



**People-Centered Service With Viola  
Lipscomb, Victim Advocate for the  
Durham City Police**



**In this interview, Aging Well Durham (AWD) highlights**

**the Adult Safety and Protection domain, an important part of the 2025-2030 Durham Comprehensive Aging Plan. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Plan includes this domain because of the vulnerability of older adults to abuse.**

**AWD spoke with Viola Lipscomb, Victim Advocate with the Durham Police Department - Victim Services Unit, about her experience with older adults, and helping people make their own decisions.**

**Can you tell me what department you're in and what you do?**

I am one of five victim advocates at the Durham Police Department. I'm what we call a law enforcement based victim advocate. We work with anybody who's been victimized within the City of Durham. We deal with cases involving robberies, simple assault, aggravated assaults, homicide cases, as well as some sexual assault as well.

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## **DA Satana Deberry Talks Durham Crime and Prevention for Older Adults**

**Satana Deberry has been the District Attorney (DA) for North Carolina's 16th Prosecutorial District, which covers Durham County, for seven years. She has been practicing law for 31 years. The focus of her career has largely been on impacting and changing the systems that restrict the lives and opportunities of communities of color, rural communities, low-income people, women, children and people**

who have disabilities. Her goal as a lawyer is to push the legal system to protect the least of the community, not the most powerful. (From the Indyweek February 7, 2026)

**Aging Well Durham asked the DA how she got into law.**

I was doing affordable housing work and community economic development work. I've been general counsel for the North College Department of Health and Human Services. I've done Medicaid, and mental health, and childcare, all these other things, and all these different systems. I was trying to see how they all play together. For example, wage equity. People weren't making enough money, so they couldn't afford housing, they weren't getting health insurance. It can make you feel helpless.

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## Technology Help Drop-in Hours

Aging Well Durham  
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## **In April AWD Honors Elna B. Spaulding, Civic Leader, Desegregationist**

(Elna B. Spaulding left, Lydia Moore Merrick, Mary D.B.T. Semans)

This month's edition of The Well focuses on the "Adult Safety and Protection" domain of the 2025-2030 Durham Comprehensive Aging Plan. Durham has a long history of community-led antiviolence work. Elna B. Spaulding and her organization Women-in-Action for the Prevention of Violence and its Causes started as an interracial coalition. It was instrumental in building common ground between white women and Black women who were not accustomed to meeting on the same level.

However, they did find commonality in their concerns about schoolchildren. They persuaded the mayor to create a Human Relations Commission, and when the schools finally began integrating, they urged the schools to provide an Open House, where open communication between teachers, administrators, and parents was paramount.

This website has information about Mrs. Spaulding's work - [http://andjusticeforall.dconc.gov/gallery\\_images/women-in-action-for-the-prevention-of-violence/](http://andjusticeforall.dconc.gov/gallery_images/women-in-action-for-the-prevention-of-violence/)

Spaulding ran for the Durham County Board of Commissioners in 1974, receiving more votes than either the Democrats or the Republicans in that race. She was the first Black woman to do so.

Elna B. Spaulding's work in highly charged situations, her service as a civic leader and politician, as well as receiving the William C. Friday Award in Moral Leadership in 2001, have made her a iconic and historic freedom fighter for Durham, North Carolina, and inspired the birth of the Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center.

The Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center uses

mediation, negotiation, and training to help people address conflict. They also use Restorative Justice models, victim-offender mediation, or dialogue and conferencing when appropriate.

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**Aging Well Durham**  
looks forward to partnering  
with you this Spring



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**FOR UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS, CLICK  
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2030 DURHAM COMPREHENSIVE AGING PLAN.**



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