



Cora Cole-McFadden

Cora Cole-McFadden is a past member of the West Durham Baptist Church where she had been since childhood. She served as Sunday School Superintendent, a member of the Board of Trustees, the Celestial Choir, and the Board of Christian Education.

On July 9, 2015, she became a member of St. Mark AME Zion where she sings in the Inspirational Singers Choir, is a member of the Missionary Ministry and the R.L. Speaks ministry.

Cole-McFadden, a native of Durham, has been a member of the Durham City Council since 2001. She retired from the City of Durham in 2001 after holding public service positions for 32 years in the state retirement system. She served as the first African-American woman department head in the City of Durham and is the first African-American woman to be named Mayor Pro Tempore in the history of the City of Durham.

Cole-McFadden has served as a champion for uplifting our youth and including them in the decision-making process for matters that pertain to them and issues of interest to them. Cole-McFadden's zest and zeal for youth resulted in the creation of the first City of Durham Youth Council [now Durham Youth Commission], the Hillside High School Drama Club's first production and appearance at the Carolina Theater, "Perilous Times," "Youth Teen Scene" a monthly television production by youth for youth, the appearance of youth organizations at City Hall sharing with the community the good things happening in Durham, and her adoption of Neal Middle School where she held a seat on the Site Based Committee as a community member. She now advocates for Lakeview Alternative School.

Because of her work and focus on youth, the Office on Youth now exists, and the City of Durham clearly recognizes its importance because this office directly reports to Office of the City Manager. She assured the representation of the City of Durham's Youth Commission at the first-ever Youth Summit sponsored by the North Carolina League of Cities. During one of the City of Durham's past budget processes, youth participation resulted in the creation of a teen center. Her efforts to change the way the City did business were recognized throughout the region for Durham having the reputation of strong commitment for inclusion of underutilized groups in its conduct of business and employment opportunities.

Cole-McFadden serves as City Council liaison to numerous boards and committees including the Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors; the Upper Neuse River Basin Board of Directors until 2005; Housing Appeals Board; Joint City-County Planning Committee; Homeless Services Advisory Committee; the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities; Carolina Theatre Board of Directors; and the Durham Cultural Master Plan Advisory Board. Cole-McFadden also serves on several City Council subcommittees, including chair of the Audit Services Oversight Committee; Chair, Insurance Subcommittee; chair, Passenger Vehicle-for-Hire Committee; Chair, Personnel and Council Procedures Committee; Chair, Northeast Central Durham Committee, Co-chair of the Housing Task Force of the Mayor's Poverty Reduction Initiative and the Durham Public Schools Leadership Team.

On the state level, Cole-McFadden is active with the North Carolina League of Municipalities and serves on its Board of Directors. She holds membership in North Carolina Black Elected Municipal Officials Assn and NC Women in Municipal Government. She has served on state legislative committees. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities in 2015. Prior to that, she served on

the Human Development and Community and Economic Development Committees of The National League of Cities.

During her senior year in high school, she, along with three other classmates, transferred from Hillside High School to Durham High School in an effort to further desegregate the Durham City Schools. This experience helped to shape her life for community service.

Her community service has included 1st Vice-Chair of the Durham Branch NAACP; Past Chair, Durham County Democratic Party; Charter Member, and Past Chair, Ebonettes Service Club; United Negro College Fund, Star Panelist; 1st Vice-Chair, Durham Chapter, National Council for Negro Women; 2nd Vice-Chair, Top Ladies of Distinction; Chair, Civic Committee, of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. Cole-McFadden was the first woman to serve as Chair of the Durham Community Martin Luther King Steering Committee, the first African-American woman department head in City of Durham government, and the first recipient of the City of Durham's Diversity Change Agent Award, now named in her honor and awarded annually at the City of Durham's Employee Recognition Luncheon. All attest to her strength and commitment to changing the status quo, her understanding of the importance of embracing and educating youth, and her responsibility to give back to the community knowing the struggle for freedom continues.

Some of Cole-McFadden's honors and awards include: the Keeper of the Dream Award, the Dove Award for Exemplary Service to the Youth and Citizens of Durham(Zeta Phi Beta Sorority); Diversity Change Agent-City of Durham; Leadership Award-Fourth Congressional District(David Price), NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Honoree, November 2006; featured in the October 2006 publication of Boom Magazine's Fifty & Fabulous section; featured as the cover story in the January 2007 publication of Spectacular Magazine; Mahogany Dime Award for Excellence in Leadership ,2008; recipient of the Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas Lifetime Leadership Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service to the Citizens and the Community of Durham(Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, 2013 and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine presented at her retirement banquet by Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas(Governor of the State of North Carolina), 2001. She was featured in the March/April of Southern City, a publication of the North Carolina League of Municipalities. She is one of three alumni of North Carolina Central University named as a "Living Legend" to be honored at the Living Legend Scholarship Gala in August.