

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

Friday, April 9, 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 meeting.

Priority Updates

Chair Howerton highlighted the following: The City of Durham for using funds to assist with homeless, We Are Ready for Life (W.A.R.4Life) for having mobile units in the community providing vaccinations and the Building Up Local Life Sciences (BULLS) for addressing the local need for growing life sciences training and careers. She also thanked churches in Durham for be sites in the community for vaccinations. Chair Howerton announced the Durham Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) Hunger Walk was planned on April 10 – 18, 2021.

Mayor Schewel stated he was thankful to work with the Durham Recovery and Renewal Task Force

(RRTF) over the last year and asked that residents contact Anna Davis, Assistant City Attorney to report over capacity crowd gatherings at local night locations in Durham. He announced the City received \$50 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act and stated staff was determining how to allocate those funds; adding some of the funds would be used for community needs and to cover gaps in the budget. He discussed concerns with economic recovery and vaccine equity, stating he was glad to see the schools in Durham were doing well with the return to in-person learning.

Co-Chair Galbraith announced the Education Roundtable discussed plans for school and college graduation and were planning for a fall return. She added North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and Duke University were planning for in-person graduations with a student only attendance. Co-Chair Galbraith stated Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) were still deciding on graduation plans and The School of Science and Math were planning an outside graduation with limited guest. She also noted NCCU and DTCC continued to be community vaccination sites.

Co-Chair Galbraith added some members and roundtables planned to continue meeting after the RRTF ended.

Member Croxton announced the Durham COVID-19 Impact Survey would close on Sunday, April 11, 2021. She added over 1500 residents responded to the survey and the results would be presented at a Town Hall meeting with comments allowed.

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

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

- 84 total cases
- 46 active cases
- 212,000 total vaccination doses
- Concerns about a fourth wave and new virus variants
- Wheel Fun Center Roller Rink transformed into a vaccination site with the ability to provide 1000 shots a day
- Focused on vaccination equity and community connections in the LatinX community

Member Jenkins provide the following update:

- 387 active cases
- 220 total deaths
- 45 seven (7) day leading average, which was a decrease from the previous week of 49
- 12.2 percent for LatinX, 55.9 percent for Afro-American and 19 percent for Caucasian
- 24.3 percent were fully vaccinated in Durham
- Worked with partners to make sure the vaccine was equitable and fair
- Provided the homeless population an opportunity to get vaccinated

Member Akinboyo stated clinical trials were being conducted on children and hoped to have a vaccination soon for youth younger than 16 years of age.

Member Harewood provided the following update on Lincoln Community Center:

- 5000 total vaccinations given to the public
- 80 percent of vaccinations were given to Afro-Americans and the LatinX community

- Focus on creating access to provide healthcare to all in the community
- Noted that the public does not have to be a Lincoln Community Center patient to receive vaccination

Mr. Jenkins and Member Akinboyo reiterated the Johnson and Johnson vaccination was safe and effective.

Economic Recovery 2.0

Member Durham stated he continued to help displaced and unemployed workers and also supported existing and new businesses. He explained entrepreneurs continued to choose Durham as their start-up location.

Susan Amey, President and CEO of Discover Durham stated the Durham Delivers program was successful for independent Durham restaurants and planned to be continued. She encouraged residents to safely support local businesses for economic recovery. Ms. Amey stated discussions began about festival and events returning to Durham when safe and the need for financial support. She added Discover Durham was working on proposals to include market planning for the Convention Center, the Durham Armory, the Durham Arts Council and the Carolina Theatre; adding the Workforce Development issues included in-person job fairs, workers making more on unemployment than being employed and hard to fill jobs. Ms. Amey continued to say a proposal would be presented for a Re-Discover Durham campaign to attract people who were making travel plans to visit Durham.

Member Thompson explained Downtown Durham, Incorporated (DDI) pivoted at the beginning of the pandemic to be the point of location and information provider for downtown Durham. She added DDI purchased chairs and tables to loan to businesses to use for outside dining. Ms. Thompson stated The Streeetry moved around downtown Durham to allow more businesses to be included and would be held every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month through October 2021. She noted Durham lost 22 small businesses, a few minority businesses and Morgan Imports during the pandemic.

Member DeLoatch inquired about Brightleaf Square renovations and businesses leaving due to an increase in rent prices. Member Thompson responded she received calls about business closures in Brightleaf Square and assisted some businesses with relocation instead of permanent closure.

Andrew Pettigrew, Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, City of Durham shared a preview of the presentation he would share at the Joint City-County meeting on the Durham Small Business Recovery Program. He explained the importance of improving access to capital, markets, technical assistance and changing the focus from macro to micro for small businesses. Mr. Pettigrew stated some business would need a new model to operate successfully at 50 percent capacity/revenues and stressed the needed focus on minority and LatinX businesses.

Mr. Pettigrew provided the following update on the Small Business Fund:

- \$1.5 million dollars in grants provided to over 200 local businesses
- \$670,000 dollars available for unsecured loans and business having up to nine years to repay
- 66 percent of businesses helped with grants were minority owned and 57 percent were women owned
- 72 percent of business helped with loans were minority owned and 53 percent were women owned

- 90 percent of businesses employed less than 25 employees
- Many of the minority businesses helped did not have a previous banking relationship

Andy Miracle, Economic Development Officer, Durham County stated Durham saw a large recruitment in biotechnology companies and 39 percent of life Sciences companies in North Carolina were located in Durham. He added work was being done to raise awareness of biotechnology and life sciences careers with advertising on City buses to visit the website, a training program at Durham Technical Community College and entry-level positions/internships.

Discussion on the Future of RRTF's Work

Member Durham stated economic development was a team effort. He added different organizations and governmental institutions were working together; however, it was not fully coordinated for all to be successful. Member Durham recommended the Economic Recovery Board and Forum continue after the end of the RRTF.

Mayor Schewel explained the importance for the continuance of the Economic Recovery Board and Forum. He added the City received a fellowship position from FUSE CORPS and would work with the Economic Recovery Board and Forum.

Vice-Chair Jacobs recommended the schools, businesses, refugees, vulnerable and religious roundtables to continue meeting after the RRTF ended; adding, the roundtables could provide an opportunity to address systemic racism. Co-Chair Sims stated the Education Roundtables continuation could be discussed at the May 14th meeting.

Co-Chair Sims explained she started discussions about work being continued after the RRTF ended, adding the Economic Development and Budget Proposals would still need to continue and recommended the taskforce setup a system. Co-Chair Sims stated she hoped to have a proposal for the May 14th meeting.

Susan Amey, President and CEO of Discover Durham stated the Back on the Bull Campaign was scheduled to continue through the middle of May 2021 and expressed she would like for the website to remain active as long as needed so important information could be shared. Member Jenkins stated residents live in the moment and the website could remind residents of important information.

Ms. Amey stated she wanted to submit the Back on the Bull Campaign for rewards. She added a small amount of funding would be required to submit the campaign; however, that information may not be available before the last meeting.

Open Discussion

Member DeLoatch asked that the best practices and information be saved to build a collaboration moving forward. She asked for the documents to be shared and released. Member DeLoatch recommended all members of the RRTF meet in person and celebrate at a later date when it is safe and possible.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton
County Deputy Clerk

DRAFT