

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Resolution*

**RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO MAKE DURHAM FRIENDLIER FOR BIRDS,  
PEOPLE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY ADOPTING THE “PLAN FOR A  
BIRD-FRIENDLY DURHAM” AND “BEST PRACTICES FOR A BIRD-FRIENDLY  
DURHAM”**

**WHEREAS,** According to a study conducted by leading ornithologists published in the September 2019 issue of *Science*, nearly one-third of the wild birds in the United States and Canada have vanished since 1970 (2.9 billion), and

**WHEREAS,** This study and numerous other studies on plants and animals present overwhelming evidence for the decline in the world’s biodiversity (biodiversity defined as “the variety of life on earth, in all its forms and all its interactions”), and

**WHEREAS,** Loss of biodiversity is recognized as being as devastating as the climate crisis to life on earth, as stated by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre: “Climate change and biodiversity loss are twin crises that should be tackled together. Conserving, managing, and restoring ecosystems are key to success,” and

**WHEREAS,** The United Nations *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* states that, “Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history – and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely....We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide....It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global,” and

**WHEREAS,** New Hope Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, and its Durham partners have created a blueprint for a bird-friendly Durham that addresses loss of biodiversity in our community, promotes best practices for environmental stewardship, and makes our community a richer, more biologically diverse, healthier place to live for all inhabitants, human, bird, and otherwise, and

**WHEREAS,** North Carolina cities including our neighbors in Raleigh, Cary, Greensboro, and Wilmington, and cities across the country including Richmond, San Francisco, Austin, Milwaukee, Norfolk, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C., are taking steps to conserve and celebrate nature in all its forms and make residents aware of the many important ways they benefit from preserving and enhancing biodiversity, and

**WHEREAS,** A growing body of epidemiological research indicates strong positive correlations between spending time in nature and overall human health and well-being, including lower mental and emotional stress, less depression, better weight control, less impulsive decision making, better mental focus, less exposure to health-altering air pollution, noise, and excessive heat; and higher immune system function, and

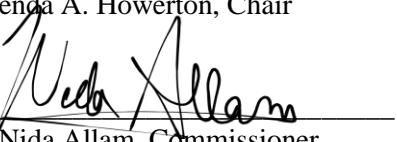
**WHEREAS,** Studies show that people who are historically disadvantaged due to health, disability, income, minority status, and systemic racism reap the benefits mentioned above more than any other group (From: *Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Areas* pp 187-205, “Effects of Urban Green Space on Environmental Health, Equity and Resilience”), and

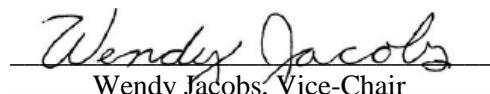
**WHEREAS,** New Hope Audubon’s “Plan for a Bird-friendly Durham” provides a path forward for the county to ensure that the community is bird-, eco-, and people friendly.

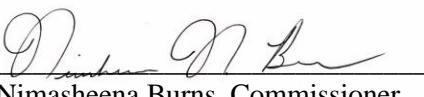
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we the Durham County Commission do hereby support the goals in New Hope Audubon Society’s “Plan for a Bird-friendly Durham” and encourage use of the “Best Practices for a Bird-friendly Durham” document that New Hope Audubon has submitted to the Durham City/County Planning Department as its guide.

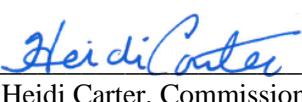
This the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

  
Brenda A. Howerton, Chair

  
Nida Allam, Commissioner

  
Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair

  
Nimasheena Burns, Commissioner

  
Heidi Carter, Commissioner

