

# News Release

For Immediate Release: April 15, 2019

## **Support Providers Ready to Help Durham Businesses Impacted by Gas Explosion**

*Small Business Advisory Committee and NCWorks Hosting Events at  
Downtown's Chesterfield Building*

DURHAM, N.C. – Durham businesses and employees impacted by the recent gas explosion at 115 North Duke Street on April 10 can learn more about resources available to assist in their recovery.

The City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Small Business Advisory Committee, and Durham NC Works Career Center will hold a series of joint sessions to offer information about support services available to those affected by the tragic gas explosion.

Business owners, including home-based business owners residing at West Village, non-profits and freelancers, can meet with business counselors at [Durham Tech's Small Business Center](#) at The Chesterfield Building, located at 701 W. Main St., on Monday, April 15 through Thursday, April 18 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Employees and employers can also receive assistance from Monday, April 15 through Wednesday, April 17 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the NCWorks Career Center, located at 1105 S. Briggs Ave. NCWorks Career Center staff will be available to provide support and services, including: career development and counseling; specialized employment services; re-employment services; unemployment insurance benefits guidance; training programs; hiring and recruitment; and résumé assistance.

Andre Pettigrew, director of the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, said that this team is eager and ready to mobilize Durham's ecosystem of business assistance partners for Brightleaf District businesses impacted by the explosion. "We look forward to working with our business community and their employees to get them back into operations efficiently and effectively."

The City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development team is also in contact with the Kaffeinatè Café employees and other affected people to assist them with their employment and service needs. Businesses and residents that want stay up-to-date on the latest career and employment resources available for those affected by the explosion should visit the Office of Economic and Workforce Development [webpage](#).

### **About the City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development**

Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the [Office of Economic and Workforce Development](#) helps ensure that Durham has a strong and diverse economy by increasing the city's tax base through several revitalization initiatives, including new development efforts in the central city area. The department also plans and promotes cultural awareness and events, identifies and recruits target industries as well as assesses and trains Durham residents to fill new jobs.

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