



March 28, 2022

Distinguished Nominating Committee

I am deeply honored to submit this letter of support for Durham Councilperson Leonardo Williams in his bid to fill the Large City Seat assigned to Durham on the League's Board of Directors. As Mayor Pro Tempore of Durham I speak for all of my colleagues and our citizens in saying that Councilmember Williams will not just be a tremendous advocate for Durham, but will also be a key leader in helping the League meet its objectives laid out in our Vision 2030 plan.

Leonardo is a successful Durham business operator that has risen to prominence in our community through his advocacy for good corporate citizenship and strong private public partnerships for the greater good. He is known for his generosity and philanthropy as he has organized self-funded food relief efforts for some of our most vulnerable residents during challenging times. During the COVID-19 pandemic Leonardo was a leading voice in crafting a municipal response to stabilize and promote Durham's small businesses and continues to be a champion of our city and region's economic vitality.

It has been one of the highlights in my ongoing career as an elected official to serve on the League's Board of Directors as Durham's representative. The deep affection and appreciation I have for the absolutely vital work of the League makes me very guarded about the person that will succeed me. The prospect of having a leader of Councilmember Williams' caliber on our board gives me great comfort about the future of our beloved league. I urge his recommendation to the general body.

Yours in Service,

Mark-Anthony Middleton

Mayor Pro Tempore
City of Durham