

**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY, MAY 26, 2022  
10:00 A.M.**

The Durham City Council met in the Council Chambers at 101 City Hall Plaza at the above time and date for a Special Meeting of a Budget Work Session with the following members present: Mayor Elaine O’Neal, Mayor Pro Tempore Mark-Anthony Middleton and Council Members DeDreana Freeman, Javiera Caballero, Monique Holsey-Hyman, Jillian Johnson and Leonardo Williams. Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Wanda Page, City Attorney Kim Rehberg, and City Clerk Diana Schreiber.

**[CALL TO ORDER]**

Mayor O’Neal called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence for the children who lost their lives in a mass shooting that occurred in Uvalde, Texas.

**[OPENING REMARKS]**

John Allore, Director of Budget and Management Services, provided an outline of the flow of the meeting and encouraged Council to ask questions when and where they needed to.

**[POLICE DEPARTMENT]**

Police Chief Patrice Andrews presented on the Police Department and spoke to the following: Violent crimes (544); clearance rates; solvability of cases; response times to 911 calls; shot spotter 1-year pilot program; 677 full time staff members; the organizational structure of the department; community outreach efforts; funding needs for forensics; and described the different units and what they do.

Mayor O’Neal thanked Chief Andrews for her presentation and looked forward to the collaboration with Duke University on analyzing the data from Shot Spotter.

Council Member Johnson asked what metrics would be used to compare the control zone to the Shot Spotter zone.

Chief Andrews replied that frequency of calls, call types, and shootings would be used for evaluating; however, the department had not determined what “success” would look like.

Council Member Johnson expressed concerns regarding the pilot and thought it best for the department to know what they were looking for in terms of success prior to deployment of the pilot.

Council Member Freeman asked a clarifying question regarding the storage fees for seized guns and their ability to be discarded.

Chief Andrews stated that the guns were not allowed to be destroyed only stored.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton expressed his support for the Shot Spotter pilot and noted that he invited the CEO of Shot Spotter to speak before Council on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Hyman also expressed support for Shot Spotter and advocated for the evaluation of the data as it pertained to Durham.

Council Member Caballero asked Chief Andrews for data further back than 2017; asked for arrest data on people that were experiencing mental health episodes; and stated that she was not in support of Shot Spotter.

Council Member Hyman focused on the police staffing numbers and inquired on how the department was addressing retention rates.

Chief Andrews stated that the department was collaborating with various universities to start learning about law enforcement.

Council Member Johnson stated that the metrics she was looking for as it pertained to Shot Spotter were the reduction in violent crimes and locating guns fired.

Council Member Williams asked for the cost of Shot Spotter.

Chief Andrews stated it was \$197,500 for the year with 3 months being free.

Council Member Williams asked if there were any demographics on the people committing gun violence.

Chief Andrews stated that they had information regarding arrestees and could provide that information to Council at a future date.

Council Member Williams asked if there were any other resources that the City was investing in to curb the violent behavior.

Chief Andrews stated that the Durham Police Department partnered with city departments and victim advocate programs to impact the youth.

Council Member Williams asked if there was any funding toward the Community Safety Department.

City Manager Page noted that the Community Safety Department was requesting \$4.7 million dollars in the current budget cycle.

Council Member Williams recounted the loss of one of his former 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who was a victim of gun violence. He expressed support for both the Community Safety Department and Shot Spotter.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton resisted the notion that Shot Spotter should be evaluated to reduce violent crime and that the technology was more geared toward accuracy and saving lives.

Mayor O'Neal encouraged Council to disagree respectfully with one another; expressed her support for Shot Spotter; and recounted how gun violence had affected her.

Mayor O'Neal asked City Attorney Rehberg to speak on public comments being permitted at Budget Work Sessions.

City Attorney Rehberg stated that public comments at Budget Work Sessions had not been past practice and advised residents to speak at the upcoming Public Hearing on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**[FIRE DEPARTMENT]**

Fire Chief Robert Zoldos presented on the Fire Department and spoke to the following: Number of responses to various calls; staffing levels; organizational structure; fire prevention; performance measures; retention challenges; hands on training; requests for funding; and ongoing initiatives.

Council Member Johnson inquired about the EMS Accreditations.

Chief Zoldos stated that the department was working in conjunction with the County for advanced training.

Council Member Hyman asked about the EMS fees she was hearing about from concerned residents.

Chief Zoldos advised that the EMS fees were charged by Durham County.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton asked about the 'two in two out' rule.

Chief Zoldos stated that the rule was a National Fire Protection Agency Standard that called for two staff members to be outside at all times while two staff members were inside, except if they had reason to believe people were trapped inside. He also advised that vertical response time was a challenge.

**[COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT]**

Director Ryan Smith presented on the Fire Department and spoke to the following: Staffing levels; various milestones; training courses; pending pilot programs; community partnerships; organizational structure; performance measures; safety measures; and follow up care to non-violent calls.

Council Member Johnson expressed her support for the item and asked for more information on the hiring needs for the pilot programs.

Mr. Smith stated that the department had recently hired clinicians and an EMT and that there was more recruitment happening.

Council Member Johnson asked Mr. Smith and City Manager Page for their visions on the expansion of the department.

Mr. Smith stated that increased pilots that would run city wide was his vision for the department.

City Manager Page stated that her recommendation was for the department to succeed; however, priority was placed on the positions needed to launch the pilot programs in the targeted areas of the city.

Council Member Johnson expressed concern that the funding could have been depleted after the pilot timeframe.

Council Member Hyman suggested expanding the educational and professional background requirements to eliminate hiring barriers. She also asked who was providing the training to the new staff.

Mr. Smith stated that the department partnered with various agencies for different trainings.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton expressed his commitment to the department's success and echoed reassured them that if additional funds were needed, then they would have them, even if it was outside of the budget cycle.

Council Member Freeman expressed her support for the item and interest in the training of staff.

Council Member Williams expressed his support for the item and thanked Council Member Hyman for her expertise on the subject. He also asked if there was a proactive approach to curbing the violence in the city.

Mr. Smith responded that the pilots were occurring in response to crisis that had already happened.

Mayor O'Neal expressed concerns for mental health in the black community and the lack of resources that were available to help people. She also asked Mr. Smith to speak to the disconnect between minority residents in distress and having providers that look like them.

Mr. Smith stated that there would be all types of staff that had varying degrees of lived experience.

Council Member Freeman encouraged an interconnectivity with other departments within the city to gather information that could be helpful toward equitable engagement.

**[TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT]**

Director of Transportation Sean Egan presented a Budget Presentation for FY22:92 FTEs and spoke on the following: Construction Projects, Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects, Planning and Engineering, Performance Measures Pedestrian Signals, ADA Ramps, Bike/Walk projects implementation, Transit Fund, Grants,

Council Member Williams asked about parking signs/spaces for City Workers.

Mr. Egan stated that there would be a voucher program introduced that would reduce the monthly parking fee by half based on the federal poverty level.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton expressed his thoughts on the subject of Transportation within the City of Durham. He was also pleased with the success of the department when as it pertained to their operations being successful. He asked about how the project in Bragtown concluded with community engagement.

Mr. Egan stated that he wanted to implement equitable infrastructure through research and current projects and that the Equitable score helped to predict which direction to go when it comes to new projects.

Mayor O'Neal expressed her thanks to the Department of Transportation on their work together. She asked about the open ride of ATV's on the main roads and could there be a process to create a space for them to ride safely.

Mr. Egan stated that there were speedways across North Carolina that riders could ride safely, but no local areas. He stated there may be opportunity to collaborate with Parks and Recreation to create a space.

Council Member Freeman shared her thoughts on some acres in the East Durham area that could be used for riding.

Mr. Egan stated that there was a tour with Congressman Price to review areas for this subject matter. He stated that a project was not approved last year and was still being pursued for approval.

Council Member Williams asked for a brief overview on the Transit Sales Tax and how are the funds utilized.

Mr. Egan spoke on the MPO project; a way for the federal government to disperse funds for the local government in Regions to participate in that funding. He stated that in order for the federal government funds to be approved by the MPO.

Council Member Williams asked how much was in the fund balance, and wanted to know how that funding was determined.

Mr. Egan stated that there are twenty-five votes on the plan, with three of the votes being represented on the City Council. The City Council has two of the ten votes on the MPO, the mayor has ten votes on the GoTriangle board, with City Council having no votes on the third portion with the county and commissioners.

**[CLOSING REMARKS]**

Director of Budget and Management Services John Allore stated that the presentations from Solid Waste, Parks and Recreation, General Services, and Public Works would be presented on the reserved day of June 9<sup>th</sup> before the Work Session.

City Manager Page thanked all that attended and made presentations in regards to the proposed Budget. She stated that she looked forward to hearing from the others on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**[ADJOURNMENT]**

Seeing no additional business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Ashley Wyatt, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk

Diana Schreiber, CMC  
City Clerk