RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ROLE OF TENANT UNIONS IN ADVANCING SAFE, QUALITY, AND DEMOCRATIC HOUSING

WHEREAS, the City of Durham affirms that safe, stable, and affordable housing is essential to the health, dignity, and prosperity of its residents;

WHEREAS, residents across Durham have increasingly organized collectively to advocate for improved housing conditions, accountability, and community well-being;

WHEREAS, the Durham City Council recognizes that tenant unions are a vital part of the civic fabric of Durham, providing a structured and democratic means for residents to communicate concerns, negotiate conditions, and participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their homes;

WHEREAS, all rental housing providers, including those receiving public funds, have a responsibility to ensure quality housing and to engage residents in good faith; and

WHEREAS, constructive engagement between tenant unions and housing providers requires good faith negotiation, mutual respect, and a firm commitment to non-retaliation against residents who organize or advocate collectively.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham City Council hereby formally recognizes the valuable role that residential tenant unions and other forms of resident organizing can play in the expression of tenant voices in their respective communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham City Council encourages recognition and engagement with resident tenant unions and other organized resident groups by all housing providers operating within the City;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham City Council calls upon landlords to listen to tenant concerns and negotiate in good faith, and to adopt and uphold clear non-retaliation practices protecting residents who organize;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that housing receiving City funding, and associated management, operating, and legal agreements, shall, to the extent practicable, support and protect tenant democracy, including the right of residents to organize tenant unions or other tenant organizations, and collectively advocate regarding the conditions, management, and policies affecting their housing with protections against retaliation for such organizing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham City Council reiterates its commitment to ensuring that all residents of Durham have access to quality, safe, and affordable housing, and recognizes organized tenants as essential partners in achieving that goal.

This the ___ day of _____, 2026.