By-Laws Of

CITY OF DURHAM RACIAL EQUITY TASK FORCE

ARTICLE I. NAME AND OFFICES

Section 1. The name of this committee shall be the City of Durham Racial Equity Task Force (hereinafter “Task Force”).

Section 2. The principal office of the Task Force shall be located at 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701

ARTICLE II.

Section 1. MISSION: As our city continues to grow and our communities experience greater prosperity, it is more important than ever to ensure that no one is being left behind. Many of the inequalities that exist here in Durham are the direct result of a long history of institutional and structural racism in this country, this state, and this city. It is important for us to learn to see the ways in which racism has shaped our institutions and begin to undo and repair these lasting impacts. The Task Force will focus exclusively on this issue and provide additional capacity within the city to develop and implement recommendations.

Section 2. FUNCTIONS: The goal of the Task Force will engage with the broader Durham community to address issues of racial equity. The Task Force will accomplish this goal by:

1) Educating the public about the racially inequitable circumstances and outcomes that exist in Durham;

2) Researching and collecting public opinion on models, policy changes, and social interventions to address racial inequity that represent current best practices, have been successful in other cities, or that we expect would be successful in Durham;

3) Making policy and funding recommendations to the city, other governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, local businesses, and the community at-large to address racial inequity.
ARTICLE III. NON-POLITICAL/NON-SECTARIAN ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The Task Force shall be non-political and shall not support any political party or candidate for public office. The organization shall not directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Section 2. The Task Force shall be a non-sectarian organization. No member shall be remunerated for services, other than the reimbursement for expenses actually incurred in the discharge of official duties by members of the organization.

Section 3. The Task Force shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or disability.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Task Force shall consist of one Chairperson and twelve other members for a total of thirteen members. All members of the Task Force, including the Chairperson, shall be appointed by the City Council.

Section 2. Each member of the Task Force must either have completed a racial equity training program within the past five years from the date of submission of the application to serve on the Task Force or complete a racial equity training program within two months after being appointed to the Task Force. The City will consider scholarship requests to offset the costs of completing a racial equity training program to fulfill this requirement.

Section 3. All prospective members of the Task Force shall reside within the City limits of Durham.

Section 4. The City Council shall appoint one of its own members to serve as a liaison to the Task Force.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

The task force shall consist of 13 members. The City Council shall designate one of its members as chairperson of the Task Force who shall also be a member of the Task Force. The City Council will also appoint the 12 remaining members of the task force. Prospective members shall reside within the City limits of Durham.
Section 1. Task Force meetings will occur once a month at a time and place to be determined by the Task Force members. The Task Force may hold meetings more frequently if necessary.

Section 2. Members will receive the agenda via e-mail, prior to the monthly meeting. All meetings will be open to the public and will be pre-announced through the City Clerk’s Office. Individuals wishing to be heard may do so and the amount of time each individual will be allotted will depend on the amount of persons wishing to be heard at any given meeting.

ARTICLE VI. TERMINATION. It is anticipated that the Task Force shall complete its mission within one year of the initial appointment of its members.

ARTICLE VI. FUNDS

Section 1. No City funds will be apportioned to support the functions of the Task Force. It is anticipated that from time to time, the Task Force may require collaboration with City administrative staff to support the mission of the Task Force.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Task Force by a two-thirds vote of those members present, providing that a notice of the proposed amendment shall be distributed to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting. All bylaw amendments shall be subject to City Council approval.