



CITY OF DURHAM
Office of Public Affairs
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
DURHAM, NC 27701

News Release

News Media Contact:

Amy Blalock
Sr. Public Affairs Specialist
(919) 560-4123 x 11253
(919) 475-7735 (cell)
Amy.Blalock@DurhamNC.gov
<http://Facebook.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://Instagram.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://YouTube.com/CityofDurhamNC>

For Immediate Release: April 17, 2017

Share! Know someone who has promoted good human relations in #Durham? Nominate them by April 24 for a 2017 advocacy award: <http://bit.ly/2oiGorT>

Durham Hosts Human Relations Advocacy Awards May 11

Nominations Sought by April 24; Nomination Form [Now Available Online](#)

DURHAM, N.C. –The City of Durham Human Relations Commission is now seeking nominations of residents and organizations who have distinguished themselves by advancing and advocating for civil and human rights in Durham.

The Human Relations Commission and the Human Relations Division of the City's Neighborhood Improvement Department are hosting the 2017 Human Relations Advocacy Awards on Thursday, May 11 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville Street, Durham.

At this ceremony, at least four Durham residents and/or organizations will be honored for their impact and service. The four award categories are as follows and [nominations](#) are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 24:

- **Carlie B Sessoms Award:** highest and most coveted award presented to an individual or organization that has made a major impact on improving human relations. This award commemorates the contributions of the late Carlie B. Sessoms, a Durham native who served as chair of the Human Relations Commission and played a major role in improving human relations locally and nationally.
- **Fair Housing Advocacy Award:** recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting fair housing with emphasis on the economic, social and/or political impact in the community which has encouraged diversity and housing opportunities for all.

- **Human Rights and Advocacy Awards:** presented to a local, state or federal lawmaker who has successfully supported or promoted human rights causes and issues.
- **Norris Wicker Youth Human Rights and Advocacy Award:** presented to an individual or group of individuals under the age of 18 for demonstrating an understanding of and commitment to the improvement and human relations. This award commemorates the contributions of the late Norris Wicker, a human relations commissioner, who lived a life dedicated to service, and empowering and supporting youth.

The May 11 ceremony is free and open to the public with refreshments immediately following the conclusion of the program. For more information about this event, contact Human Relations Manager James E. Davis by [email](#) or at (919) 560-4107, ext. 34277.

About the City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department Human Relations Division

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's [Human Relations Division](#) strives to improve race and human relations in the City by working to eliminate housing discrimination and by prioritizing community outreach and educational activities to meet the needs of Durham's residents. The division is responsible for enforcement of the Fair Housing Ordinance of the City of Durham and the federal Fair Housing Act. HUD provides funding annually for the Division to investigate housing complaints in the City of Durham that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (gender), religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap or familial status (families with children). The Human Relations Division also provides oversight to the City of Durham [Human Relations Commission](#), which is comprised of Durham residents who meet monthly to work on activities designed to improve human relations and promote harmony throughout Durham.

###