAS, simple changes to the signs found along Interstate Highways and in the vicinity of the interchanges could rectify these problems:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham City Council and Durham Board of County Commissioners do hereby request that the North Carolina Department of Transportation meet with the appropriate City, County, and Convention and Visitors Bureau staff to identify those directional signs along and around Interstate Highways in the Durham vicinity which need modification to assist the public and to clarify the locations of geographic points in the City and County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Durham direct that all past staff research on this matter be made available to the North Carolina Department of Transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Durham do hereby recommend that the North Carolina Department of Transportation make changes as

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quickly as possible to these signs consistent with the goal of conveying more accurate information to the traveling public.

Adoption of the 1998-99 HUD Consolidated Action Plan

Federal HOME grant funds are received annually and used primarily for affordable housing activities in Durham. The proposed allocation of Durham HOME funds for FY 1998-99 is \$882,000. As a result of the formation of the Durham City-County HOME Consortium by the Board of County Commissioners and the City Council, all HOME program activities are included as a part of the Durham Consolidated Plan and are submitted annually to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval in the required Action Plan.

The required public review has been completed, and recommendations and editing comments received during the review period will be included in the final Consolidated Action Plan. No local County funds are included in the required match for this year; therefore, the Board of County Commissioners by prior Consortium Agreement would only concur with the City's use of funds rather than direct how they should be allocated. The Consolidated Action Plan only makes general program funding allocations.

Paul Norby, Director of the City-County Planning Department, has reviewed the request and recommended that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the 1998-99 Consolidated Action Plan. Michael Pullum, Senior Planner, attended the meeting to present the plan and answer questions.

County Manager's Recommendation: Adopt the 1998-99 Consolidated Action Plan and authorize the Planning staff to submit the Plan to HUD.

Mr. Pullum said during the public hearing, Commissioner Heron requested information from Planning staff on the use of HOME funds in the development of youth homes. Staff has determined that according to Section 92.205 of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (Final Rule), the development of "transitional homes" or youth homes is considered an eligible use of HOME program funds. Such homes would likely be constructed in a dormitory fashion with common kitchen and eating facilities along with common bath and shower facilities. Should the Board of County Commissioners wish to recommend the use of 1998-99 HOME funds for affordable housing projects, the County would need to provide a pro rata share of the HOME program matching funds (25 percent) requirement as stated in the HOME Consortium Agreement. Assuming that the County does not wish to put up matching funds, we have recommended the uses of funds as shown in the Consolidated Action Plan, since we feel that rental rehabilitation is a very significant need.

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Commissioner Bowser moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, to adopt the 1998-99 Consolidated Action Plan and authorize the Planning staff to submit the plan to HUD.

The motion carried unanimously.

Regional Rail Phase I Scoping Comments

The Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) and its consultants are preparing Preliminary Engineering studies and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Phase I of the Regional Rail project. TTA is inviting comments from the community regarding alternatives to be considered and environmental impacts of the project.

The Regional Rail project is envisioned to connect Durham and Raleigh with a commuter rail transit system, using 16 transit stations along its 35-mile length. The EIS is a critical step for TTA to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and to secure funding from the Federal Transit Administration. A scoping step typically takes place early in the process to help coordinate interagency participation, to identify important issues, and to focus the analysis in the EIS. Local governments are encouraged to comment. An agency scoping meeting and a public scoping meeting will generate additional comments about the EIS process.

The Durham City-County Planning Department will compile comments from Durham and forward them to the TTA by the May 15, 1998 deadline.

Keith Luck, Senior Planner, presented the agenda item, recorded the Board members' verbal comments, and answered questions. Written comments may also be delivered to the Planning Department by May 6 and will also be sent to TTA.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Commissioners make verbal comments at the meeting and submit written comments if desired to be forwarded to TTA. This action will ensure that Durham's concerns about the effects on the community will be completely and fully addressed in the environmental documentation.

No official action was taken on this agenda item.

Report on Trip to County Durham, England

Mr. Powell gave a detailed report on the recent trip to County Durham, England. The purpose of the trip was to discuss possible partnerships between County Durham and the Durham County community in areas of economic development and tourism.

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Resource persons for this agenda item were MaryAnn Black, Chairman, Durham County Board of Commissioners; David Thompson, County Manager; David Powell, Director of Economic Development/Property Management; and Patrick Byker, Vice President of Government Relations, Durham Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Black and Mr. Byker also made remarks about the trip.

No official action was taken on this agenda item.

Board and Commission Appointments

Garry E. Umstead, CMC, Clerk to the Board, distributed ballots to make appointments to the following authority and board:

- Durham Civic Center Authority
- Youth Services Advisory Board

Votes were cast and the following appointments were made (asterisks designate appointees):

Durham Civic Center Authority: One unexpired term (expires July 2000).

*Randy Willis—Bell, Black, Bowser, Heron, and Reckhow

Youth Services Advisory Board: Four unexpired terms (two expire September 2000 and two expire September 1999).

*Pauletta B. Bracy—Bell, Black, Bowser, Heron and Reckhow

*Nathan B. Currey—Bell, Black, Bowser, Heron and Reckhow

*Anna-Marie Dolgor—Bell, Black, Bowser, Heron and Reckhow

*Robert Alan Reid—Bell, Black, Bowser, Heron and Reckhow

Ms. Bracey and Mr. Currey will fill the September 1999 positions. Ms. Dolgor and Mr. Reid will fill the September 2000 positions.

Chairman Black Excused From Meeting

Vice-Chairman Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to excuse Chairman Black from the May 4, 1998 Worksession.

The motion carried unanimously.

Board of County Commissioners' Schools Visit

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Chairman Black said Kathryn Meyers, Chair, Durham Public Schools Board of Education, called to see if another date could be scheduled for the Commissioners to tour the schools to examine capital needs requirements.

Ms. Meyers and Vice-Chairman Reckhow would discuss possible dates at the Monday, May 4, 1998 Worksession.

Chairman Black asked the Commissioners to choose several dates for the schools tour.

Social Services Board Appointment

Commissioner Bell moved, seconded by Commissioner Heron, to reappoint Chairman Black to the Department of Social Services Board.

The motion carried unanimously.

April 27, 1998

Hospital Consolidation Issue

Vice-Chairman Reckhow wanted to know if the draft term sheet would come back to the Commissioners for discussion and action before proceeding to the definitives.

Commissioner Bell said the Commissioners and Durham County Regional Hospital Board of Trustees will discuss and make adjustments to the draft term sheet.

Chairman Black advised the Commissioners to give all feedback to County Attorney Chuck Kitchen.

Area Mental Health Board Appointment

Chairman Black said she had asked the County Manager to send a letter to Venessa McGee-Smith due to poor attendance at Area Mental Health Board meetings. The Commissioners will have a hearing at the June 1, 1998 Worksession relative to her possible removal from the Area Mental Health Board.

Adjournment

Chairman Black adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board

GEU:VCS