



## **Durham Workers Rights Commission Meeting 7.22.2025- In-Person at MotorCo**

**Attendees:** Chair Ballan, Vice Chair Reinstein, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Morell, Commissioner Fenerty, Commissioner Wang, Commissioner Wegwert, Commissioner Taylor

### **Agenda Items:**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:20pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment.

### MINUTES/OLD BUSINESS

- A. Note: DWRC minutes for June were moved and approved at 6:23pm
- B. The mission of the Commission was shared by Chair Ballan
  - a. New Member/existing member's introductions took place

### COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Chair Ballan seeks Commissions' approval on endorsing the Duke Don't Dodge Care Assembly letter
- DWRC signs on and the motion to endorse the Duke Don't Dodge Care Assembly letter passes at 6:26pm
- Dante Storbino from UE Local 150 addresses the commission to give some background on the establishment of the DWRC in 2017.
  - a. When the DWRC was established, it was done so in order to work with local organizations and to liaise with Durham Workers Assembly (a part of Southern Workers Assembly).
  - b. The Durham Workers Assembly came together and had monthly mass meetings held for and by workers until the beginning of the pandemic
  - c. Former Chairman Antonio Luster was active in the Assembly with Mr. Storbino
  - d. The fight for the establishment of the Durham Workers Rights Commission was a focal point for many years.
  - e. The fight for fair labor in Durham, has been active since the 1970s and has been led by Black workers and organizers (AFSME, Black Workers for Justice following Greensboro Massacre)

- f. Since the mid-2010s, there has been a struggle with the city to have the City Manager meet with the workers on a regular basis
- g. Issues that the DWRC and its progenitors have tackled:
  - i. The adoption of a City of Durham grievance procedure for wrongful termination
  - ii. Substance abuse policy for the municipal government workers
- h. Issues that Durham Workers Assembly and allied organizations have tackled:
  - i. Community Safety & Wellness Task Force, H.E.A.R.T., People's Budget Coalition, a task force organized around and against Cop City, Durham Beyond policing
- i. Projects that the UE Local 150 is currently engaged in:
  - i. The establishment of quarterly meetings between the Task Force (including workers) and the City Manager.
  - ii. Working with the Community Safety & Wellness Task Force around the substance abuse policy for the Firefighters Union in Durham. (Destigmatized, progressive, recovery-focused policy is needed.)
  - iii. Heat Coalition: heat from climate change affects the safety of workers, so the effort to establish a Heat Safety Standard is gravely needed.

### **Announcements**

- Chair Ballan raises the point that the DWRC needs to regularly engage in the City Council meetings.
- Josh Gunn is Durham's new Director of Economic and Workforce Development economic development. DWRC will plan to meet with Mr. Gunn to establish a relationship and provide accountability.
- The DWRC's Google Drive has been created, shared, and has currently reached a limit on sharability.
- Research subcommittee: met and had great ideas; will meet again for tasks/delegation. The questionnaire that the subcommittee is working on is in the development and refinement stage.
- NC Democratic passed resolution expanding worker co-ops, which is notable because it will go into Democratic Party of NC's platform as guiding principles
- Next meeting, the DWRC plans to continue collaborating on our long-term visions and aspirational labor standards for Durham.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:30pm**

**Next meeting: August 26th at 6pm In-Person at City Hall**

**Respectfully Submitted by: DWRC Commissioner Morell**

**Respectfully Recorded by: Ashlee M Adams, Assistant City Clerk**