

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Durham, NC: September 4, 2021 – The Friends of Durham (FOD) held an in-person endorsement meeting on Thursday, September 2, 2021. Those members who interviewed responding candidates reported their findings, the general membership voted unanimously to approve this slate of four that will be good for ALL Durham citizens.

These four candidates are poised to move Durham forward at a very critical time.

Mayor: Elaine O’Neal (Durham native, almost 30 years of service as an elected official/NCCU Law School Dean)

Ward 1: DeDreana Freeman (incumbent serving on the City Council now)

Ward 2: Mark Anthony Middleton (Incumbent serving on the City Council now)

Ward 3: Leonardo Williams (award winning educator, small business owner with solutions)

Mayor

Elaine O’Neal is Durham authentic. Born and educated here, confronting our challenges for over 25 years as an elected official in our judicial system, supporting our law enforcement, FOD sees Elaine as the perfect candidate to lead Durham forward.

Ward 1

DeDreana Freeman was not endorsed by FOD on her initial run for City Council. Yet, DeDreana has won FOD’s support by championing what we believe is good for Durham as well: more emphasis on public safety/law enforcement, sustainable housing and support for small businesses. She is indeed deserving of a second term.

Ward 2

Mark Anthony Middleton garnered FOD’s support after his first interview of his first run for City Council. Nothing has changed. If anything, the admiration for his staunch support of FOD values has grown. His bullish tenacity for and defense of Durham residents is why we need him back on the City Council.

Ward 3

Leonardo Williams is the epitome of Durham’s essential ingredient: entrepreneurs/small business owners, an element that FOD strongly supports. A two-time Teacher of the Year and educator in Durham Public Schools, Leonardo’s leadership was put to the test during a community crisis that left families with children displaced and hungry. As a budding restaurant owner, Leonardo, calling on support from the community, met that challenge swiftly, successfully and presented a model to City Council that worked. Durham deserves that type of ingenuity, creative thinking and small business focus on the City Council.

OCTOBER 5TH PRIMARY: Because the races for Mayor, Ward 1 and Ward 2 have more than 2 candidates, there will be a Primary to get each race to two candidates.

EARLY VOTING starts on Thursday, September 16th to Saturday, October 2nd.

NOVEMBER 2ND ELECTION: EARLY VOTING starts Thursday, Oct.14 to Saturday, October 30th.

To be added to our mailing list or donate: <https://www.friendsofdurham.com>

