

Ben Fulmer

From: Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 10:25 AM
To: Jaime Matthews
Subject: Fwd: The People of Asheville Reject the Proposed Increase in Police Spending

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Casey Campfield <caseycampfield@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 3:33 PM
Subject: The People of Asheville Reject the Proposed Increase in Police Spending
To: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com, gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com, cecilbothwell@avlcouncil.com, brianhaynes@avlcouncil.com, juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com, gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com, keithyoung@avlcouncil.com

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members,

Hearing of your decision to proceed with the proposed \$1 Mil. budget increase for the APD was heartbreaking. When members of the APD itself said recently at a CPAC meeting that one of their primary problems in Asheville was opioid addiction, it seemed evident that our tax money needs to be directed towards recovery, not incarceration. Drug rehabilitation, job training, affordable housing--these are not only the moral choices, they are proven time and again to be the best returns on taxpayer investment. This additional \$1 Mil. will certainly be successful in helping to land more people in jail and prison. You have the chance now to improve the lives of the needy, to lift them up out of this terrible cycle of poverty, addiction, and incarceration. This is not the way. Please reconsider your choice.

Thank you for your time,

Casey Campfield

Ben Fulmer

From: Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 10:24 AM
To: Jaime Matthews
Subject: Fwd: \$1 million for Asheville Police

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alli Marshall** <allimarshall@bellsouth.net>
Date: Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 5:16 PM
Subject: \$1 million for Asheville Police
To: "AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov" <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>

Dear Mayor Manheimer and Asheville City Council members,

I'm deeply disappointed that you are considering approval of a million dollar increase in funding to the Asheville Police Department despite vigorous dissent by constituents and civil rights groups. Can there not be a negotiation to provide the APD with *some* of what it asks for, and earmark the rest of those funds for community improvement? Our black neighborhoods are overpoliced while our public transportation system is shamefully insufficient. Institutionalized racism remains a problem as does homelessness. A million dollars could make a difference to either of those issues. Meanwhile, a local police officer recently threatened a child on a public street with an automatic weapon. That's insane.

I agree with city council candidate Dee Williams and homeless advocate the Rev. Amy Cantrell that more policing will lead to more inequality and that the money should be used for anti-poverty programs and public benefits. I signed a petition that effect.

You will lose my trust, respect, support and future vote with a blanket approval of the APD's budget increase request.

Sincerely,
Alli Marshall

Ben Fulmer

From: Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 4:52 PM
To: Jaime Matthews
Subject: Fwd: A Million Dollars for the People

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Eshelman <eshelmanlaura@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 10, 2017 at 4:33 PM
Subject: A Million Dollars for the People
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov

Dear Asheville City Council,

I am writing to beseech you not to grant the request of APD for a million dollar increase in funding. As a taxpaying citizen for many years, I feel that money would be more ethically and practically allocated toward programs and incentives to alleviate the financial burdens so many residents experience, or toward improving infrastructure. If we are serious about preventing crime, these are two areas that would benefit from long term support. Increasing the police budget at this time is an intervention, not prevention, and without clear qualitative data to accompany the official figures that the Chief has offered-- which describe numbers alone, and unfairly target our already over-policed housing projects-- I cannot support a decision to bolster the Trump presidency's insistence on more "law and order". Given the recent evidence of racial violence and aggression against APD, I would further encourage waiting at least another year on approving a budget increase until the community as a whole feels that they are serious about restoring the egregious harms it perceives APD to be responsible for.

I deeply hope you will take these words into consideration. On a more personal note, I also deeply fear for the lives of my black and brown friends if this budget request is approved. APD has done absolutely nothing, ever, to make me feel safer living here.

Laura Eshelman

Ben Fulmer

From: South Slope Neighborhood Asso .
<mary=catawbabrewing.com@mail195.atl21.rsgsv.net> on behalf of South Slope
Neighborhood Asso . <mary@catawbabrewing.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 7:28 PM
To: ecoward@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Police Budget Increase - Asking for support or dissent

Police Budget Increase - Asking for support or dissent from SSNA members

The South Slope Neighborhood Association met tonight and expressed unanimous support for the requested increase in the budget for the Asheville City Police to establish a new downtown force. Budget will go directly to salaries of new staff: a sergeant, two lieutenants, and 12 police officers.

Below is the letter that is being sent to the City Council from SSNA. Please respond if you are NOT in support of this effort.

To: City Council

The South Slope Neighborhood Association supports the Asheville Police Department and their mission to protect life and property of Asheville. We are in favor of the budget request to add officers to the Downtown Unit

that is responsible for the central business district, including our South Slope Neighborhood.

South Slope residents will see rapid growth in the next year, as the City efforts to increase the number of residential units occurs. Today there are 153 residential units in the South Slope Neighborhood. Another 299 SSN residential units have been approved; 48 of these will begin renting this spring.

Safety for residents, workers and visitors is a primary concern – particularly where sidewalks and street lighting is not currently available. Walking on the edge of streets or crossing streets that have more traffic is a challenge. The visibility and availability of community policing in SSN results in drivers slowing down and walkers being more aware and cautious – and feeling safer.

The community policing in SSN by the downtown unit has been outstanding; very positive and aligned with the changing and expanding needs of the South Slope neighborhood. There is an urgent need to expand the presence of this positive downtown unit that provides community policing as the SSN residential and visitor growth surges.

In addition to attending monthly meetings of the SSNA to get to know the neighbors, the downtown unit officers frequently attend neighborhood gatherings. This aspect of community policing – getting to know each other - helps residents, workers and business owners in SSN have confidence when requesting police support to address a homeless or drunk person or a panhandler. Because the downtown unit officers often also know the homeless and panhandler, they can act as an essential component of the social services support needed to get the help needed

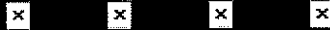
and avoid an unnecessary arrest.

Community policing in SSN is an integral and positive part of the social support fabric we are seeking – having 24-hour/7day coverage in SSN by an expanded community policing downtown unit is essential to match the population growth in the South Slope.

SSNA mission is to present a unified voice of the businesses, workers and residents of the South Slope neighborhood, on issues that affect our community. The diverse points of view that make up our organization represent one of our greatest strengths: that businesses, residents, and property owners are working together to organize our interests, in order to create a shared future.

SSNA Contact: Mary Mayo Mary@Catawbabrewing.com

Find Out More



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You entered your email in our records during a South Slope Neighborhood Association meeting.

Our mailing address is:

South Slope Neighborhood Association
32 Banks Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801

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Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



Ben Fulmer

From: Keaton Hill <khill@jayhill.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:50 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: APD Budget increase request

Dear City Council Members:

My family and I live in North Asheville, and I am writing to ask that you do not approve the APD request for \$1 million per year to increase the police force, but rather focus on evidence-based practices to reduce crime by investing in our community. If there is \$1 million in the budget to invest, addressing the opportunities gaps between black children and adults and white children adults would go a long way to reducing crime in our community. If these funds aren't in the City's budget, adopting low- and no-cost policies, as suggested by the Southern Coalition for Social Justice would improve relations between Asheville residents and police officers, thereby reducing crime.

At the February CPAC meeting Chief Hooper said that crime, like gun violence, is a community problem, not a problem that the police should be expected to solve. To me, increasing the number of police officers won't address community problems. I believe the best way to support the Chief Hooper and our police officers is to invest in programs that build trust between citizens and officers, to address these things as community problems, not as a problem caused by lack of policing. In a time when many in our community feel distrust toward our police officers, granting this budget increase would be setting Chief Hooper up for failure.

I have attended the last two Public Safety meetings, because I thought this issue would be on the agenda and I am eager to hear from city officials and engage in this discussion as a community, as Chief Hooper suggested. I hope that Council will provide a time for the public to hear directly from the Chief so that we can all work together, fully informed, to best address the issue.

Thank you for your consideration,
Keaton Hill

Ben Fulmer

From: Purl <purl@purlsyarnemporium.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2017 5:26 PM
To: Dana Frankel; chestercreative@charter.net; paultaylorsandals@gmail.com; Julie Stehling; Meghan Rogers; info@ashevilmuseum.com; heidi@ashevilmuseum.com; lotusdubsmith@gmail.com; dfpratt09@gmail.com; robin@dolcevitaasheville.com; jen_amann@hotmail.com; info@fireduplounge.com; howardhangerhall@gmail.com; joe@laughingseed.com; loptique2730@bellsouth.net; Loptique@bellsouth.net; hotsushop@yahoo.com; papillonwnc@gmail.com; mlewis@parsecfinancial.com; elliott@spicergreene.com; william@marketplace-restaurant.com; brock@tradeandlore.com; purl@purlsyarn.com; vrtsoap@yahoo.com; Charlotte Fahy; Erin Hawley; mmennone@yahoo.com; stuart cowles; Cortland Mercer; sarah@tradeandlore.com; wpvm . 103 . 7 fm; kevan@wellplayedasheville.com
Cc: Mike Sule; Ritchie Rozzelle
Subject: Petition to City Council against APD funding request

My apologies for shamelessly using this email list to share this petition. But trying to get the word out to downtown businesses. I'd go door to door, but hard to do that and run my own store, plus the chances of finding the business owner is sometimes challenging I know.

Please consider signing this petition and/or passing along to other business owners you know. It will be delivered before City Council meeting on Tuesday, 3/28. The petition link is here as well as at the bottom of my letter below: [/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqRLqFyKSqTn9l7guvve2JFvobGIAd1MfzTfIgwMTRnC1g/viewform?usp=sf_link](http://d/e/1FAIpQLSeqRLqFyKSqTn9l7guvve2JFvobGIAd1MfzTfIgwMTRnC1g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Dear fellow downtown business owner,

As a downtown local business owner, I have many concerns about the needs of our community, downtown and beyond. Asheville is growing, and you and I have seen both the benefit as well as the detriment of this growth. Chief of Police Tammy Hooper has requested a budget increase of a million dollars specifically focused on building up a downtown policing unit. The Chief has expressed concerns over an increase (statistically very small) in downtown crime. We all want our streets to be safe for workers, residents, and tourists alike, but I am convinced this would be a million-dollar mistake. What message does increased policing send? This is a solution in search of a problem. Instead, working for access to decent wages, affordable housing, and transportation can make a positive impact on our community and also be a deterrent to crime.

At the end of 2016, 743 downtown business owners and residents participated in a survey facilitated by the Downtown Association. Whether you look at all respondents or just the 200 downtown business owners and residents, we all put "safety" as a primary (first or second) concern. But when asked to actually rank issues in order of how we would want RESOURCES allocated, "more police" was ranked either 7th or 8th in a list of 8 issues. What was more concerning to us? More parking/transportation options; Infrastructure (maintaining and improving streets, lighting, crosswalks, sidewalk); Reducing homelessness; Increased affordable/workforce housing; Maintenance of parks; Increased cleaning services; Development of parks and green spaces.

Increased policing is not usually what makes me feel safe. Well lit streets with places for people to go that they can afford to work, live, and play...these things make me feel safe. A million dollars is a lot of money. And the people, through this survey and other modes of recent expression at public meetings, have been making it clear that there are many more priorities and issues that need our city's financial resources.

City Council is in the process of making budget decisions. They have heard from activists and community organizers. Let them hear from us, the downtown business owners. Let's let them know that we, too, want city resources used to fund improvements that highlight what makes Asheville unique and which will serve the needs of

the people, and NOT an increase in police funding. You can sign the petition below, and you can call or email your City Council members, or come to a City Council meeting.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth & Rik Schell, Purl's Yarn Emporium

Petition can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqRLqFyKSqTn9I7guvve2JFvobGIAAd1MfzfzTifgwmTRnC1g/viewform?usp=sf_link



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Asheville Downtown Association,

My name is Nicole Townsend. I am a Black, Queer organizer here in Asheville. Your support of the APD budget and personnel expansion is rooted in white supremacy culture, and it is discriminatory. "White supremacy culture is an artificial, historically constructed culture which expresses, justifies and binds together the United States white supremacy system. It is the glue that binds together white-controlled institutions into systems and white controlled systems into the global white supremacy system." - Sharon Martinas

Before I make comments regarding the proposed Asheville Police Department one million dollar increase, I want to give you some background. In the early 1700's the Carolina colonies created slave patrol. Duties of those on the slave patrol were, but not limited to: chasing down and returning runaway slaves to their owners; organize terror groups to deter slave revolts; and to maintain a form of discipline for slave-workers who violated plantation rules. After the Civil War, organized slave patrol groups evolved into what we now refer to as police departments. Hence why are police system is rooted in white supremacy - they were not created to protect and serve, but to capture, terrorize, and kill. To avoid carry all of the load folks of color carry when it comes to educating folks, I am strongly encouraging all folks to utilize this "History of Policing in the United States" tool: <http://plsonline.eku.edu/insidelook/history-policing-united-states-part-1> I am also strongly encouraging all folks to read the mandate for Black Lives, in which one can find policing alternatives.

The letter that was released by the Asheville Downtown Association stated that "This request proactively considers the projected growth of downtown and the time it will take to hire and train new officers."

- Are you aware that APD currently has 15 vacancies? It seems as if those should be filled before they are able to create 20 new positions.

The letter that was released by the Asheville Downtown Association stated that "Aggravated assaults have increased from 47 in 2015 to 56 in 2016. Domestic and non-domestic aggravated assaults have increased in the South French Broad area and rapes have doubled. In 2016, there were seven rapes reported withing the proposed Downtown District, spanning from downtown to the South French Broad area and in the River Arts District. Burglaries have risen in the River Arts District (RAD) over the past two years, particularly business burglaries increasing from two incidents in 2015 to 12 in 2016. Vehicles stolen from RAD have doubled over that same time period."

- Does the Asheville Downtown Association or any it's business affiliates make contribution to rape and domestic assault resources such as Helpmate and Our Voice? Are there funds set aside to assist victims? Are bars and breweries being held accountable when it comes to how much alcohol is being served to one individual? Is there work being down to create a strategic plan that would limit the amount of alcohol beverages that one person could consume in one setting? Is there interest in creating a pilot program that serve as a way to monitor consumption? Is there any assistance for business owners that may want to increase there security measures - this looks like investing in cameras and sustainable building security methods.

There was mention that officers are certified in crisis intervention - is there a reason as to why officers who patrol the Montford/Hillcrest have not referenced their training while doing things such as forcefully handling a teen girl in Hillcrest, and verbally harassing teen boys who looked "suspicious"?

Those who took the recent survey that was sent out by the Asheville Downtown Association "ranked "more police" low when asked how they would assign resources" - by ignoring this and pushing to the side that of which ranked high by those who responded, wouldn't this be yet another entity ignoring the needs and wants of the people? Wouldn't this be the Asheville Downtown Association putting the wants of their staff and board before the needs and wants of businesses and community members?

I am disappointed in the Asheville Downtown Association - While I would love nothing more than for the proposed one million dollar APD increase to be funneled into the Black community...I know that money alone won't fix our day to day problems. Urban renewal and gentrification have destroyed Asheville's Black community. We are watching folks leave by the dozens in hopes to find communities elsewhere that fully support the Black Lives Matter initiative/mandate.

Nicole Townsend (ntownsend016@gmail.com)

From: Julia Springer [<mailto:juliavspringer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 1:32 PM
To: info@ashevilledowntown.org
Subject: Million Dollars for the People

Hi all,

I am very disappointed to learn that the Downtown Business Association voted to support the million dollars for APD. I believe the support should have reflected the top need reflected in the survey -- parking and transportation.

Hate to see local businesses loose local money but I can't shop anywhere that encourages more money going to the police. It just isn't right.

Best,

Julia

From: Amy Hamilton [<mailto:bhoireannach@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 5:48 PM
To: info@ashevilledowntown.org
Subject: city budget proposal for APD

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with extreme concern about the proposed \$1 million budgetary increase for the Asheville Police Department. As I understand it, the Downtown Association is in support of this increase. As we know, one million dollars could go towards so many programs that would actually tackle the root causes of unsafe streets. Increasing the police budget won't actually make us safer. It will further polarize a community that sorely needs to come together to find true solutions to the problems we are facing. Throwing money at a broken system will not help.

Please reconsider your position on this issue. The city of Asheville deserves better.

Best regards,

Amy Hamilton

From: VICTORIA LUTKOWSKI [<mailto:tori22@mac.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:48 AM
To: info@ashevilledowntown.org
Subject: APD budget increase

Hello,

I am writing to let you know how I feel about the one million dollar increase in the APD budget.

I agree with Mr. Haynes, city council, and praise the APD for engaging in education and ways to build trust in the community.

There needs to be money spent on homelessness, mental health support for homeless or low income families, housing, more de-escalation training, more racial bias training.

I do not think that our cities money needs to be spent on more officers and newer cars at this time.

Thank you,
Tori Lutkowski

Ben Fulmer

From: Esther Manheimer <Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>> on behalf of Esther Manheimer
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Riley Carter
Subject: Re: Increase transit budget not police budget

Riley,
Thank you for your email.

Esther

On Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 11:25 AM, Riley Carter <rcarter5@unca.edu> wrote:

Hello, I am an Asheville citizen who rides the bus daily. Our bus system does the bare minimum to meet the needs of the people who rely on it. I believe that transit is one of many ways that Asheville can put their money towards people, and NOT increasing police budget. I am a sociology student, and research has shown that increased police militarization does not improve communities, nor does it lower crime rates. The people of Asheville say NO to more policing. I say, take that million dollars and put it towards improving low income communities, not policing them.

More money to transportation, not to incarceration.

Ben Fulmer

From: Julie Mayfield <Julie Mayfield <juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com>> on behalf of Julie Mayfield
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Riley Carter
Subject: Re: Increase transit budget not police budget

Hello Riley - I'm happy to say we should get over \$600,000 in new funding for transit in the budget. We don't have to chose between the two at this point - we have needs in both places.

Julie

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 12, 2017, at 11:25 AM, Riley Carter <rcarter5@unca.edu> wrote:

>

> Hello, I am an Asheville citizen who rides the bus daily. Our bus system does the bare minimum to meet the needs of the people who rely on it. I believe that transit is one of many ways that Asheville can put their money towards people, and NOT increasing police budget. I am a sociology student, and research has shown that increased police militarization does not improve communities, nor does it lower crime rates. The people of Asheville say NO to more policing. I say, take that million dollars and put it towards improving low income communities, not policing them.

> More money to transportation, not to incarceration.

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com>> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Riley Carter
Subject: Re: Increase transit budget not police budget

Mr. Carter,

Thank you for taking the time to write. Here are the comments I made at yesterday's budget worksession:

"We have received a lot of e-mails about this from folks who really want to make sure that City Council is supporting all the people of Asheville and really interested in assuring justice and equity throughout our community. We've also had a ton of e-mails saying we want to make sure that as population grows that our police presence can grow along with it and that we can make sure that when you call 911 someone is there fast. There is enormous amount of care for the City of Asheville in all of these things. That is the heartening part of it.

And we are also in this locally and nationally where we are demanding more accountability from our police forces. And demanding quicker responses and trusted, trained, adequate staffing. The demands are greater than ever and I think rightly so. I think that level of accountability makes nothing but perfect sense.

But I just want to acknowledge that you [Chief Hooper] get a lot of complaints and when... I just want to say is that I know you are here to serve and I know that the officers who choose this line of work choose this life of service to our community. I want to acknowledge that and celebrate that at the same time because I think that part of the unfortunate side effects of that call for accountability has been the vilification of many officers who are incredibly ethical and incredibly hard-working who get caught up in a more kind-of blanket move to make sure that police is accountable. I just want to say that. And thank you, Cecil, you had the number on the top of your head, how many police chiefs have we had since we've been on Council? (Councilman Bothwell - At least four since we've been on Council.) And I think that you have done the finest work of any of the Chiefs that I've seen come through here. You're embracing the process and policy around use of force. I think it's going to make us one of the national leaders in the regard. The bridge-building that you have been doing within the department to make sure that the department is working well together and isn't factionalizing. I really appreciate that. The hiring practices that you just outlined, as well as supporting the CIT training - Critical Incident Training - for officers who are too often are front-line mental health responders.

So, our population is up 28% since 1997. Our police staffing is up 23% since 1997. This proposal would take us to 27%. So, pretty close on par with population growth. That number about 2.9 officers per 1,000 people vs. that state average of 4.8 really resonates with me and I don't know what that number becomes if this proposal goes through but it certainly doesn't go up to 4.8.

I also just want to talk about the dichotomy that is out there - money for the police vs. money for the people. This is not something that resonates with me. I don't think that is how this budget process works, or how our City ought to work. I don't think that we have to pit public safety vs. public benefit. It doesn't make any sense for me to go in that direction.

So, I know that this year we are going to have record spending on affordable housing. Record spending on transit. Record spending on transportation infrastructure, on our parks. I know we are a living wage organization that only gives economic incentives to living wage organizations. That we are moving forward with our equity initiatives and I also know that mental health, substance abuse and other social services are not the function of the City of Asheville - they are the function of the County of Buncombe. That is where that budget is.

So, we clearly have an enormous work to do for justice and equity in our community. And I don't know anyone on this Council who isn't committed. And we also have to meet the responsibilities of the public safety of the community. So, I'm open to this request and I'm also open to a portion of this request if Council feels it's too big an ask. But I don't think we can ignore the population rise, the figures that we are seeing from APD, and responsibly turn it down."

Gordon Smith

On Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 11:25 AM, Riley Carter <rcarter5@unca.edu> wrote:

Hello, I am an Asheville citizen who rides the bus daily. Our bus system does the bare minimum to meet the needs of the people who rely on it. I believe that transit is one of many ways that Asheville can put their money

towards people, and NOT increasing police budget. I am a sociology student, and research has shown that increased police militarization does not improve communities, nor does it lower crime rates. The people of Asheville say NO to more policing. I say, take that million dollars and put it towards improving low income communities, not policing them.
More money to transportation, not to incarceration.

Ben Fulmer

From: Sabrah n'haRaven <Sabrah n'haRaven <bagheera@hacari.org>> on behalf of Sabrah n'haRaven
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:11 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Police Budget Request

Dear Councilmembers,

You haven't heard much from me lately, for which you're probably grateful. :-) As you may know, I have bipolar disorder -- pretty mild most of the time, but it does mean I tend to drop off the face of the world for several weeks each year. This spring has definitely been one of the periods when it's difficult for me to brush my hair each day, much less get out to meetings and keep up with what the City is doing.

I did drag myself downtown today for an essential errand, thinking I'd get that done and head home immediately. But of course, I couldn't be downtown without hearing that the police budget request is on the agenda for tonight, instead of nixed weeks ago the way it should have been.

I won't try to be persuasive. I don't have the energy when I'm like this to say what people might want to hear instead of the simple truth. The fact that I'm bothering to write you at all when I just want to be in a cave somewhere millions of miles from anything human should be enough to say how important this is. At the moment, I don't really care if the police harass the homeless, if the police harass racial minorities or low-income people, if the entire town becomes a fascist haven for millionaires where everyone else scrabbles just to survive, because -- humans! Gaah! I hate you all and I don't want to be reminded you exist.

But I also know that next month I'll be back to caring again and that you probably care now, and that life won't wait for me to rejoin the human race.

So this budget request? It's stupid and offensive and you should already know that. It should have been nixed weeks ago. Derek's a great guy but he only knows how the police act when there are major, publicly lauded nonprofits watching them. He doesn't know how they act when they think no one is going to hold them accountable. Chief Hooper herself -- back when she still bothered to attend public meetings -- said that rising crime was the result of poverty, not insufficient policing. Extending transit service will help fight poverty; additional police will not. In fact, additional police will increase poverty, since we know that more police means more arrests (not necessarily more convictions) which make it harder for people to find and keep jobs and housing.

And if Chief Hooper really believed this budget increase was justified in a way the public would approve of? She'd be presenting the details to the public at large and arguing her case in public. She wouldn't be ducking out of public meetings where the details of police affairs are supposed to be discussed and trying to round up support from segments of the business community that only get her side of the story and not the big picture or the details.

Approve this budget request, and we'll be dealing with the negative results for years. And you'll be dealing with the results for years, because everyone will know exactly where you stand -- with tourists, money, and inequality, not with Asheville or on the side of justice.

Yours in -- temporarily very grudgingly -- service,

Sabrah n'haRaven

Ben Fulmer

From: Amy Cantrell <Amy Cantrell <amy@justeconomicswnc.org>> on behalf of Amy Cantrell
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:20 PM
To: Julie Mayfield
Subject: Re: Letter of Support for DTU

Hi Julie,

Thank you so much for reaching out to me!

In answer to your question, yes I am concerned that increasing the numbers of police will negatively impact both people on the streets and people of color in Asheville and will continue to marginalize and criminalize those who are most vulnerable.

Several things to consider in terms of Derek's letter:

1) AHOPE has traditionally used police presence as "security" during their open hours. This has often felt intimidating to folks I know on the streets. AHOPE operates in a differently than we do in this way. We do not depend on the police to deal with issues when they arise. Instead, we teach conflict resolution skills to our folks. The police are often used to "keep order" at local agencies that serve the homeless. We think that this is not the best approach. This is why many of our folks enjoy coming to BeLoved. It feels more relaxed, less chaotic, and less intimidating. We choose not to use a model of security but one of community. This is simply a difference and not a judgment but it does change the way that we see this. I have appreciation for the work of Homeward Bound/AHOPE, but we do have a slightly different approach. I know too that APD works with homeless service providers in various capacities and that some of those have positive outcomes for which we are grateful. But there is a power dynamic to the relationship of police and people who are on the street. That dynamic and the fact that our folks often have encounters with the police that lead to citations and arrests (and not services) cannot be overlooked. I can tell you that our advocacy comes from listening directly to the voices of people on the street (more on that in #2). I am curious to know how his letter was generated as I find it unusual that AHOPE is "weighing in" as I have not seen them do this before now.

2) People who are homeless daily come to us with concerns about police interactions with them. And has been a regular topic of discussion at our Homeless Voice meetings. And was again today when I read Derek's letter. Our folks do not share Derek's opinion. And for me my work as an advocate is to be directed by those most impacted by an issue. So our Homeless Voice group endorses A Million for the People and is fundamentally against the increase to the police budget. We must listen directly to the voices of people who are homeless when making decisions concerning them.

Cecil has been to one of those meetings and I would encourage you to come and hear directly from people if you would like. We also recorded statements from our members today so that you can listen to their voices (most people on the streets are unable to come to 5 p.m. meetings due to shelter schedule or having to get to camp when they have enough light to walk into heavily wooded areas) I can also tell you that w.e have had people on the streets who were eager to sign the petition for A Million for the People. We have about 80 signatures from the homeless community alone and that grows by the day. This is an unusually high number in my experience. The homeless community has been so disenfranchised that it is usually harder to get folks engaged, but it has not been on this issue.

3) As you know I have been working with statistics dealing with potentially homeless individuals being cited and arrested. I also have been a part of the NAACP Criminal Justice Committee who have worked with public traffic stop data. The data certainly reflects what I regularly see on the ground that race and class are the major determinants in encounters with the police and the outcomes of those encounters. After City staff members made their presentation in response to our data, I asked to meet with LeAnn Melton who is the Chief Public Defender (and has been with that office since 1996). I asked what the Public Defender's Office is seeing in terms of homeless arrests and citations. She said that she had seen an increase in citations and arrests for trespass. When I asked various questions about what was causing this in her opinion, she said in three different responses "look at tourist season...I can just tell you look at tourist season." And then unsolicited by me she stated that if the Chief of Police gets her requested increase "your numbers will explode." This is again why I am taking the position. These outcomes will make it far more difficult for people to get into housing and obtain employment thus fueling the cycle and increasing the need for more tax payer resources.

On another note, I am deeply troubled by the lack of transparency and the fact that the Chief has not presented any information publicly (at Public Safety Committee, CPAC, or the Budget Work Sessions). And yet there seems to be interactions with the Downtown Association and now AHOPE about this proposal. My hope is that the public is not being cut out of these discussions.

Finally, I am concerned that overpolicing is being overlooked here. Are we using our current resources to be best of our ability? I often see 4 or 5 officers stopping one homeless person. I believe that if we targeted the resources that we have we could be more effective. Could officers work different hours? Have fewer officers responding to calls? (We have asked for data around how many officers are responding to the same call for service and have thus far not been given that information). I will be bringing more statistics about this to the Council meeting tonight.

I simply do not think that we can police our way out of poverty or homelessness. We MUST stem the tide of the forces that are fast turning our city into an even more deeply segregated place. We must think about the best investment of our city dollars to support the residents of this city in having the fullness of life. This must start with basic access to home, meaningful work that pays a living wage, good public transit, food, and access to the power to build up our communities that have been pushed to the margins.

I also know that right now in our nation we have a heightened fear of law enforcement and a "leader" that wants to wield law enforcement agencies as tools for a very particular agenda. Though I do not believe that this is at all the motivation of the APD, I believe that this increase sends a very wrong message at this precarious time in our history.

So appreciate you asking for my thoughts and for listening. I have always known you to be open and deeply conscientious in your deliberations. I thank you for that. Please feel free to keep reaching out to me. I hope you know that my deep heart and love is for the people who are most vulnerable and struggling. It is my hope and prayer that we don't make life even more difficult for them. I believe that we will be measured as a society and as human beings by how we treat the most vulnerable among us. This is why I act--that's my only agenda.

Peace and gratitude,
Amy

From: Julie Mayfield <juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 11:22:16 PM
To: Amy Cantrell
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for DTU

Hi Amy – can you help me understand the difference in what you’re advocating and this position expressed by the AHOPE program director? As I understand it, your concern stems at least in part from a concern that more police will negatively impact the homeless population. Derek clearly has a different view, so I’d be interested in understanding that better from your perspective.

Thanks
Julie

From: Gary Jackson [mailto:GJackson@ashevillenc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 12:00 PM
To: Derek Towle <derek@homewardboundwnc.org>
Cc: Sgt. Evan Coward <ECoward@ashevillenc.gov>; Tammy Hooper <THooper@ashevillenc.gov>; councilgroup <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: RE: Letter of Support for DTU

Derek:

Thank you for taking the time to share your commendation of the caring and competent members of the downtown unit. Your support for expansion of the unit is appreciated too.

Gary

From: Derek Towle [mailto:derek@homewardboundwnc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:51 PM
To: Sgt. Evan Coward <ECoward@ashevillenc.gov>; Tammy Hooper <THooper@ashevillenc.gov>; Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support for DTU

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in my capacity as AHOPE Program Director to express my support for the expansion of the Asheville Police Department's Downtown Unit (DTU). I support the expansion of the DTU because of the positive impact the unit has had on the safe operation of our services and on the homeless individuals with which we work.

On Tuesday through Friday mornings during the time covered by Sgt. Evan Coward's unit, my staff have seen a remarkable difference in the quality of our communication with APD. DTU officers and my staff know each other and have direct communication. There is more trust in AHOPE's relationship with APD because of the DTU. The direct line of communication we have allows us to relay safety concerns, such as suspected drug activity and potential violence, and get a timely and appropriate response. Response times are quicker than they are on weekend and Monday mornings when DTU is not on duty. The advantages of our communication with DTU have led to a decrease in the frequency of assaults at our facility and have helped us in preventing the presence of predatory individuals coming to AHOPE to take advantage of our clients, many of whom struggle with addiction, mental illness or are otherwise compromised.

The DTU exhibit an interest in conflict resolution, de-escalation and connecting clients to available supports. Many of our clients have had negative experiences with police officers. Many DTU officers seem to understand that and work to be viewed as respectful and fair. They do not seem to be set on making an arrest when they arrive for a call. The DTU knows dozens of our clients and has an understanding of the complexity of their circumstances. I have observed a compassionate approach from many DTU officers and an interest in ensuring that the homeless individuals they encounter are linked to services that can help them get the support they need.

If you have any questions, or would like any additional information, please call or email me.

Sincerely,

Derek Towle
AHOPE Program Director
Homeward Bound of WNC
c. 828-777-4247
f. 828.252.4730
homewardboundwnc.org

Ben Fulmer

From: Laura Eshelman <Laura Eshelman <eshelmanlaura@gmail.com>> on behalf of Laura Eshelman
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:59 PM
To: Gordon Smith
Subject: Re: A Million Dollars for the People

All due respect, we need alternatives to calling 911 in the first place, and I don't remember slow response times being part of the ask for \$1 million. Why not use that requested million dollars to put people at work in their own neighborhoods as trained violence interrupters, or to hire more crisis mental health workers to take on some responsibilities police have been irresponsibly tasked with? All we are seeing in Chief Hooper's presentations-- if you are one of the lucky few to get a chance to speak with our so-called paragon of "community policing"-- are arrest data. If we want those to decrease, more cops with state of the art technology to monitor, control, and harm people is not the way to do it. We're also not hearing how many arrests are of tourists; why should I have to put up with more cops because Asheville is heart set on catering to drunk, aggressive bands of bachelor parties? Maybe that means million dollars could be used to invest in industries for Asheville other than tourism.

The police (APD and in general) do not serve and protect the public; they serve and protect their own institution. There is no other public service that we fear like law enforcement. I have master's degrees in both criminal justice and social work, and had to long ago set aside ideals of bridge building with police. There is too much about law enforcement culture that is antithetical to principles of social justice. To be honest, most of us already know which way city council is going to vote, and I've lost a lot of faith in my local elected officials. For the sake of people I care about and others I know who are especially vulnerable to police violence, I had to try. I still hope that the council will find more creative uses for that money to truly set Asheville apart and demonstrate that we can run our city without a disproportionately large, heavily armed police force. But I'm equally prepared for disappointment.

Best regards,
Laura

On Tuesday, April 11, 2017, Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Thank you for your input and concern. It's very helpful to hear from people as we move forward on budget decisions!

I am glad to note that this year we will spend record amounts on affordable housing, food security, transportation infrastructure, parks, and homeless services. Our wages, while among the worst in the state, are beginning to rise, and Council is unified on making sure we are a living wage organization and offering economic incentives only to living wage employers. We are also establishing an equity initiative at the city level as well as working with a broad set of partnerships to revitalize Lee Walker Heights. The idea that any money in the budget is either for the police or for the people is not accurate. Council has a responsibility to maintain a police force that meets the growing needs of a growing city. When I call 911, I want someone to show up fast! At the same time, we have a responsibility to meet the many needs listed atop this paragraph. It's a lot to juggle, and I fear that an oversimplification does not serve us well.

There is obviously a great deal of work to do if we are to reach our aspirations of justice and equity throughout our community. Rest assured I will take your input into consideration as move forward.

Best,

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Apr 10, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Laura Eshelman <eshelmanlaura@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Asheville City Council,

I am writing to beseech you not to grant the request of APD for a million dollar increase in funding. As a taxpaying citizen for many years, I feel that money would be more ethically and practically allocated toward programs and incentives to alleviate the financial burdens so many residents experience, or toward improving infrastructure. If we are serious about preventing crime, these are two areas that would benefit from long term support. Increasing the police budget at this time is an intervention, not prevention, and without clear qualitative data to accompany the official figures that the Chief has offered-- which describe numbers alone, and unfairly target our already over-policed housing projects-- I cannot support a decision to bolster the Trump presidency's insistence on more "law and order". Given the recent evidence of racial violence and aggression against APD, I would further encourage waiting at least another year on approving a budget increase until the community as a whole feels that they are serious about restoring the egregious harms it perceives APD to be responsible for.

I deeply hope you will take these words into consideration. On a more personal note, I also deeply fear for the lives of my black and brown friends if this budget request is approved. APD has done absolutely nothing, ever, to make me feel safer living here.

Laura Eshelman

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com>> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:25 PM
To: Kate Caton
Subject: Re: Police budget increase

Thank you for your input and concern. It's very helpful to hear from people as we move forward on budget decisions!

I am glad to note that this year we will spend record amounts on affordable housing, food security, transportation infrastructure, transit, parks, and homeless services. Our wages, while among the worst in the state, are beginning to rise, and Council is unified on making sure we are a living wage organization and offering economic incentives only to living wage employers. We are also establishing an equity initiative at the city level as well as working with a broad set of partnerships to revitalize Lee Walker Heights. The idea that any money in the budget is either for the police or for the people is not accurate. Council has a responsibility to maintain a police force that meets the growing needs of a growing city. When I call 911, I want someone to show up fast! At the same time, we have a responsibility to meet the many needs listed atop this paragraph. It's a lot to juggle, and I fear that an oversimplification does not serve us well.

There is obviously a great deal of work to do if we are to reach our aspirations of justice and equity throughout our community. Rest assured your input will help to inform my deliberations.

Best,

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Apr 10, 2017 at 10:44 AM, Kate Caton <ksfranklin@gmail.com> wrote:

I am writing to express my opposition to Chief Hooper's request for a million dollar increase to the police budget to increase police force downtown. This money should instead be invested back into our residents such as improvements to our transportation, education and diversion programs. These actions will provide stronger and safer community.

Thanks,

Kate Caton
28803

Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <Cecil Bothwell <cecilbothwell@avlcouncil.com> > on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 10:46 AM
To: Kate Caton
Subject: Re: Police budget increase

With you on this Kate,
Will do my best.

-c

"The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest. Only aim to do your duty and mankind will give you credit where you fail."

- Thomas Jefferson (A Summary View of the Rights of British America, 1774)

Cecil Bothwell
@cecilbothwell
828-713-8840

On Apr 10, 2017, at 10:44 AM, Kate Caton <ksfranklin@gmail.com> wrote:

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Thanks,

Kate Caton
28803

Ben Fulmer

From: Esther Manheimer <Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlouncil.com>> on behalf of Esther Manheimer
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:57 AM
To: Jaime Matthews
Subject: Fwd: South Slope Neighborhood Asso. supports AVL Police budget request
Attachments: Police Budget Increase Letter.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mary Mayo** <mary@catawbabrewing.com>
Date: Sat, Apr 8, 2017 at 10:32 AM
Subject: South Slope Neighborhood Asso. supports AVL Police budget request
To: gjackson@ashevillenc.gov, thooper@ashevillenc.gov, AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: ecoward@ashevillenc.gov, Ashleigh Hardes <Ashleigh@lexingtonglassworks.com>

Please find our support letter attached, with thanks for your service to our community.

Mary Mayo
(Outgoing President, SSNA)
Creative Director
Catawba Brewing

Future SSNA communications should be directed to: Ashleigh Hardes
Ashleigh@lexingtonglassworks.com

To: Asheville City Council

The South Slope Neighborhood Association supports the Asheville Police Department and their mission to protect life and property of Asheville. We are in favor of the budget request to add officers to the Downtown Unit that is responsible for the central business district, including our South Slope Neighborhood.

South Slope residents will see rapid growth in the next year, as City efforts to increase the number of residential units continue. Today there are 153 residential units in the South Slope Neighborhood. Another 299 South Slope residential units have been approved; 48 of these will begin renting this spring.

Safety for residents, workers and visitors is a primary concern – particularly where sidewalks and street lighting is not currently available. Walking on the edge of streets or crossing streets that have more traffic is a challenge. The visibility and availability of community policing in South Slope results in drivers slowing down and walkers being more aware and cautious – and feeling safer.

The community policing in South Slope by the downtown unit has been outstanding; very positive and aligned with the changing and expanding needs of the South Slope neighborhood. There is an urgent need to expand the presence of this positive downtown unit that provides community policing as the South Slope residential and visitor growth surges.

In addition to attending monthly meetings of the SSNA to get to know the neighbors, the downtown unit officers frequently attend neighborhood gatherings. This aspect of community policing – getting to know each other - helps residents, workers and business owners in the South Slope have confidence when requesting police support to address a homeless or drunk person or a panhandler. Because the downtown unit officers often also know the homeless and panhandler, they can act as an essential component of the social services support needed to get the help needed and avoid an

unnecessary arrest.

Community policing in the South Slope is an integral and positive part of the social support fabric we are seeking – having 24-hour/7day coverage in the South Slope by an expanded community policing downtown unit is essential to match the population growth in the South Slope.

SSNA mission is to present a unified voice of the businesses, workers and residents of the South Slope neighborhood, on issues that affect our community. The diverse points of view that make up our organization represent one of our greatest strengths: that businesses, residents, and property owners are working together to organize our interests, in order to create a shared future.

SSNA Contact: Mary Mayo Mary@Catawbabrewing.com

Ashleigh Hardes ashleigh@lexingtonglassworks.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Mayo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <Cecil Bothwell <cecilbothwell@avlcouncil.com> > on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:35 AM
To: eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com
Subject: Re: Business Owner NOT in support of police budget increase

Hi Elizabeth,

Entirely with you on this.

As Chair of the Public Safety Committee I've asked for a report on those crime statistics at today's meeting. My understanding at present is that fully a third of the downtown crimes reported recently were domestic violence - and there is no way an increased police presence will affect that. Another chunk seem to be fights between acquaintances leaving bars - not much more police can do there either, though for both they might show up quicker.

I'm far more interested in addressing homeless issues (\$150,000 would provide all day services at AHope, now closed afternoons). Better transit service would help a whole lot of people live more affordably. I'm working on a couple of parking improvements following on the Parking Study we will formally accept tomorrow night.

Thanks for weighing in on this very significant budget request.
And hurray for the monkey people!

-c

"The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest. Only aim to do your duty and mankind will give you credit where you fall."

- Thomas Jefferson (A Summary View of the Rights of British America, 1774)

Cecil Bothwell
@cecilbothwell
828-713-8840

On Mar 27, 2017, at 11:26 AM, Elizabeth Schell <eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com> wrote:

Dear City Council members,

As a downtown local business owner, I have many concerns about the needs of our community, downtown and beyond. Asheville is growing, and we've all seen both the benefit as well as the detriment of this growth. Chief of Police Tammy Hooper has requested a budget increase of a million dollars specifically focused on building up a downtown policing unit. The Chief has expressed concerns over an increase (statistically very small) in downtown crime. We all want our streets to be safe for workers, residents, and tourists alike, but I am convinced this would be a million-dollar mistake. What message does increased policing send? This is a solution in search of a problem. Instead, working for access to decent wages, affordable housing, and transportation can make a positive impact on our community and also be a deterrent to crime.

At the end of 2016, 743 downtown business owners and residents participated in a survey facilitated by the Downtown Association. Whether you look at all respondents or just the 200 downtown business owners and residents, we all put "safety" as a primary (first or second) concern. But when asked to actually rank issues in order of how we would want RESOURCES allocated, "more police" was ranked either 7th or 8th in a list of 8 issues. What was more concerning to us? More parking/transportation options; Infrastructure (maintaining and improving streets, lighting, crosswalks, sidewalk); Reducing homelessness; Increased affordable/workforce housing; Maintenance of parks; Increased cleaning services; Development of parks and green spaces.

Increased policing is not usually what makes me feel safe. Well lit streets with places for people to go that they can afford to work, live, and play...these things make me feel safe. A million dollars is a lot of money. And the people, through this survey and other modes of recent expression at public meetings, have been making it clear that there are many more priorities and issues that need our city's financial resources.

As a downtown business owner, I do not support an increase in the policing budget for the purpose of doubling the downtown unit. I want city resources used to fund improvements that highlight what makes Asheville unique and which will serve the needs of the people, and NOT an increase in police funding. Thank you for all you do for our city.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Schell, Purl's Yarn Emporium



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Ben Fulmer

From: Elizabeth Schell <Elizabeth Schell <eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com>> on behalf of Elizabeth Schell
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:26 AM
To: ashevilencouncil@ashevillenc.gov;eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com
Subject: Business Owner NOT in support of police budget increase

Dear City Council members,

As a downtown local business owner, I have many concerns about the needs of our community, downtown and beyond. Asheville is growing, and we've all seen both the benefit as well as the detriment of this growth. Chief of Police Tammy Hooper has requested a budget increase of a million dollars specifically focused on building up a downtown policing unit. The Chief has expressed concerns over an increase (statistically very small) in downtown crime. We all want our streets to be safe for workers, residents, and tourists alike, but I am convinced this would be a million-dollar mistake. What message does increased policing send? This is a solution in search of a problem. Instead, working for access to decent wages, affordable housing, and transportation can make a positive impact on our community and also be a deterrent to crime.

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Sincerely,
Elizabeth Schell, Purl's Yarn Emporium



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Ben Fulmer

From: Ted Figura <"Ted Figura" <tfigura@verizon.net>> on behalf of Ted Figura
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 8:41 PM
To: Julie Mayfield
Subject: RE: Police Budget Increase Proposal

Thanks, Julie. I'm sure more data will illuminate the issue. I do encourage you to press for creative solutions to addressing crime incidence in the Downtown, solutions that could be implemented within budget or with a smaller increase in budget than proposed, with any "savings" redirected toward systemic crime prevention programs, as I suggested earlier. I also encourage you to press for policing solutions that protect the rights of marginalized populations.

Ted Figura
Business Associate for Judy Figura, LCSW
118 Logan Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806
757-879-3124

From: Julie Mayfield [mailto:juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:14 PM
To: 'Ted Figura'
Subject: RE: Police Budget Increase Proposal

Thanks Ted. There is still much we need to learn about the chief's proposal as well as about crime in the downtown area – what when, who, etc. I do believe the stats on downtown crime show a problem that needs addressing, and I look forward to learning more so we can decide on the appropriate response.

Julie

From: Ted Figura [mailto:tfigura@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:21 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Police Budget Increase Proposal

City Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to increase the City's Police budget by \$1 million, primarily to increase police patrols downtown.

First, I am concerned about the potential that increasing police presence downtown will result in greater intimidation, arrests and hassling of the homeless and transient population, people of color, and others viewed to be "undesirable" in the eyes of the police, individually or collectively.

Secondly, I believe this money could be much better used to fund activities that reduce the root causes of crime— providing greater opportunities for the homeless to reintegrate into the economy and obtain housing, better education, support of civic groups active in engaging youth and building community, etc.

If some increase in the police budget is desired, I suggest it fund increased and improved police training in how to handle the mentally ill, how to de-escalate confrontations, alternatives to police use of gun violence as a law

enforcement mechanism, and sensitivity to minorities and recognition of the role white privilege plays in law enforcement decisions.

Ted Figura
118 Logan Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806
757-879-3124

Ben Fulmer

From: Julie Mayfield <"Julie Mayfield" <juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com>> on behalf of Julie Mayfield
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Ted Figura
Subject: RE: Police Budget Increase Proposal

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Ted Figura
118 Logan Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806
757-879-3124