

Safe and Protected Neighborhoods

OBJECTIVE: We need all Durham residents to feel safe and protected in their homes and neighborhoods and free of violence, prioritizing the needs of residents with disabilities, those who are Black and Hispanic/Latino, low-wealth, youth, seniors, LGBTQIA+, justice-involved, undocumented, houseless, or living in public housing. We need to prioritize building community trust and relationships in our systems of community safety and mental health support. We need to build physical infrastructure that creates safe environments by lowering traffic speeds and creating protected, appropriately lit spaces for people walking, biking, rolling, or waiting on the bus. We need to do this without displacing residents, particularly in neighborhoods that have not had this investment.

BACKGROUND: Not all residents feel safe going out in their neighborhoods and many are concerned with rising crime and gun violence. Residents feel too many resources are spent policing houselessness instead of providing needed support for houseless individuals. Undocumented people experience intimidation and fear because of the possibility of interacting with immigration enforcement. People see the lack of investment in necessary services like physical and mental healthcare, maintenance and environmental cleanup, housing and job assistance, or access to food to be at the root of unsafe neighborhoods. Residents, especially families and children, feel unsafe on existing streets, bus stops, and parks because of poor lighting, missing sidewalks, and speeding traffic. Many young people do not feel safe in their neighborhoods, at bus stops, or on the bus. However, residents are concerned that any investments to make their neighborhoods safer will also attract wealthier residents and cause their displacement.

We want neighborhoods where residents feel seen, heard, and protected. We want to remove violence and its root causes from communities across Durham to allow all residents to thrive. We want support built on trust and community relationships, and the necessary infrastructure in place that makes us feel safe in our communities and shows investment, security, and care for our well-being.

Quotes from Durham Residents

“The prettiest thing in McDougald right now is balloons from a vigil.”

“No crime in Bragtown and not moving black people out; once the crime is cleaned we want safe places to live also.”

“When People have No hope they tend to commit more Crime!”

“Lighting along streets creates dark conditions not much lighting creates dangerous conditions”

“A place where more than the wealthy can enjoy a safe and healthy place to live”

“more community involvement in public safety”

“protection of trans community”

“Talk about safety among young people, violence in particular”

“Displacing people because of a dollar, is a hurtful thing .When people have live all there live and build on it and how because we have nothing affordable to go to, its on the street we go and no one cares.”

“Durham Law Enforcement will play a more proactive role in the health and safety of its citizens regardless of race, creed or color. Initiatives and programs that support community safety such as 'Neighborhood Watch' and 'Community Policing' will work seamlessly with existing Law Enforcement to protect Durham citizenry.”

“This is a strong community-builder. While infrastructure is important, it is more important that residents be able to trust those in authority to do the right thing and represent them fairly and equitably in matters of justice and equal treatment as those persons in non-threatened communities.”