

**DECLARATION OF SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2019 AS
DURHAM SENIOR HUNGER AWARENESS WEEK**

WHEREAS, nationwide approximately 10 million older adults – or one in six – face the threat of food insecurity; and North Carolina’s senior hunger rate ranks second worst in the nation at an estimated 1 in every 5 seniors, compared to the national average of 1 in 6; and

WHEREAS, Durham County Social Services estimates that of the 60,000 Durham County residents age 60 and older, 12,600 are at risk of food insecurity due to living at or below 199 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, up to 50 percent of older adults nationwide may be malnourished and an estimated one-third of older adults admitted to hospitals may be malnourished and thus subject to longer hospital stays and more health complications than those with adequate nutrition; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is associated with poorer chronic disease management and decreased health-related quality of life, with food insecure seniors being 50 percent more likely to have diabetes, three times more likely to suffer from depression, 60 percent more likely to have congestive heart failure or a heart attack, and twice as likely to report gum disease and asthma; and

WHEREAS, food insecure seniors have increased likelihood of entering health care facilities, convalescent homes, or some form of assisted living, or may be forced to move in with relatives and receive inadequate care, which eventually leads to higher health care costs as chronic conditions worsen when remaining untreated, and.

WHEREAS, Durham’s Partnership for Seniors, through its Committee on Senior Food & Nutrition, is working in conjunction with End Hunger Durham to create awareness of and solutions to senior hunger in Durham through building partnerships among governmental departments, nonprofits, medical and educational institutions, religious institutions, and community volunteers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Durham does hereby acknowledge that senior hunger in Durham is a problem that needs to be addressed through community wide awareness and action and do hereby proclaim September 22-28, 2019. as Durham Senior Hunger Awareness Week.