D U R H A M
Environmental Affairs Board

Durham City-County Planning Department ▪ 101 City Hall Plaza ▪ Durham, NC 27701

January 23, 2015

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Durham City Council
City of Durham
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Re: Durham Environmental Affairs Board Recommendations for Sustaining a Healthy Urban Forest in Durham

Dear Durham City Council Members,

At the request of the Durham City Council, the Durham City-County Environmental Affairs Board (EAB) has evaluated the future health of Durham's urban forest. The EAB has determined that in order for the City of Durham to maintain the approximate canopy coverage from trees on public property, 1680 trees must be planted and 750 trees must be safely removed each year for the next 20 years. Current tree replacement operations support the planting of only 500 trees and the removal of only 300 potentially hazardous dead/dying trees per year. Without additional resources, the City faces the reduction in the quality of life, economic, ecological, and human health benefits for its current and future citizens.

The EAB recommends that the Durham City Council allocate resources to facilitate the planting of at least 1680 trees per year, the removal of the 750 aging trees per year, and the proper maintenance of all trees on public property in Durham.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Chan
Chair, Durham Environmental Affairs Board

cc: EAB members
Steven L. Medlin, Planning Department Director