

Affordable Housing

OBJECTIVE: We need every Durham resident to have affordable housing that meets their needs. We need easy paths to renting and owning homes that are physically accessible, stable, well-maintained, and consistently affordable to a variety of income levels throughout Durham, prioritizing those with the lowest incomes in our community. .

BACKGROUND: The current system of housing management, ownership, and development allows landlords, investors, and developers to control the price of rent, how well a house is maintained, and the cost of homeownership. This leads to rapidly increasing housing prices and property taxes that makes homeownership increasingly difficult and leaves many residents vulnerable to eviction and displacement. Without reliable low-cost transportation options, residents have to pay more in combined housing and transportation costs than they can afford. Past and present housing policies and practices have made it particularly hard for many Black residents to own homes, which has long-lasting negative effects on opportunities for generational wealth-building.

We want a consistent long-term investment of resources to ensure equitable access to housing that includes the promotion of generational wealth-building, the preservation of affordable units, property tax relief, and the care and maintenance of high-quality public housing.

Quotes from Durham Residents

“Programs that are fair and honest to help Blacks own their homes in Durham.”

“Who is holding landlords accountable? Auditing their finances, their maintenance? Why are they still renting properties out with lead paint and mold?”

“Housing that is affordable all citizens no matter the income restrictions and can each citizen progress for with housing and home ownership.”

“In the Durham of my dream affordable housing would be accessible to everyone, effectively having positive impacts on school performance, the ability to access quality foods, and ameliorate public health [issues]”

“In the Durham of my dream everybody has a place to call home that is safe, stable affordable relaxing and full of joy that’s what equitable housing would be, we call have a place to call home and be happy and safe in that home”

“Shouldn't take THREE jobs to survive”

“The redlined (historically and forcibly segregated) neighborhoods are now being purchased by white people.”

“We have no one to bring our problems or no one to call if we have a problem. All the rent we pay and can never own anything, because there’s no one caring enough to help. They just keep going up on the rent. They building everything around us and just wanting to put us in a little corner of the community.”

“The quality of the homes offered to lower income communities. Less money should equal less space not poor living conditions.”

“(NIMBYism dressed up as social justice)”