

Meeting over Zoom, 12-1pm, Wednesday, September 15.

Attending: Marcia Owen, Mike Sstrom, Andrea (Muffin) Hudson, Jatoia Potts, Dwayne Campbell, James Spiers, Libra Stevens, Jessica Fludd, and Leslie Nydick.

We spent the hour with Durham's Chief Magistrate Elaine Evans. (See separate file for detailed notes. She did not think the Magistrate's office needed more resources and that funding, as well as other policy changes, would come from the North Carolina Office of the Courts, not the county. We did discuss potential areas for improvements to suggest to the Office of the Courts and the District Court. Such as, racial bias training for magistrates, efforts to improve public awareness of how the magistrate court functions, and ways to provide more advice and counsel to defendants and their family members. She agreed with the overall goal of increasing diversion away from jail and that the magistrate appearance was an initial opportunity for that. Magistrate Evans thought some other suggestions from the RT members would not be feasible or necessary to implement.