



## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**City of Durham**  
**Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**  
*(Each committee member received a personal secure meeting link)*  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**February 27, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**

**CAC Wiki Page - <https://sites.google.com/view/cac-wiki/home>**  
**[\(136\) Durham Citizens Advisory Committee \(CAC\) – February 27, 2023](#)** (YouTube recording)

The Durham Citizens Advisory Committee met on the above date and time with the following members present: Valon Alford, Ahmed Ali, Robert Brown, Lea Efird-Green (Secretary), Reshockie Furnace, Alexa Hartenstein, Sherard Johnson, Amy Jones, Seth Kandl, Brian Langloss (Chair), Ann Rebeck

**Others Present:** Reginald Johnson (Staff), Terri Porter Holmes (Staff), Michael Pullum (Staff), Chezney UpChurch (Staff), Monique Holsey-Hyman (Council Liaison)

**Excused:** Rachel Eberhard, Carl Newman (Vice Chair)

**Unexcused:** Richard LaBennett

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### 6:04p – Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order by Chairman Langloss
- Roll call completed by Secretary Efird-Green

### 6:05 p – Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

- Minutes were approved for the January meeting

### 6:06 p – Introductions

- Chezney UpChurch, new Community Development staff liaison, introduced herself
- Sherard Johnson, new CAC member, introduced himself

### 6:08 p – Neighborhood Stabilization Update – Mr. Michael Pullum

- Down Payment Assistance Program – helps community members get a second mortgage in order to provide more opportunity for low-income homebuyers
  - Near launch and managed by the Community Trust
- Eviction Diversion Program – partner with Legal Aid of NC to help renters that are on the verge of eviction
  - Negotiates with landlord to find a solution to keep the renter in the unit (for example, negotiating arrears payments)
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program - \$6.5 million in US Treasury Funds to help community members stay in their housing during the pandemic





- Minor Repair and Substantial Rehab Program – provide up to \$9,500 to minor repairs to bring homes up to code or provide between \$35,000 and \$50,000 for major rehab for older adults (62 and older) and people with disabilities of any age
  - Habitat for Humanity administers the minor repair program and takes applications for the major rehab program
- Longtime Homeowner Grant Program – assists older adults with property taxes through reimbursing them for part of their tax payment
  - Was successful for three years, but is being concluded in favor of other programs due to limited programming
  - The City currently continues to Durham County’s ongoing, similar program
- NC Construction Training Program – partners with NC Housing Finance Agency and the NC Homebuilders Association to train lower-income individuals in construction trades
- DPS Promoting Academic Learning Program – launched last year and hope to repeat; focuses on low-income elementary school students with academic challenges (absenteeism, learning loss) and provides support, including free tutoring and field trips
- Department is currently in the process of considering:
  - RFPs for City-owned surplus properties – will provide City land and the financing necessary to construct affordable housing units
  - Non-profit small-scale affordable housing developments
  - Southside Community – examining options for housing at a City-owned property (Beamon Assemblage), with a strong community engagement component with current residents

#### **6:45 p – Community Development Update – Mr. Reginald J. Johnson**

- Currently hiring for 12 vacancies – 3-4 will be filled within the next couple of weeks
- Submitted department budget to the City Manager
- Working on financial assessment of the Forever Home, Durham program
  - Will share with CAC once approved by City Manager

#### **6:47 p – Board Discussion and Other Business**

- Community Development Week (April 10-15)
  - Note: April 10<sup>th</sup> is a DPS school holiday (Easter Monday)
  - Plans:
    1. Community engagement event that focuses on providing information on department and subgrantee programs
      - Focus on community gatekeepers and stakeholders to help with further distributing the information
      - Could be the pilot for an eventual resource fair, or tabling at other community events
    2. Board “retreat”
      - Would still be considered a public meeting
  - Funding would be spent on informational materials and retreat
- Subcommittee: Sherard (lead), Carl, Reshockie, Amy, Alexa, Valon

#### **7:20 p – Public Comments or Questions**

- The public asked about the RFP application process (Diane Adams, Donna Frederick, Linda Morris)

#### **7:23 p – Announcements**

- None



### 7:24 p – Meeting Adjourned

- Motion requested by Chairman Langloss; meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:24 PM

### Attachments:

- None

