



Official Position Statement on the City of Durham's Affordable Housing Bond
October 17, 2019

Downtown Durham, Inc., downtown's advocate and champion for more than 25 years, endorses the City of Durham's \$95 million Affordable Housing Bond. As we see a steady increase in multi-family development within the downtown footprint, we recognize that there must be a concerted effort to focus on the development of affordable housing. This was underscored in 2016 with the release of the city's five-year community development plan, which outlined very realistic and obtainable goals for addressing the lack of affordable and safe housing for Durham's workforce and low-income families.

The passage of this bond referendum will provide the financial resources to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing in downtown. In addition, we are especially encouraged that this bond referendum covers neighborhoods outside of downtown as well by including funding that will contribute to neighborhood stabilization through small scale production and preservation, home repair and rehabilitation of existing housing, property tax relief and education, eviction diversion, and employment training and potential job creation. This referendum, along with the recently passed Expanding Housing Choices, will help to ensure that Durham offers housing of all types and for all income levels, an asset that is needed to support continued commercial development and job growth. Downtown Durham has become a vibrant and exciting community. A robust housing supply is vital to maintaining and growing this community, and to reaching our collective goal of creating an inclusive and diverse downtown that is welcoming to everyone. We look forward to working with our partners and affordable housing stakeholders on this important issue.

Nicole J. Thompson
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