



# News Release

For Immediate Release: October 10, 2018

## **Durham Seeks Input on South Driver Street Surplus Property**

*Three Community Workshops Set; Online English & Spanish Surveys Now Available*

DURHAM, N.C. – The City of Durham is now seeking resident input in determining what to do with a [surplus City-owned building at 103 S. Driver St.](#) in East Durham.

This vacant building was formerly the home of the City’s Neighborhood Improvement Services Impact Team and Fire Station #3. In order to encourage residents to share their vision for this property, the City’s General Services and Neighborhood Improvement Services Departments are partnering to host three community workshops later this month as well as offering online English and Spanish surveys from now until October 31.

“Earlier this year, the City Council directed us to ask the Durham community about their desired vision for this surplus City property, which is located at the corner of E. Main Street and S. Driver Street,” said Director Steven Hicks with the City’s General Services Department. “Our goal is to facilitate community conversations and listen to our residents’ ideas and concerns about the future of this site. We anticipate collecting input and data over the course of the next month and then providing that information to the City Council to determine the future of this site.”

The three community workshops, which will include a short presentation as well as an opportunity for residents to ask City staff questions and their share thoughts, ideas and concerns, will be held as follows:

- **Workshop 1:** Monday, October 22, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the City’s Neighborhood Improvement Services Department at Golden Belt, 807 E. Main St., Suite 2-300 (Note: meeting will be conducted in English, but Spanish-speaking staff will be available to ensure that Spanish-speaking attendees can participate).
- **Workshop 2:** Tuesday, October 23, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Eastway Elementary School, 610 N. Alston Ave. (English and Spanish workshops provided).
- **Workshop 3:** Saturday, October 27, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the previous home of the City’s Neighborhood Improvement Services Impact Team and Fire Station #3, 103 S. Driver St. (Note: meeting will be conducted in English, but Spanish-speaking staff will be available to ensure that Spanish-speaking attendees can participate).

For residents unable to attend any of these three upcoming workshops, online surveys may also be submitted by October 31 to share their feedback as follows:

- English Questionnaire – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRXDTWZ>
- Spanish Questionnaire – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RXKSTL9>

“I am very proud of the multi-faceted, cross-departmental outreach effort that is being undertaken,” said Director Constance Stancil with the City’s Neighborhood Improvement Services Department. “In addition to hosting several meetings and questionnaires, we will canvass door-to-door in East Durham and provide all materials in both English and Spanish. We are also collecting a variety of new demographic information to ensure our outreach is as fair and equitable as possible, and to ensure all voices are heard.”

For more information, visit the [project webpage](#) or contact Community Engagement Coordinator Jacob Lerner with the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department at 919-560-1647, ext. 34252 or by [email](#) for outreach questions. For real estate questions, contact Special Projects Manager Stacey Poston with the City's General Services Department at (919) 560-4197, ext. 21254 or by [email](#).

### **About the City of Durham General Services Department**

The [General Services Department](#) builds and maintains City properties to make Durham a great place for people to live, work, and play. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department's core functions include the acquisition and sale of properties, design and management of new construction and renovation projects, building maintenance, landscaping and urban forestry services, cemeteries management, sustainability and energy management, cultural and public art program management, and supporting the nonprofit [Keep Durham Beautiful](#).

### **About the City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department**

The [Neighborhood Improvement Services Department](#) works to preserve and improve quality of life conditions for Durham residents, and to encourage active participation in neighborhood redevelopment and public policy and decision-making dialogue. The department is responsible for enforcement of quality of life ordinances and state statutes including the City's Fair Housing Ordinance; Minimum Housing Code; Nonresidential Code; Weedy Lot, Abandoned & Junk Vehicle ordinances; and the State of North Carolina's Unsafe Building Statute. The department's rapid responders, known as the Impact Team, remediate non-compliant housing properties; abate public nuisances, such as graffiti, illegal dumping, and abandoned shopping carts; and conduct neighborhood service projects. The department's Community Engagement staff provides outreach and education to Durham residents and community organizations. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps ensure that Durham has thriving, livable neighborhoods by providing the highest quality of services to engage and educate the community, eradicating blight, ensuring safer neighborhoods and enhancing neighborhood revitalization.

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