

## **By-Laws Of**

### **DURHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY & WELLNESS TASK FORCE**

#### **ARTICLE I. NAME AND OFFICES**

Section 1. The name of this committee shall be the Durham Community Safety & Wellness Task Force (hereinafter “Task Force”).

Section 2. The principal office of the Task Force shall be located at 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701.

#### **ARTICLE II.**

Section 1. **MISSION:** A joint, community-led task force charged with examining the public safety & wellness needs of Durham residents and communities, educating residents on existing safety and wellness resources, and providing recommendations for additional programs to enhance public safety and wellness that rely on community-based prevention, intervention, and re-entry services as alternatives to policing and the criminal legal system.

Section 2. **FUNCTIONS:** The duties of the task force are as follows:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing institutional and community-based public safety and wellness resources. Identify community safety needs that are not currently being served and provide recommendations for how to add new resources to fill these gaps;
- Conduct at least three (3) listening sessions in the first ninety (90) days, as well as a public meeting after the release of recommendations, to discuss concerns about safety and wellness, gather information from residents, and educate the public about existing resources;
- Provide public quarterly written reports on action steps and deliverables to all governing bodies.
- Evaluate and make recommendations for the implementation of, or improvements to, the following current and proposed programs to the Durham City Council, the Durham County Board of Commissioners, Durham Public Schools, and the Durham County District Attorney’s Office:

- o The existing school resource officers program, which places a law

enforcement official into every Durham County middle school and high school.

- The existing Durham County drug court, which provides an alternative court system for some drug-related charges.
- An expanded violence interrupter program (Bull City United) which trains formerly justice-involved residents to intervene in situations of violence to prevent escalation -- including a specific domestic violence cohort to focus on intervention and domestic violence cases.
- A new community nonviolence, mental health first aid, and de-escalation training program, focusing on residents who are most likely to be victims or perpetrators of violence.
- A new on-call crisis response, which would allow certain calls for police assistance to be handled by other trained professions such as social workers, crisis counselors, psychiatric nurses, etc.

### ARTICLE III. NON-POLITICAL/NON-SECTARIAN ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The Task Force shall be non-political, shall not support any political party or candidate for public office, and shall NOT take positions on matters of governmental policy or legislation, except for those relevant to its purposes. The organization shall not directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Section 2. The Task Force shall be a non-sectarian organization. No member shall be remunerated for services, other than the reimbursement for expenses actually incurred in the discharge of official duties by members of the organization.

Section 3. The Task Force shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or disability.

### ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force shall consist of 17 members. The Mayor and the Chair of the County Commission shall designate two residents as chairpersons of the Task Force, who shall also be members of the Task Force. Each governing body shall appoint a member as a liaison to the task force. Prospective members shall reside within Durham County.

The City of Durham shall appoint five (5) members with the following expertise:

Public policy (1)

Community organizing (1)  
Justice-involved (1)  
At-large (2)

The County of Durham shall appoint five (5) members with the following expertise:

Parent of a murdered child (1)  
Community organization leader (1)  
Justice involved (1)  
At-large (2)

The Durham Public Schools Board of Education shall appoint five (5) members with the following expertise:

Education (1)  
Youth under age 25 (2)  
At-large (2)

#### ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Task Force meetings will occur once a month at a time and place to be determined by the Task Force members. The Task Force may hold meetings more frequently if necessary.

Section 2. Members will receive the agenda via e-mail, prior to the monthly meeting. All meetings will be open to the public and will be pre-announced through the City Clerk's Office. Individuals wishing to be heard may do so and the amount of time each individual will be allotted will depend on the amount of persons wishing to be heard at any given meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI. COMMUNITY RESOURCE PANEL

A Community Resource Panel shall be formed to assist the work of the Task Force, with the understanding that the Task Force can add members to the Panel as they see fit. The Panel will consist of members from the following entities:

Durham County Sheriff  
Durham Police Chief  
Criminal Justice Resource Center Director  
Durham Public Schools Superintendent  
Public Health Director  
Alliance Behavioral Health Administrator  
Crisis Response Center or Family Justice Center Director  
Juvenile Prevention Council Administrator  
EMS Community Paramedicine Director  
Durham District Attorney  
Durham Department of Social Services

## ARTICLE VII. TERMINATION.

It is anticipated that the Task Force shall complete its mission within twenty-four months of the initial appointment of its members. However, this work is critically important and should be completed with due care and all needed time and attention. In light of that, the Task Force may bring forward short-term actions as appropriate. However, if at the end of twenty-four months, the Task Force has not fully completed its work, the Task Force may by two-thirds vote of the membership add six months to its period of work.

## ARTICLE VIII. FUNDS

Members may receive a stipend for their services. It is anticipated that from time to time, the Task Force may require collaboration with City administrative staff to support the mission of the Task Force.

## ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Task Force by a two-thirds vote of those members present, providing that a notice of the proposed amendment shall be distributed to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting. All bylaw amendments shall be subject to City Council approval.