

**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

The Durham City Council met at Monument of Faith Church, 900 Simmons Street, Durham NC 27701 at the above time and date to conduct a conversation with the Hayti Community with the following members present: Mayor Elaine O’Neal, Mayor Pro Tempore Mark-Anthony Middleton and Council Members Javiera Caballero, DeDreana Freeman and Monique Holsey- Hyman.

Also Present: City Manager Wanda Page, City Attorney Kim Rehberg, Deputy City Clerk Ashley Wyatt and Anthony Scott, CEO of the Durham Housing Authority.

**[CALL TO ORDER]**

Mayor O’Neal called the meeting to order; asked each Council Member present to introduce themselves to the audience; and called on City Attorney Rehberg to make opening remarks.

**[OPENING REMARKS]**

Attorney Rehberg thanked the public for attending the meeting and provided background on the City of Durham’s role on the current proposal for development of the land at Fayette Place.

Mr. Scott, CEO of the Durham Housing Authority, provided a presentation to the audience. He outlined the timeline of the proposed project since 2002; explained that a previous developer was supposed to develop the land; spoke to the limitations of what could be done with the property; and provided the meeting date scheduled with the developer on June 16, 2022.

**[PUBLIC COMMENTS]**

The following members of the public registered to speak in opposition of the proposal to Fayette Place by the Durham Housing Authority: Ted Williams, Antonio Jones, Jay Giles, Rosa Anderson, Ann Jones, Lisa Jones, Hilda Smite, Faye Calhoun, Michelle Evans, James Chavis, Gwyn Silver, Dewey Willards, Kathy Malloy, Angel Dozier, Shaneta Burns, Mary Seabright, Cathy Rimer-Surles, Kathy Kravenbauch, Anita Neville, Holly Mckoy, Larry Hester, Aidil Ortiz, Gordon Matthewson, Vivian Gunn, Afiya Carter, Denise Hester and Lavonia Allison.

As the basis for their opposition, the residents cited lack of community engagement; past traumas with gentrification in the same area; a mistrust of the government as it pertained to previous developments and promises; current DHA housing being in disarray; residents not being able to afford to live in their own communities; lack of economic wealth; and the new proposal not benefitting legacy residents. It was expressed by several residents that the Durham City Council should have decided what happened to the property.

**[COUNCIL COMMENTS]**

Council Member Caballero had to depart the meeting at 8:20pm. She thanked everyone for their comments and expressed a desire to have more conversations with the community moving forward.

Council Member Freeman recalled how an earlier situation in 2007 with the Golden belt area of Durham is what caused her to get engaged in the community. She thanked residents for their comments and for utilizing their power and stated that she supported equity.

Council Member Holsey-Hyman thanked Mayor O’Neal for organizing the conversation with residents and stated that situational engagement was not good.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton noted that Council did not have absolute authority over the development of the property and called for a balance between what Council was able to do and what residents wanted them to do.

**[CLOSING REMARKS]**

Mr. Scott thanked the residents for their comments and community engagement.

Attorney Rehberg went over restricted covenants; reiterated that the City of Durham did not have the authority to decide what happened with the property because it was not owned by the City; and stated that housing was the objective for the developer of the proposal.

Mayor O’Neal recalled growing up in Durham and how she had seen many communities within the city change. She thanked the residents for attending the meeting and for providing their comments.

**[ADJOURNMENT]**

Seeing no additional business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Ashley Wyatt, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk

Diana Schreiber, CMC  
City Clerk