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News Release

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Durham Seeks Good Neighbors to Spotlight

*New Initiative Now Accepting Monthly Nominations to Recognize People Who Make
Durham Neighborhoods Better Places*

DURHAM, N.C. – Durham residents can now recognize and thank the people who make their neighborhoods a better place by nominating them through the new [Neighborhood Spotlight Initiative](#).

The City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department is launching this new initiative to recognize and show appreciation for the many contributions Durham residents make to their neighborhoods. Residents can now [nominate](#) their neighbor or groups of residents who have gone above and beyond to improve Durham. The City is specifically seeking nominations of neighbors who have worked to improve the quality of life in their communities, increased the involvement of other neighbors, worked to improve the safety and security of their neighborhoods, and connected other residents with community and supportive services.

“Durham residents are doing extraordinary things to help their neighbors and serve their community,” said Director Constance Stancil with the City’s Neighborhood Improvement Services Department. “We want to provide an opportunity to publicly recognize and thank them for the tremendous work they are doing to improve life in Durham.”

Beginning in July, the selected resident or group will be presented with a Neighbor Spotlight lawn sign to recognize them for the entire month. In addition, they will receive a certificate of appreciation at the first City Council meeting of the following month, and will have a brief

biography published on the City's website, in the department's newsletter, and in *The Herald-Sun*.

Nominees must be city residents, not employed by the City, and the actions cannot have been performed as part of paid employment. Nominations can be made online or [printed](#) and sent by [email](#) or by U.S. Postal Service to the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, Attention Community Engagement, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, N.C. 27701.

This will be a monthly spotlight with nominations required by the fifteenth of each month. For additional information about this new initiative, contact a member of the department's Community Engagement team at (919) 560-1647 or by [email](#).

About the City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department

The [Neighborhood Improvement Services Department](#) works to preserve and improve quality of life conditions for Durham residents, and to encourage active participation in neighborhood redevelopment and public policy and decision making dialogue. The department is responsible for enforcement of quality of life ordinances and state statutes including the City's Minimum Housing Code; Nonresidential Code; Weedy Lot, Abandoned & Junk Vehicle ordinances; and the State of North Carolina's Unsafe Building Statute. The department's rapid responders, known as the Impact Team, remediate non-compliant housing properties; abate public nuisances, such as graffiti, illegal dumping, and abandoned shopping carts; and conduct neighborhood service projects. The department's Community Engagement staff provides outreach and education to Durham residents and community organizations. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps ensure that Durham has thriving, livable neighborhoods by providing the highest quality of services to engage and educate the community, eradicating blight, ensuring safer neighborhoods and enhancing neighborhood revitalization.

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