

**Proclamation
Of Equality Week in the City of Durham**

WHEREAS, the City of Durham is known for the rich diversity of its citizen population; and

WHEREAS, our City has placed a priority on being both truthful about the differences that sometimes threaten to divide us, and been vigorous in reaching out to bridge those differences with compassion; and

WHEREAS, our City has attracted remarkable people to live here because of our commitment not just to tolerance and equality, but to true inclusion, and the City has prospered and been resilient both socially and economically in tough times in part due to this diversity; and

WHEREAS, this honest commitment to equality under law for all people has been a source of strength for us as a City, but we recognize that our work to fully realize this commitment is not yet done; and

WHEREAS, both within and outside of our City, in our state and in our nation, the great debate continues on whether our Constitution's foundational commitment of equality under law is truly a covenant to be kept with all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we encourage our Sister Cities, particularly Kostroma, Russia, to visit Durham and see the social, economic and quality of life benefits for all of our community which result from supporting diversity; we welcome them to take part in our continuing dialogue about the true meaning of equality; and we urge them to take all necessary measures to implement both legal equality and social inclusion in their own communities, including freedom of expression; and

WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington occurred on August 28, 2013, and the echoes of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" address still reverberate within us; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durham is proud to host the North Carolina Pride Parade and Festival September 28th, 2013, with people from all of our state walking down Durham's Main Street to both celebrate the progress of lesbian, gay and transgender people toward full equality, and call attention to the many remaining areas of law in which the LGBT community's dreams of full equality under law remain unfulfilled; and

WHEREAS, many members of the City Council and the Mayor intend to march in the Pride Parade; and

WHEREAS, Durham's Annual Latino Festival will take place September 28th, 2013, sharing the vibrant traditions and folklore of our Latino and Hispanic neighbors with all of Durham;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Durham hereby recognizes the key role that diversity and inclusion has played in creating our prosperity and unique sense of place, and declares the week of September 23 through 29 to be City of Durham Diversity Week; and

THE MAYOR shall deliver a copy of this proclamation to Durham's Sister Cities, and the mayor of Kostroma, Russia.

This the ____ day of _____, 2013.