

**DURHAM RECOVERY AND RENEWAL TASK FORCE  
TASK FORCE VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Friday, February 12, 2021

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

**MINUTES**

**Task Force Members**

Steve Schewel, Mayor City of Durham  
Brenda Howerton, Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners  
Katie Galbraith, Task Force Co-Chair, President, Duke Regional Hospital  
Maticia Sims, Task Force Co-Chair, Vice President and Corporate Controller, Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC  
Ibukun Akinboyo, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Duke Health  
Susan Amey, CEO, Discover Durham  
Ed Boyd, Chief Strategy Office, iNvictus  
Chanelle ‘C.C’ Croxton, North Carolina State Organizer, National Domestic Workers Alliance  
Dr. Herbert Reynolds Davis, Senior Pastor, Nehemiah Church  
Lois DeLoatch, Executive Vice President, Self-Help  
Geoff Durham, Durham Chamber of Commerce  
George Habel, Vice President, Capitol Broadcasting Company  
Philip Harewood, CEO, Lincoln Community Health Center  
Rodney Jenkins, Health Director, Durham County Department of Public Health  
Jodi Miller, Deputy County Manager, Durham County Government, representing the Emergency Operations Center  
Anthony Nelson, Dean, North Carolina Central University School of Business  
Pilar Rocha-Goldberg, President and CEO, El Centro Hispano  
Nicole Thompson, CEO, Downtown Durham Inc

**Call to Order**

Co-Chair Katie Galbraith called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Priority Updates**

Mayor Schewel announced he received his first vaccination shot and was scheduled to receive his second shot. He also thanked Co-Chair Galbraith and Geoff Durham for a successful Virtual 2021 Durham Chamber Annual Meeting.

Mayor Schewel stated he received the results from the Joint City-County Residence Satisfaction Survey; adding 637 residents responded and it was an exact replication of the racial and gender demographics of Durham. He explained the average satisfaction response was 37 percent and Durham received 69

percent satisfaction, 19 percent neutral and 12 percent dissatisfaction. He thanked the task force for their hard work and assistance with the positive results.

Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated the Joint City-County Residence Satisfaction Survey showed 87 percent of Durham residents were mask compliant. She announced the City and County received 7 million dollars for rental assistance and was working to develop a process to best distribute those funds. Vice-Chair Jacobs added Governor Cooper's signed budget included about 9 million dollars for the City and County of Durham for rental assistance along with \$335 for families. She stated the task force could assist with informing residents most in need.

Co-Chair Maticia Sims stated the Budget Review subcommittee received and reviewed four (4) budget proposals:

- funding to continue the Back on the Bull Public Health Campaign
- funding to start a Vaccination Navigation Program along with ongoing Townhall series
- funding for a rental assistance program
- funding to establish a new commission to support a safe return to festival in 2021.

She added the Budget Review subcommittee approved the Back on the Bull Public Health Campaign to move forward for funding and was holding off on the advancement of the other proposals. Co-Chair Sims stated the proposal for half of the funding of \$75,000 was presented to City Council at the February 4<sup>th</sup> Work Session meeting and was on the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval. She added the proposal would be presented to the County Commissioners at the March 1<sup>st</sup> Work Session meeting for the other half of the \$75,000 funding.

Co-Chairs Sims stated the Education Roundtable was appreciative of sharing information at the meetings and added at the last meeting, there was discussion of extending an invitation to charter and private schools to join the conversation.

Co-Chair Galbraith announced the Immigrant and Refugee Townhall had an upcoming meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-9 p.m.

Member Croxton provided updates on the Workers Townhall regarding the development of a project to survey workers on COVID-19 impacts, workers financial status, workplace responses to the pandemic and a townhall to share workers stories. She announced she was able to engage workers through Durham Workers Right Commission and developed a proposal for the Budget Review subcommittee. Member DeLoatch inquired about the best source for survey information and services available. Member Posada responded Community Health workers, social media, and radio. Member Croxton added digital outreach, networking, and word of mouth were also best sources.

### **RRFT Update and Discussion on current COVID-19 cases statistics and vaccine distribution**

Co-Chair Galbraith shared the hospital stats which included the following:

- 166 total cases
- 76 active cases
- 42 critical cases
- 89,000 total vaccination doses with 52,546 of the doses given to patients
- Vaccinations available at primary care clinics and pop-up vaccination sites

Member Jenkins provide the following update:

- 21,002 total cases since the pandemic began
- 197 total deaths
- 88 seven (7) day leading average, which was a decrease from the previous week of 137
- 17.3 percent for Latinx, 35 percent for Afro-American and 33.3 percent for Caucasian
- Walgreens in Durham was providing 1100 vaccination shots per week by appointment
- Vaccine supplies were low nationwide

Member Akinboyo stated the virus required people to replicate and if people helped control the spread, there would be less variants of the virus.

Vice-Chair Jacobs inquired about people who cancelled vaccination appointments and those on the waitlist cancelling due to getting the vaccine at other locations. Member Jenkins responded the vaccine was without borders and people were searching around to find locations to get vaccinated. He added the County was using Everbridge technology and had reduced the waitlist from 11,000 to 3,000 people. Vice-Chair Jacobs asked about the Community Health Centers who received direct allocated vaccine doses. Member Harewood replied only 25 centers nationally received direct doses and none were in North Carolina.

Member Harewood provide the following update on the Lincoln Community Center:

- 975 total vaccinations given with 155 for staff and 820 for patients
- 65 percent of vaccinations given to Afro-American and five (5) percent were given to Caucasian
- 300 vaccinations given per week
- 67 percent of contacted patients wanted the vaccination

Member Habel inquired about the total number and percentage of people in Durham vaccinated. Member Jenkins responded he would compile the data and provide it to the task force.

### **Update from Economic Recovery Subcommittee**

Member Durham and Member Amey shared the *Economic Recovery Committee Report* which highlighted the following: Economic Indications and Next Steps, Update on Current Initiatives, Percent Change in Time Spent Outside Home, Percent Change in All Consumer Spending, Percent Change in Small Business Revenue, Percent Change in Number of Small Businesses Open, Percent Change in Employment, Durham Hotel Room Demand, Likely Drivers and A Few Economic Recovery Initiatives.

Mayor Schewel inquired about promoting local retailers online and possibly setting up a website. Member Amey responded Downtown Durham, Inc promoted local retailers and would research the idea of the creating a website.

Vice-Chair Jacobs asked about recommendations for unemployment training and recovery, funding for the hospitality industry and guidance for closed small businesses; as well as those businesses not able to pay rent for commercial properties. Member Amey stated there was a need to encourage people to support and shop at local businesses. Member Durham added economic development was working to bring residents from surrounding counties to visit Durham and spend money at local businesses.

### **Updates and Discussion: RRTE Roundtables**

Member Davis stated he was working with worship locations to become vaccination sites and was excited to have more places of worship join the roundtable. He added he was also working to draft a

letter to encourage people to get vaccinated.

Member Amey shared that she asked local influencers in Durham to take the Back on the Bull Pledge and submit a video on the website to get more people in the community to take the vaccination. She stated she was hoping to get \$75,000 from the City and \$75,000 from the County for a total of \$150,000 to help fund the pledge and campaign. Mike Gerson, Programmer provided a preview of the pledge and videos of local leaders on the Back on the Bull website. Member Amey encouraged all members to take the pledge and wanted a diverse group of people to take the pledge. Member Posada stated he was working with the Latinx community to take the pledge.

Co-Chair Sims stated the UNC Health Ambassadors had provided documents to the members containing information on progress, staffing, training, and partnerships. She encouraged members to review the documents.

### **Open Discussion**

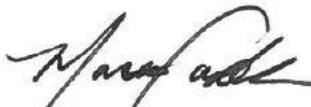
Member DeLoatch asked how the task force could support schools. Mayor Schewel responded the legislation was with the General Assembly, discussing the option to open schools and if approved, they could be opened within 30days. He added the legislation did not apply to private and charter schools. Member Akinboyo stated resources funneled into the school system, creating flexibility, and reducing COVID-19 cases were important for a successful return to in-person schooling. Vice-Chair Jacobs added Governor Cooper signed a bill which included \$40 million dollars for Durham Public Schools to help cover COVID related expenses. Co-Chair Galbraith stated management of the expectations for the vaccine were needed to be able to provide school employees vaccinations. Member Jenkins added the County was hoping for extra allocations of the vaccine for school employees but would have to manage with the current supply.

Chair Howerton thanked all the members for their work. Member Posada stated he was working to provide vaccines for the Latinx community and also food distribution for anyone in need. Co-Chair Sims asked for members to submit any budget proposals for review.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton  
County Deputy Clerk