

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** jennifer@valuescentre.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 5:05 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; AshevillePARC@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Construction near Basilica of St. Lawrence

Dear City Leaders,

In a recent message from Asheville PARC, the following concern was expressed about constructing a high rise hotel across the street from the Basilica of St. Lawrence:

"Many worry that construction of a hotel so close to the church could damage it. The church has one of the world's largest unsupported elliptical domes, and at age 103, heavy construction nearby risks damage to the structure."

**I must say this touched a nerve for me. In 2002, St Peter's Catholic Church in Charlotte lost its Alter Fresco due to nearby construction. The work of art had been created by Asheville-resident and NC-native son Ben Long.**

Personally, I am in favor of the church having a set back building and plaza or the city having a park at the location. I am not against high rises in general, but I am for the preservation of our irreplaceable, historic buildings.

Benjamin F. Long came to Charlotte to create a fresco behind the main altar of St. Peter's Catholic Church at 507 South Tryon St. The magnificent wall inspired great admiration among art lovers in the city, and led to further commissions.

The city of Charlotte is built on granite. Therefore, the construction on both sides of the church required dynamite to be used. All the vibrations from dynamite and jackhammers due to the construction shook the foundation which caused the windows to break and was responsible for the fresco falling at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

See related story here:

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1454&dat=20020222&id=wA1PAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Uh8EAAAAIBAJ&pg=5653.1376678>

Thank you,

Jenny Quinn

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Ann Green <veganchik@hotmail.com> on behalf of Ann Green  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 30, 2012 5:38 AM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** McKibbon plan

Please listen to the citizens who elected you and make a green space in front of the Basilica instead of allowing one (not even local) company to build yet another hotel!

Thank you.

Ann Green

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Ellen Clarke <ellengclarke@gmail.com> on behalf of Ellen Clarke  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:39 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Support St Lawrence Green

Asheville City Council:

Please vigorously support community-wide efforts to create a green space in front of St Lawrence Basilica. We do not need more hotels in downtown Asheville.

Thanks,

Ellen Clarke and John Byrd

24 Howland Rd

28804

Sent from my iPhone

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Cory Finneron <phinneron@yahoo.com> on behalf of Cory Finneron  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 8:42 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; letters@citizen-times.com

I'm with PARC in pushing for either a public park, which would be a wonderful treat, or else the sale of the land in front of the Basilica to the Basilica. A high rise hotel right there is not what I wish to see, nor do I believe it will benefit the city, unless the bottom line is our only interpretation of benefit.

Cory Finneron

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Jan Davis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** Cory Finneron  
**Subject:** Re:

Thank you for sharing your concerns and feelings.

Unfortunately, lacking a development plan, Council is not in a position of making a decision presently. I will assure you, very careful deliberation will occur before accepting any proposal for development of this most important property.

Regards

Jan

On Tue, Feb 7, 2012 at 8:42 PM, Cory Finneron <phinneron@yahoo.com> wrote:

> I'm with PARC in pushing for either a public park, which would be a  
> wonderful treat, or else the sale of the land in front of the Basilica  
> to the Basilica. A high rise hotel right there is not what I wish to  
> see, nor do I believe it will benefit the city, unless the bottom line  
> is our only interpretation of benefit.  
>  
> Cory Finneron

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Jim Stone <jimsto@yahoo.com> on behalf of Jim Stone  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2012 7:54 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Do what the people of Asheville want.

Dear Council,

I respectfully urge you to read the PARC email. Please act according to the poll which shows what the majority of Ashevillians want. Sincerely, James Stone 647 Town Mountain Road Asheville 28804

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Jeanne Charters <jcharters@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Jeanne Charters  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:17 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** The Basilica

Dear Asheville City Council members,

Please, I implore you to not sell the space in front of the Basilica to the McKibbon chain. In doing so, I believe you are not only sullyng a great tourism draw in our city, but that you are also damaging your own credibility as a group.

The Old Tripp Restaurant location is close to downtown and would make a great hotel location.

Jeanne Restivo

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Jan Davis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 9:13 AM  
**To:** Sharon Willen  
**Subject:** Re: a parc not a parking lot

Thank you for sharing your concerns and feelings.

Unfortunately, lacking a development plan, Council is not in a position of making a decision presently. I will assure you, very careful deliberation will occur before accepting any proposal for development of this most important property.

Regards

Jan

On Mon, Feb 6, 2012 at 4:57 PM, Sharon Willen <sharonwillen@gmail.com> wrote:

> Please make a decision in favor of the church's offer to purchase the  
> land across from Basilica St. Lawrence rather than the offer from the  
> hotel developer. This area, so close to the Civic Center, the Grove  
> Arcade, Historic Montford, and other notable city features should be  
> developed as a beautiful park attracting visitors much as Pack Place  
> does on the other side of town.

>

>

> Sharon

>

>

>

>

>



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Mark Sligh <marksligh@yahoo.com> on behalf of Mark Sligh  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 10:09 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Sale of City land near Basilica

I support the proposal to sell City-owned properties near the Basilica to the McKibbon Group to build a hotel. The land sale will benefit the taxpayers financially, as will the downtown investment by the McKibbon Group. It sounds like this proposal will also create much-needed jobs. It would be irresponsible not to consider such suggestions. The proposal should be monitored closely to insure that the hotel design fits in as well as possible with existing structures nearby. PARC's early involvement suggests that it will be.

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Whitney Smith de Vargas <wsmith@biltmore.com> on behalf of Whitney Smith de Vargas  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; letters@citizen-times.com  
**Subject:** Re: City Considers Land Sale

I would say either let the Basilica have it or have the park. Either one will work well for that area and will not pose a threat to the church. We have a bunch of hotels already, I think that there is probably a better area for a hotel somewhere else that is close to downtown instead.

Whitney Smith de Vargas

Corporate Coordinator  
Biltmore Inspirations & Biltmore For Your Home  
1 N. Pack Square  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Phone: 828.225.6778  
Fax: 828.225.6744



Please consider the environment before printing this email.



## City Land Sale?

**Monday, February 6, 2012**





### **Satellite View of the Basilica of St. Lawrence**

If the McKibbin Group gets its way, this view of the Basilica of St. Lawrence might soon be your best way to see it.

McKibbin wants to buy several City-owned properties in front of the Basilica to build a high-rise hotel, potentially blocking sight lines between several public buildings – Pack Memorial Library, the Vanderbilt, the Basilica, the Civic Center, the Battery Park Hotel, and the Grove Arcade.

Many worry that construction of a hotel so close to the church could damage it. The church has one of the world's largest unsupported elliptical domes, and at age 103, heavy construction nearby risks damage to the structure.

*But Council has another reasonable option.*

The Church itself has offered to buy the property, with a plan to immediately use the area for parking and later build a smaller building, set back from the church with a public plaza in front.

So there are actually three proposals for the land:

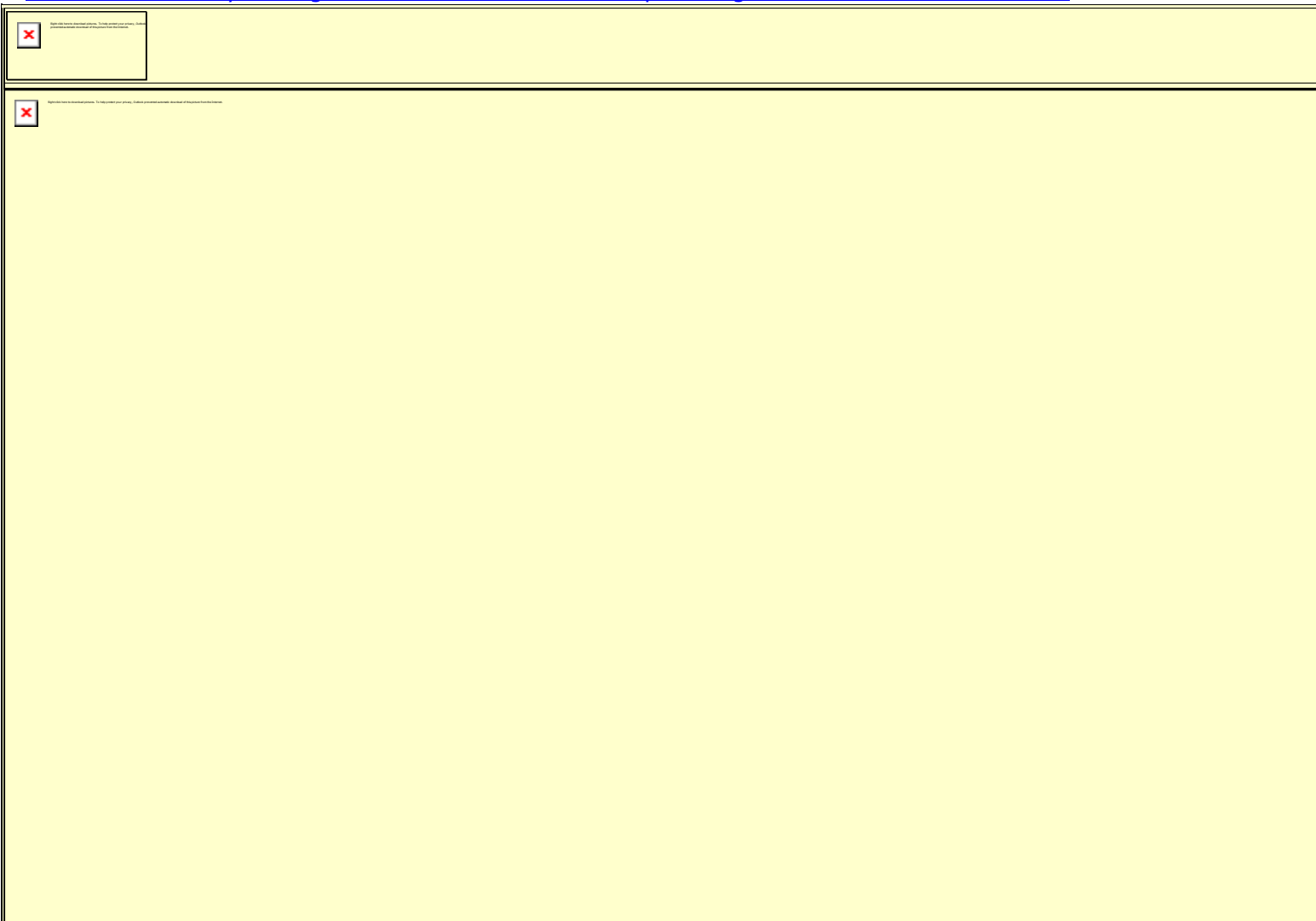
1. A high-rise hotel. Cities lose their local character quickly when the corporate giants come to town. (This new hotel would be just across the street from this new sign: U.S. Cellular Center);
2. The Church's set-back building, with a plaza; or
3. A city park, pictured below.

Check out the video below from the last time a developer tried to build on that spot.

Please email City Council and let them know your thoughts on this!



Thanks,  
from the folks at PARC.

[Video from three years ago when a builder wanted to put a high rise in front of the Basilica](#)

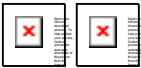


A City Park?

[Click here to email City Council and the Citizen-Times, please!](#)

 <small>Make sure to use the correct address. Double-check your email address.</small>	
 <small>Make sure to use the correct address. Double-check your email address.</small>	

PARC • PO Box 4093 • Asheville, NC 28805  
[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Send to a Friend](#) | [Preferences](#) | [Report Spam](#)  
Powered by [MyNewsletterBuilder](#)



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Jan Davis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 10:20 AM  
**To:** Mark Sligh  
**Subject:** Re: Sale of City land near Basilica

Thank you for sharing your concerns and feelings.

Unfortunately, lacking a development plan, Council is not in a position of making a decision presently. I will assure you, very careful deliberation will occur before accepting any proposal for development of this most important property.

Regards

Jan

On Wed, Feb 8, 2012 at 10:08 AM, Mark Sligh <[marksligh@yahoo.com](mailto:marksligh@yahoo.com)> wrote:

I support the proposal to sell City-owned properties near the Basilica to the McKibbon Group to build a hotel. The land sale will benefit the taxpayers financially, as will the downtown investment by the McKibbon Group. It sounds like this proposal will also create much-needed jobs. It would be irresponsible not to consider such suggestions. The proposal should be monitored closely to insure that the hotel design fits in as well as possible with existing structures nearby. PARC's early involvement suggests that it will be.

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Sharon Willen <sharonwillen@gmail.com> on behalf of Sharon Willen  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 4:57 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; letters@citizen-times.com  
**Subject:** a parc not a parking lot

Please make a decision in favor of the church's offer to purchase the land across from Basilica St. Lawrence rather than the offer from the hotel developer. This area, so close to the Civic Center, the Grove Arcade, Historic Montford, and other notable city features should be developed as a beautiful park attracting visitors much as Pack Place does on the other side of town.

Sharon

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** NewSouth Network <newsouthnetwork@gmail.com> on behalf of NewSouth Network  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 08, 2014 5:07 PM  
**To:** esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com; Cecil Bothwell; Gordon Smith; jandavis@avlcouncil.com; marchunt@avlcouncil.com; gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com; rsimmons@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Make Space for Life!

Please have a look at some of the Asheville downtown residents, workers and visitors who haven't taken a visual stand for a park at the crest of our city.

You can roll the asphalt over, but we'll keep on coming back. God bless the grass.

This is part of our efforts, in concert with ongoing efforts of residents of Battery Park & Vanderbilt Apts. and PARC to reignite the conversation on "highest and best use." of the remaining open space in this neighborhood. Slide show compiled by 5th generation Asheville resident Jim Brown.

Enjoy. More to come.

Clare Hanrahan  
1 Battle Square  
Asheville, NC 28801

<https://plus.google.com/photos/110589004450939931931/albums/6019062293884376161?banner=pwa>



### **New South Network of War Resisters**

Action, Collaboration & Training In Organized Nonviolence

P.O. Box 2551

Asheville, NC 28802

828-301-6683

#### [ACTION South](#)

Stories and photos of Southeast activists at work building a regionally sustained and locally informed movement from the ground up.

[War on Earth: Atomic Appalachia & the Militarized Southeast--Environmental Impact](#)



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** WLangdon@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2013 4:46 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** (no subject)

City Council Members and PARC:

Like Bill McKibbons says, this money is our money and not the cities. Instituting this additional tax based on our successful location needs to be canned. I feel that BID **will hinder** not help businesses in the downtown. Asheville has a very successful downtown that other cities are trying to replicate. The diversity of retail and businesses in the downtown does not come from additional taxes for what is claimed to be for additional support services and not from top-down manipulations. One reason that I am against BID is that my retail tenants are totally against it. As for Byron Geiner of the Asheville Downtown Association, when it comes to BID, I don't think that you get it. Joe Minicozzi who slings bags of cigarette butts at city council meetings doesn't get it either. Let's kill this ill-conceived tax before it kills our vibrant downtown.

Sincerely

Bill Langdon,  
Langdon Architecture PA  
William K. Langdon, AIA  
20 Battery Park Ave, Suite 820  
Asheville, NC 28801  
828.252.0296 office  
828.712.2190 cell  
William K. Langdon

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** libby <ciscokids@gmail.com> on behalf of libby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 02, 2013 3:45 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** The Asheville Water System

We are totally against the take over of Asheville's water system and support the City in your/our fight against HB488!

Namaste,  
mark & libby cornett  
130 Cisco Rd.  
Asheville, NC 28805

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** hotmail\_7672b44ab94aa30c@live.com on behalf of Norm Ray  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 02, 2013 12:42 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'  
**Subject:** Water Bill

Dear Council, We appreciate all of your efforts (including lobbying in Raleigh) to keep the water system within the City.

In Gratitude

Helen Yamada & Norm Ray  
400 Windswept Dr.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Home 828-296-0017



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Christopher Pratt <chrispdoc1@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2013 10:18 PM  
**To:** Chris Campbell; Jason Sandford; jboyle; Jon Ostendorff; Angie Newsome, Director and Editor; Margaret Williams, Co-Managing Editor/News Editor; Jody Evans; Terry; Holly Jones; commissioner@davidgantt.com; bill.stanley@buncombecounty.org; ray.bailey@buncombecounty.org; carol.peterson@buncombecounty.org; A-B Tech Board of Trustees; mandy.stone@buncombecounty.org; talexander@taylorandmurphy.com; mrfowler54@msn.com; wahartjr@bellsouth.net; piknsing@bellsouth.net; dlocke@ret.unca.edu; kaye.myers@ncdcr.gov; peterson7@bellsouth.net; gordon.diane@gmail.com; joebandaleta@bellsouth.net; ray.spells@wachovia.com; sga@abtech.edu; jessekorth@gmail.com; Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce; North Asheville; PARC; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Why did Dunn have A-B Tech attorney Chris Campbell send me a "cease and desist letter"? Re: Why is the A C-T not addressing what Dunn told Jason Sandford?

### Why did Dunn have A-B Tech attorney Chris Campbell send me a "cease and desist letter"?

On Thu, Mar 14, 2013 at 9:49 PM, Christopher Pratt <[chrispdoc1@gmail.com](mailto:chrispdoc1@gmail.com)> wrote:

**Why is the A C-T not addressing what Dunn told Jason Sandford?**

**NOT A-B Tech Employees, but TRUSTEES!**

**A-B Tech President Hank "Dunn is adamant that no college employee has been disciplined for expressing discontent with his decisions."**

**JUST A-B TECH TRUSTEES!**

**What kind of person thinks there is nothing wrong with telling the press adamantly "that no college employee has been disciplined for expressing discontent with his decisions" when he know it's not true? And so do all those A-B Tech employees who were threatened not to speak about being put on probation, suspended, and fired for doing their jobs. How many good, hard working people with excellent performance appraisals were targeted by him for disagreeing with him -- why is there no investigation?**

**And where are the College Board of Trustees of the College, the County Commissioners and the Asheville Citizen Times in letting him get away with it?**

**WHY HASN'T THE CITIZEN TIMES connected the dots, if Dunn will do it to Trustees, what makes them think he didn't do it to the press and to employees?**

**Asheville Citizen-Times reported that Asheville - Buncombe Technical Community College President Hank "Dunn is adamant that no college employee has been disciplined**

**for expressing discontent with his decisions."** -- Written by Jason Sandford, March 22, 2011 -- <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20110322/COLUMNISTS06/303220025/Ashvegas-B-Tech-president-finds-transparency-hard>

# Ashvegas: Asheville-Buncombe Tech president finds transparency hard

Written by Jason Sandford -- 12:02 AM, Mar. 22, 2011 | [5 Comments](#)

Hank Dunn's feeling a little under siege these days.

As the relatively new president of Asheville-Buncombe Technical College — Dunn just marked his one-year anniversary — Dunn has been dealing with a shrinking state budget and enrollment increase pressures while at the same time instituting a number of policy changes. Some of the changes are controversial.

Dunn's an experienced leader. He knows that facing a certain level of criticism comes with the territory, and that it must be addressed. But he's not happy with some of the anonymous comments he's seen on a few websites, including the Ashvegas blog. So in the spirit of openness, Dunn on Monday spent an hour reviewing some of the complaints.

The issues appear to fall into two categories: communication and policy changes. On both, Dunn says he's doing everything he can to be “as transparent a guy as I can be.”

On the communication front, Dunn is about as open as an administrator can be. He holds a monthly meeting open to any faculty member, staffer or student who wants to air issues, and he holds a monthly lunch meeting with a different group of a dozen or so he picks.

He sends out a weekly email update, and he encourages anyone who wants to talk one on one to enter his office. **Dunn is adamant that no college employee has been disciplined for expressing discontent with his decisions.**

“I'm OK with people disagreeing with me,” he says, as long as they're civil. “My approach is just to tell people what I'm doing.”

Dunn's been talking a lot about his new policies put in place over the last year on campus. He's changed the workweek from 35 hours to 40 hours. He's urged faculty to consider moving to four-week and eight-week classes, rather than the traditional 16-week time frame, which requires significant revisions to schedules and new teaching approaches in the classroom.

There's a new procedure to interview and select new hires, one that some faculty feel diminishes their voice. And he's adopted a program that uses specific metrics that aim to measure and improve student performance.

(Page 2 of 2)

That's all caused more than a little discomfort on campus. Dunn describes it as “high anxiety” rather than low morale. The only way to address it is by being open, he says.

Dunn has the benefit of learning from the administrator who preceded him, Betty Young. She replaced A-B Tech's longtime leader, K. Ray Bailey, but resigned after two years, citing discontent on campus as one reason why she decided to leave. Dunn also knows he needs his campus community behind him as he prepares to launch a wider campaign to persuade the public to approve a quarter-cent sales tax increase in November that would fund school construction and renovation projects.

Dunn's apparent willingness to talk arrives with the freshness of a spring breeze, but it can't just be a season that comes and goes. Transparency is hard work, and Dunn must keep after it.

Contact Jason Sandford at [jsandford@citizen-times.com](mailto:jsandford@citizen-times.com). Find Ashvegas updates online at CITIZEN-TIMES.com/ashvegas and the full blog at [www.ashvegas.com](http://www.ashvegas.com).

## Comments for

# Ashvegas: Asheville-Buncombe Tech president finds transparency hard

[StateEmployee453](#)

5:40 AM on March 22, 2011

Ok, I'll go first.

Staff Turnover - the open-door policy Dr. Dunn mentioned does exist but you'll find few employees, and even fewer students, taking advantage of it. They have seen what happened to other employees and simply will not take a chance. Look at the good employees who have left since Dr. Dunn came on board. Look at the retirements. Do you think long-term state employees would leave a job in this economy if they were happy at AB Tech. Be prepared for the pat responses of "Disgruntled former employee" or "We can't discuss personnel matters" if you ask many questions in this area.

Outsourcing - did anyone follow-up on the very large amounts of money Dr. Dunn claimed to be saving by outsourcing the maintenance staff. These people were some of the lowest paid employees at AB Tech and they were simply swept aside to impress someone in Raleigh with the cost "savings". Notice how no one suggested out sourcing the higher paid administrative jobs.

Media - my biggest criticism goes to the media. Why is it that one of the largest state agencies in the county gets a pass when it comes to hard questions? Frequently, you ask a good question and then don't follow up with the next probing question. Case in point: being a state agency, AB Tech's finances are public information. Why haven't you gotten a list of expenditures and asked why these large amounts of money have been spent in certain areas? Given the economy, doesn't some of the travel seem excessive? What about the equipment purchases? Are all the new positions justified? You will find many AB Tech employees willing to answer your questions - it is public information after all - but don't expect them to endanger his or her job by giving information you don't ask for. There seems to be a bias when talking to people with PhDs as if they wouldn't shade the truth.

Report Abuse



Score: 2

## [mwirishscot2](#)

6:03 AM on March 22, 2011

AB has been of value to our area, BUT, like everything else having to do with government spending, the spending has gotten out of control. Buildings that are no longer just utilitarian and rather need to have appeal much greater than most people's homes have eaten up millions of dollars. The emphasis on "high tech" rather than basic learning is also a waste of taxpayer's money - the basic skill set is the most important thing to build, the rest can be acquired at the next level. Teach them how to THINK, not be dependent on computers and such with no clue how to use their own minds. We have seen this with all of our children that how gone there.

That said, it IS a benefit to our area, but those ATTENDING may need to pay more to go there - this includes my last two children.

In regard to outsourcing, the lowest paying jobs also carried benefits packages that are no longer the norm - and before YOU complain, remember where you are buying your products - YOU already outsourced the jobs of your neighbors in your mantra for more for less. This will CONTINUE to move to other areas of our economy as well, government has overspent and is now fully engaged in this method as well - all in the interest of delivering "more for less".

Report Abuse



Score: 2

## [RedHotPoker](#)

6:55 AM on March 22, 2011

Has he disclosed the 'private donors' who are footing the cost for the sales tax referendum as state law requires?

Report Abuse



Score: 2

## [RedHotPoker](#)

6:58 AM on March 22, 2011

Dunn is ANOTHER overpaid bureaucrat at \$200,000 +++ per year...is he worth it?

Report Abuse



Score: 0

## [AVLNativeOne](#)

7:54 AM on March 22, 2011

Government entities, including AB Community College, must be relevant. It seems that AB Community College has lost its way over the years as the market has changed. Now AB Community College finds its campus with a crumbling infrastructure; much of their curriculum may not be geared for an actual job in this region when their student graduates; and the campus has been plagued with unrest and discontent over the last three years due to senior leadership changes.

It appears with Volvo's two recent closings, regional manufacturing jobs are in jeopardy of leaving, and the need for an expansive technical curriculum may have passed AB Community College by. A new curriculum direction is difficult with a tight budget and major competitors for students in this market.

Transparency may be the least of Doctor Dunn's issues. The Buncombe County taxpayers are not in a mood for more taxes. He would be well advised to wait for a better environment for his tax increase ballot proposal. Another misstep and he may be a casualty of his own overreaching.

Why does it seem as though all these high priced executive leaders hired from outside Buncombe County have tremendous problems acclimating to WNC?



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Summer Rain <jsrain@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Summer Rain  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2013 4:41 PM  
**To:** letters@citizen-times.com  
**Cc:** PARC;backtalk@theurbannews.com;letters@mountainx.com;AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevilenc.gov  
**Subject:** PARC Slam

The article in the Citizen-Times singling out Councilman Bothwell is exactly why I have stopped purchasing or advertising with the Citizen-Times. A large percentage of citizens petitioned and/or wrote to the City Council asking that the land across from the Basilica not be sold to another outside hotel company, but the City Council once again passed it through same as they did with Pac Square leaving our citizens to fight directly to protect the little land left to us downtown. Once again it is clear that most of our City Council are on the side of big outside business instead of the wishes of the citizens of Asheville. This whole issue should have been added to the November ballot same as our water issue will be. With so little valuable land left downtown, this citizen believes none of it should ever be sold without a direct vote by its citizen for clearly City Council has either no interest in protecting citizen desires/choices or is not capable of enacting votes to do so.

Once again a saddened citizen of Asheville has to speak out for City Council will not.  
S. Rain

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Joe Scott  
**Cc:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Defend our Water demonstration

Not if there is a public sidewalk in front of your home.

-C

On Dec 5, 2012, at 10:22 AM, Joe Scott wrote:

I don't want these people in front of my house at 54 Macon Ave. Can they be restricted?

Joe Scott  
President  
IntelliSound, Inc.  
82 Patton Avenue  
Suite 620  
Asheville, NC 28801  
M) 828-210-9000  
C) 828-775-9283  
F) 828-210-9004  
[www.intellisound.net](http://www.intellisound.net)

---

**From:** PARC [mailto:ashevilleparc@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 9:16 AM  
**To:** Joe Scott  
**Subject:** Defend our Water demonstration

[View as Web Page](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Send to a Friend](#)





## Contact

City Council  
Asheville Citizen-  
Times  
Mountain Xpress  
The Urban News  
Asheville PARC



# Defend our water de



reservoir

Dear Asheville Neighbor,

On election day last month 86% of Asheville voters said they would support the current water system. In fact, as AC-T op-ed writer John Miall wrote at a time when 86% of Asheville voters agreed on anything,

So Asheville voters can be forgiven for wondering why. Instead, proponents of the takeover want you to believe you should be happy to accept pennies-on-the-dollar as compensation.

It seems the Republican-led legislature is sharpening its claws. The takeover of the water system come January. If allowed to happen, this would send fear statewide into every community.

Some of us believe not all is lost. Some of us believe we have the power of citizen opposition to this state power grab.

**On Saturday evening December 8th, virtually at 7:00 pm, including in-coming Governor Pat McCrory, will be at the annual Charles Taylor's Republican fundraiser.**

This is your invitation to join your neighbors as we assemble to raise the visibility of the water issue before the very eyes of traveling to Raleigh, this is your chance to be seen and heard to the taking of Asheville's water system by legislative action.

**We plan to gather beginning at 5:30 pm, at the Buncombe County Courthouse and create a line of voters stretching up Macon Street on the water issue. We expect to finish once the Rally is over.**

You are welcome to create your own sign. Extras will be provided. Positive. Examples might be:

**Defend Our Water--Vote NO on State Takeover**

**86% Say NO to Water Grab**

**Hands Off Buncombe Water**

**The Party of 'Small Government'--Really?**

**What Problem is Being Solved?**

**No State Takings--Hands Off Buncombe Water**

You get the idea.

The other important element to sending a strong message is to get out to your networks and invite them to join this rally. Elected officials can count heads. A big crowd sends a strong message.

As someone once said, democracy is not a spectator sport. It's up to us to Defend Our Water. See you Saturday evening.

For questions, comments, ideas or more information please contact:

Thank you,

Teddy Jordan -- 785-2644 -- [teddy.jordan30@gmail.com](mailto:teddy.jordan30@gmail.com)

Cheryl Orengo -- 776-3327 [ctorengo@gmail.com](mailto:ctorengo@gmail.com).



PARC • PO Box 4093 • Asheville, NC 28805

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Send to a Friend](#) | [Preferences](#) | [Report Spam](#)

Powered by [MyNewsletterBuilder](#)



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Joe Scott <jscott@intellisound.net> on behalf of Joe Scott  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 10:23 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** FW: Defend our Water demonstration

I don't want these people in front of my house at 54 Macon Ave. Can they be restricted?

Joe Scott  
President  
IntelliSound, Inc.  
82 Patton Avenue  
Suite 620  
Asheville, NC 28801  
M) 828-210-9000  
C) 828-775-9283  
F) 828-210-9004  
[www.intellisound.net](http://www.intellisound.net)

---

**From:** PARC [mailto:ashevilleparc@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 9:16 AM  
**To:** Joe Scott  
**Subject:** Defend our Water demonstration

[View as Web Page](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Send to a Friend](#)



## Contact

City Council  
Asheville Citizen-  
Times  
Mountain Xpress  
The Urban News  
Asheville PARC



# Defend our water democ



reservoir

Dear Asheville Neighbor,

On election day last month 86% of Asheville voters said 'No' to the takeover of the water system. In fact, as AC-T op-ed writer John Miall commented, it was a time when 86% of Asheville voters agreed on anything. That's a record.

So Asheville voters can be forgiven for wondering why the state is still pushing for the takeover. Instead, proponents of the takeover want you to believe the takeover is necessary and you should be happy to accept pennies-on-the-dollar as compensation for the loss of your water.

It seems the Republican-led legislature is sharpening their knives to take the water system come January. If allowed to happen, this would be a major victory and send fear statewide into every community.

Some of us believe not all is lost. Some of us believe we have enough power and of citizen opposition to this state power grab.

**On Saturday evening December 8th, virtually all leadership, including in-coming Governor Pat McCrory, will be at the annual Charles Taylor's Republican fundraiser.**

This is your invitation to join your neighbors as we assemble to raise the visibility of the water issue before the very legislators. Of traveling to Raleigh, this is your chance to be seen and heard in the taking of Asheville's water system by legislative fiat.

**We plan to gather beginning at 5:30 pm, at the corner of Macon Ave. and create a line of voters stretching up Macon Ave. to discuss the water issue. We expect to finish once the Republican Party has taken the water issue.**

You are welcome to create your own sign. Extras will be available. Examples might be:

**Defend Our Water--Vote NO on State Takeover**

**86% Say NO to Water Grab**

**Hands Off Buncombe Water**

**The Party of 'Small Government'--Really?**

**What Problem is Being Solved?**

**No State Takings--Hands Off Buncombe Water**

You get the idea.

The other important element to sending a strong message is to get out to your networks and invite them to join this rally. Please. Elected officials can count heads. A big crowd sends a big message.

As someone once said, democracy is not a spectator sport. It's up to Defend Our Water. See you Saturday evening.

For questions, comments, ideas or more information please

Thank you,

Teddy Jordan -- 785-2644 -- [teddy.jordan30@gmail.com](mailto:teddy.jordan30@gmail.com)

Cheryl Orengo -- 776-3327 [ctorengo@gmail.com](mailto:ctorengo@gmail.com).







PARC • PO Box 4093 • Asheville, NC 28805

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Send to a Friend](#) | [Preferences](#) | [Report Spam](#)

Powered by [MyNewsletterBuilder](#)



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Christopher Pratt <christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2012 8:52 PM  
**To:** commissioner@davidgantt.com; bill.stanley@buncombecounty.org; ray.bailey@buncombecounty.org; holly.jones@buncombecounty.org; carol.peterson@buncombecounty.org; A-B Tech Board of Trustees; mandy.stone@buncombecounty.org; talexander@taylorandmurphy.com; mrfowler54@msn.com; wahartjr@bellsouth.net; piknsing@bellsouth.net; dlocke@ret.unca.edu; kaye.myers@ncdcr.gov; peterson7@bellsouth.net; gordon.diane@gmail.com; joebandaleta@bellsouth.net; ray.spells@wachovia.com; sga@abtech.edu; jessekorth@gmail.com; chris@csedlaw.com; Jason Sandford; Angie Newsome, Director and Editor; Margaret Williams, Co-Managing Editor/News Editor; jboyle; Jon Ostendorff; Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce; North Asheville; PARC; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; Governor Bev Perdue  
**Cc:** Dr. Christopher Pratt  
**Subject:** "What/who is causing the continuing revolving door of employee turnover at A-B Tech?"

What/who is causing the continuing revolving door of employee turnover at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College?

Who's monitoring it?

What's it costing the people of Asheville and Buncombe County and the State of North Carolina?

Why hasn't anyone called it into question?

Who's accountable?

Who will answer these questions please?

Thanks,

Chris

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Dancewater <dancewater2@gmail.com> on behalf of Dancewater  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:31 PM  
**To:** Dancewater  
**Subject:** Upcoming events for the week of October 28, 2012

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### TIME TO VOTE!

It is possible to register and vote in one stop if you are not already registered. If you have moved or not voted in awhile, then vote during early voting to make sure your vote is counted. Do not sit out an election - no one gains a voice or more power by not participating. Some recommendations for non-partisan races are at the end of this email.

#### 10/29/12 DEFENDING APPALACHIA FROM THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Film & Discussion. Southern Appalachia is targeted by the nuclear industry for new power plants, waste storage and reprocessing. This event will include a discussion on local nuclear issues, efforts against them and segments of the film "Knocking on Devil's Door, Our Deadly Nuclear Legacy." Sponsored by SAFE Carolinas and Katuah Earth First!. Location is Firestorm Café and Books and time is 7 PM.

#### 10/30/12 BUILDING AN ABUSE FREE COMMUNITY

This is a four-part series focusing on the reality of abuse in our society. The goal is to empower the community by enabling and energizing a broader base of advocates to take action in preventing abuse and supporting victims in their recovery. Time is 7 PM and location is the Fellowship Hall at Grace Presbyterian Church on Merrimon. For more information, contact [jimrwallis@aol.com](mailto:jimrwallis@aol.com). Part Two: How do you recognize signs of abuse? Why is this happening?

#### 10/30/12 STORIES OF GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Sasha Mitchell will share her own family experience on genealogical research prior to 1865. Time is 12:20 to 1:30 PM and location is Highsmith Student Union Mountain Suites.

#### 10/30/12 FOCUS ON CHILDREN TOWN HALL MEETING

Action for Children North Carolina will launch its statewide Focus on Children town hall series in Asheville on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 from 8 AM to 9:30 AM. Children First/Children In Schools is a cosponsor. The Focus on Children town hall meetings will bring local data about the status of children and youth to communities across the state in an effort to highlight improvements and declines in child well-being and facilitate discussion about strategies to improve the status of children. Location is Mountain Area Health Education Center, Balsam Room, 121 Hendersonville Road, Asheville. To register, go to this link: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=nrj5mtcab&oeidk=a07e6cozjdmf0a82cea&seq=>

#### 10/30/12 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VIGIL

UNC-Asheville Amnesty International will host a Domestic Violence Vigil Tuesday, October 30 at 8:00pm. The candlelight service will take place on the campus Quad. The vigil will include speakers from Helpmate, Our Voice and Pisgah Legal Services. They will be reading the names of the NC homicide victims who have lost their lives so far this year. Please come and help honor victims and survivors of intimate partner violence!

#### 10/30/12 ASHEVILLE WATER REFERENDUM WORLD SERIES

Rally and press conference in support of voting “no” on the referendum , sponsored by Clean Water for NC, Food and Water Watch, WNCA, WENOCA Sierra Club, Mountain Voices Alliance, PARC, and other local partners. Location is Vance Monument, and time is 5:15 to 6 PM. Contact Katie at 828-251-1291 or [katie@cwfncc.org](mailto:katie@cwfncc.org) for more information.

#### 11/01/12 VETERANS FOR PEACE MEETING

Time is 6:30 PM and location is VFP HQ at the Phil Mechanic Studios: 109 Roberts Street in Asheville. VFP Chapter 099: <http://vfpchapter099wnc.blogspot.com/>

#### 11/01/12 PUBLIC MEETING ON BUS SERVICE IN ASHEVILLE

This meeting will be held at Pack Memorial Library's Lord Auditorium, 67 Haywood St. from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will have a drop-in format. In addition to the meeting, the public can weigh in on changes to the ART system via an online poll found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ARTJan2013>. The public may also submit comments, no later than November 1, by email to [iride@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:iride@ashevillenc.gov) or mail to Mariate Echeverry, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Asheville, P.O. Box 7148, Asheville NC 28802

#### 11/02/12 TRANSIT TALK

Transportation is a huge barrier for low-income families trying to access food, jobs, and services. Join us to learn more about recent changes to the Asheville bus system and how we can be advocates for better transit. Julie Mayfield, Director of WNC Alliance and the Chair of the City Transit Board, will be giving a Transit Talk from noon to 1:30 PM. Bring a lunch, but snacks will be provided, and join us at the United Way Building Room #1&2 at 50 South French Broad Ave, Asheville.

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e6jo2zjz9c2337ac&oseq=>

#### 11/02/12 FUNDRAISING FOR HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM

Party for the People! Time is 7-9:30 p.m. at Jubilee! Community on Wall St. Party for the People is WWD-F's annual fundraising event to support the Healthy Living Program in the Hillcrest public housing community. We offer classes and workshops around healthy habits and personal empowerment to Hillcrest residents. This event will feature live entertainment, a light dinner, childcare, and door prizes. \$25 suggested donation! [Women's Wellbeing and Development Foundation \(WWD-F\)](#)

#### 11/03/12 GREEN PARTY MEETING

The Buncombe County GREEN Party's business meeting is open to the public. It will be held from 10 AM to noon, upstairs in the Fortune Building, 729 Haywood Rd., West Asheville. Contact Ronald @ 828-LUCK-180 or Larry @ 828-225-4347 for more information.

#### 11/03/12 PERMACULTURE IN ACTION

This hands-on weekend workshop will explore the social, ecological, and economic potential of whole-systems thinking and design. Asheville-based teachers Zev Friedman and Dylan Ryals-Hamilton will explain and demonstrate the theory and practice of permaculture. They will be teaching from a completed permaculture master plan which includes ponds, integrated chickens and ducks, mushroom culture, and diverse rainwater collection systems. Students can get their hands dirty implementing a lowbush blueberry polyculture guild, a small forest garden patch, a native medicinal plant guild, and several strategies for erosion prevention and topsoil improvement. The workshop will take place on the weekend of November 3rd and 4th. For more information please email [permacultureinaction@gmail.com](mailto:permacultureinaction@gmail.com).

#### 11/03/12 SCREENING OF THE MOVIE 'THE LINE'

The Line documents the stories of people across the country living at or below the poverty line. They have goals. They have children. They work hard. They are people like you and me. From Chicago's suburbs and west side to the Gulf Coast to North

Carolina, millions of Americans are struggling every day to make it above The Line. To learn more about The

Line, please visit [www.thelinemovie.com](http://www.thelinemovie.com). This will be held at New Creation Church in Fletcher. Time is 1 PM. Contact Debbie at 776-3007 for more information.

#### 11/03/12 OCCUPY ASHEVILLE MOVE YOUR MONEY EVENT

This will be held at 2 PM at Vance Monument. There will be information on how to Move Your Money and why this is important. There will also be a short picket. All are welcome.

#### 11/03/12 OCCUPY ASHEVILLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This will be at 4 PM in Pritchard Park. All are welcome.

#### 11/4/12 TREE HUGGER'S BALL: CONTRA FOR COAL RIVER

Join us for a contra dance in support of Coal River Mountain Watch, a leader in the fight against mountaintop removal in Appalachia. Come dance to the foot-tappin' tunes of Contraversial and fantastic calling of Maggie Jo Saylor! Sponsored by WWC's Eco Justice Crew & Katuah Earth First! Location: Bryson Gym at Warren Wilson College. Time: 6:30 for Contra dance lesson, 7:00-10:00 for Dance!

#### 11/07/12 SIERRA CLUB MEETING

Chris Mathis will discuss "Why Building Matter: Sustainability Challenges". Program starts at 7:15 PM and location is Unitarian Church at Edwin Place and Charlotte Street.

#### 11/07/12 CONCERT TO HONOR BREAD AND ROSES STRIKE

Charlie King and Karen Brandow will present extraordinary songs of ordinary people and a second-set performance marking the 100th anniversary of the history-making Bread and Roses textile strike, on November 7 at 7:30 at UNC Asheville's Highsmith Student Union. Tickets are free for UNC Asheville students, faculty and staff and \$10 for the general public. This is co-sponsored by the UNC Asheville Foreign Languages and Political Science departments and HOLA. FMI, contact [hras@humanrightsaction.net](mailto:hras@humanrightsaction.net) or call 314-374-7446.

#### 11/08/12 - 11/11/12 LAKE JUNALUSKA PEACE CONFERENCE

The fifth annual [Lake Junaluska Peace Conference](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/peace), "Love in Action: the Transformative Power of Nonviolence," will draw upon the lessons of nonviolent campaigns and their leaders who discovered a force that can change the world. Participants will explore the principles and learn the applications of nonviolence as taught by Gandhi, King, and many spiritual leaders who offered this alternative paradigm for resolving conflict, achieving justice, and building peace. For more information: [www.lakejunaluska.com/peace](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/peace).

#### 11/08/12 THE GENERAL'S SON: JOURNEY OF AN ISRAELI IN PALESTINE

In 1997, a tragedy struck the family of Israeli-American Miko Peled: His beloved niece Smadar was killed by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem. That tragedy propelled Peled onto a journey of discovery. Peled's title for his talk is "Moving Beyond Zionism: a New Paradigm for Israel and Palestine." Location is Simpson Hall at A-B Tech. Time is 7 PM. This is sponsored by Western Carolinians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East. Open to the public. For more information, email Tony at [bingtony@yahoo.com](mailto:bingtony@yahoo.com).

#### 11/08/12 COMMUNITY EVENT AROUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"PRIVATE VIOLENCE" is a collaborative community event to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence in our region. A portion of the proceeds will go to support domestic and sexual violence programs in our community. This will be at the Fine Arts Theater. No further information at this time.

#### 11/09/12 SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT AT UU CHURCH

Social Justice Film night will feature "Peaceable Kingdom" a film about the awakening conscience of several farmer who came to question the killing of animals. Time is 7 PM and will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Charlotte and Edwin Place. Donations accepted. Info from [devwilliams@juno.com](mailto:devwilliams@juno.com).

#### 11/10/12 BUNCOMBE FRUIT AND NUTS CLUB

The Buncombe Fruit and Nuts club announces the Carnival of Nuts! You've known it all along: Asheville is nuttier than a fruitcake! So come enjoy some true nuttiness at the West End Bakery on November 10 from 5:30-9pm, and bring the kids for family fun. All funds raised go to the Buncombe Fruit Nuts, a group of nut and fruit enthusiasts who are happy to plant and nurture shrubs and trees in the parks all over town. There'll be awesome door prizes (win your own nut tree), games like the Acorn-Squirrel toss for kids, nut-cracking demonstrations featuring the Nutcracker himself, acorn magic, special viewings of the nut-blimp, the nuttiest poem, and more.

#### 11/11/12 RING BELLS FOR ARMISTICE DAY

[Armistice Day: Ring Bells For Peace @ 11am](#)

#### 11/11/12 EAT AT MIKE'S

Location is First Congregational UCC in Asheville on Oak Street downtown. Time is 5 PM to 8 PM. This is the WNC health Advocates' annual dinner and auction. Tickets are a minimum donation of \$20 and will be on sale at The Downtown Market, or call 828-243-6712 or e-mail [leslie@wnchealthadvocates.org](mailto:leslie@wnchealthadvocates.org).

#### 11/11/12 REMEMBER FALLUJAH WEEK

#### 11/13/12 BUILDING AN ABUSE FREE COMMUNITY

This is a four-part series focusing on the reality of abuse in our society. The goal is to empower the community by enabling and energizing a broader base of advocates to take action in preventing abuse and supporting victims in their recovery. Time is 7 PM and location is the Fellowship Hall at Grace Presbyterian Church on Merrimon. For more information, contact [jimrwallis@aol.com](mailto:jimrwallis@aol.com). Part Three: How can one be abused on the internet? Why should one be more aware while on Facebook?

#### 11/16/12 PROTEST THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS AT FORT BENNING

#### 11/17/12 MOVIE SHOWING BY WNC PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

They will be showing the blockbuster expose' film "9/11: EXPLOSIVE EVIDENCE--THE EXPERTS SPEAK OUT" at the Transylvania County Library at 2 PM on Saturday, November 17. The film blows the "Official Conspiracy Theory" of the Bush administration apart by focusing on the 3 WTC buildings. The film is FREE but we'll accept small donations to offset the cost imposed by the library. Also sponsored by Transylvanians For Peace. Contact Don at [gaia@comporium.net](mailto:gaia@comporium.net) for more information.

#### 11/18/12 ETHICAL SOCIETY OF ASHEVILLE MEETING

"Criminalization of the Homeless" will be presented by John Spitzberg at the Sunday, November 18th meeting of the Ethical Society of Asheville, 2:00-3:30 PM, held at the Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood Road in North Asheville (off Merrimon Avenue near UNCA). Spitzberg, an author and retired educator, is current Asheville Homeless Network president and out-going president the local Veterans for Peace group, as well as a member of the Ethical Society of Asheville and the Asheville Baha'i Community. The topic will cover a growing trend in our country and provide information regarding steps that can be and have been taken to deal with this population. There will be a discussion period following the presentation. Following the meeting, there will be time for informal conversation. All are welcome! For more information contact: [asheville@aeu.org](mailto:asheville@aeu.org), [www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org), 828-687-7759 or [ethicalsocietyasheville@gmail.com](mailto:ethicalsocietyasheville@gmail.com).

#### 11/27/12 BUILDING AN ABUSE FREE COMMUNITY

This is a four-part series focusing on the reality of abuse in our society. The goal is to empower the community by enabling and energizing a broader base of advocates to take action in preventing abuse and supporting victims in their recovery. Time is 7 PM and location is the Fellowship Hall at Grace Presbyterian Church on Merrimon. For more information, contact [jimrwallis@aol.com](mailto:jimrwallis@aol.com). Part Four: How does one stop the cycle? Where can a person turn?

### 12/05/12 SIERRA CLUB MEETING

This is their holiday potluck with recognition awards. Please bring a dish and a book to swap. Program starts at 7 PM and location is Unitarian Church at Edwin Place and Charlotte Street.

### 12/14/12 SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT AT UU CHURCH

Social Justice Film night will feature "I AM" a film about a man's personal journey after a bicycle accident, 'the nature of humanity' and the 'world's ever-growing addiction to materialism'. Time is 7 PM and will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Charlotte and Edwin Place. Donations accepted. Info from [devwilliams@juno.com](mailto:devwilliams@juno.com).

### 12/14/12 to 12/16/12 MOVE TO AMEND CONVERGENCE IN FLORIDA

<https://movetoamend.org/events/gainesville-fl-move-amend-south-regional-convergence>

### 01/02/13 SIERRA CLUB MEETING

Wayne Coldwell and Steve Woody will discuss Cataloochee and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Program starts at 7:15 PM and location is Unitarian Church at Edwin Place and Charlotte Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ONGOING EVENTS

\*\*\*\*\*

#### TUESDAY

Veterans for Peace have a weekly vigil at 5 PM at Pack Square, Vance Monument

#### WEDNESDAY

Haywood Peace Vigilers have a weekly vigil at 4 PM at Haywood Country Courthouse in Waynesville.

#### THURSDAY

Asheville Homeless Network meeting at 2 PM at Firestorm.

Anti-racism Group Discussion at 5:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month at Firestorm Cafe.

#### FRIDAY

Women in Black have a vigil at 5 PM at Pack Square (Asheville) on the first Friday of the month.

Women in Black have a weekly vigil at noon at the City Hall in Hendersonville

#### SATURDAY

Transylvanians for Peace and WNC Physicians for Social Responsibility have a weekly vigil at noon in front of the courthouse in Brevard.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ACTIONS AND READINGS

\*\*\*\*\*

#### From Roots Action:

Even the New York Times wants out of Afghanistan. Who's left supporting 2 (or 12?) more years in Afghanistan? Oh yeah, those 4 guys. Obama, Biden, Romney, Ryan.

Sign a letter to let them know what you think: <http://bit.ly/SZqg6k>

\*\*\*\*\*

## Evening the Score, Different Strokes PAC

For more information visit: <http://www.themagneticfield.com/evening-the-score>

Join us on the evening of November 1, at 7:30 p.m. when Building Bridges of Asheville will facilitate a post-performance talkback.

Building Bridges Co-facilitators are:

Stuart Zitin, BB Board Chair

Georgia M. Shannon

Linda Newman

Audrey Yatras

The Magnetic Theatre & Different Strokes! Performing Arts Collective present...

“Evening the Score, A Double-Cross in Black and White” by Steven Samuels

Directed by Stephanie Hickling Beckman

Wednesdays-Saturdays, October 24th-November 3rd @ 7:30 p.m.

This provocative drama about college friends separated by an act of betrayal and reunited decades later by circumstances that push both to the brink, delves into issues of race, religion, class, the law, and political ambition with breathtaking, often brutal honesty, focusing matters of local, national, and political import through the prism of a single, complex human relationship.

This limited engagement will have eight performances only. Tickets are \$12 for Wednesday and Thursday performances, \$15 Friday and Saturday performances.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NON-PARTISAN RACES

NC Supreme Court: Sam Ervin IV

NC Court of Appeals Judge: Linda McGee

NC Court of Appeals Judge: Wanda Bryant

NC Court of Appeals Judge: Cressie Thigpen

Soil & Water Conservation Dt. Supervisor: Jim Coman

County Board of Education At-Large: Paul (Dusty) Pless, Jr.

County Board of Education (North Buncombe): Ann B. Franklin



County Board of Education (Owen District): Ben Craig

County Board of Education (Roberson District): Steven Weir Sizemore

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 10:04 PM  
**To:** Maggie Burleson  
**Cc:** Marc Hunt;Chris Pelly;Esther Manheimer - Email;Gordon Smith;Jan Davis;Mayor Terry Bellamy;Gary Jackson  
**Subject:** Re: BID Petitions

It's interesting to note that the opposition to the BID among downtown residents and business owners is significantly higher than the opposition recorded in the PARC PAC poll of all Asheville voters.

The logical interpretation is that Asheville voters who won't be affected by the tax increase are less opposed to the idea than those whose tax bill will be bumped by 15 percent.

-c

On Sep 27, 2012, at 11:37 AM, Maggie Burleson wrote:

> Well, it looks as though 22 pages were too many to scan in. I'll have  
> a copy sitting my Council's boxes for you to review. Sorry, Maggie  
>  
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Marc Hunt [mailto:marchunt@avlcouncil.com]  
> Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 7:03 AM  
> To: Maggie Burleson; Cecil Bothwell - Email; Chris Pelly; Esther  
> Manheimer - Email; Gordon Smith; Jan Davis; Mayor Terry Bellamy  
> Cc: Gary Jackson  
> Subject: RE: BID Petitions  
>

> Maggie

> How many pages are involved in the petition? If just a few, please  
> scan to PDF and share with me. If many, I will come review.

> Thanks

> marc  
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Maggie Burleson [mailto:MBurleson@ashevillenc.gov]  
> Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 12:45 PM  
> To: Cecil Bothwell; Chris Pelly; Esther Manheimer; Gordon Smith; Jan  
> Davis; Marc Hunt; Mayor Bellamy  
> Subject: BID Petitions  
>

> Attached is the first two pages of some information left for me to  
> distribute to City Council. If you are interested, the actual  
> petitions are in my office.  
>

> Thanks,

> Maggie

>  
>

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 06, 2012 3:23 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** McKibbon's folly

Dear Members of the Asheville City Council,

It should be a no-brainer that if only 13% of Asheville's taxpayers prefer a hotel on City land adjoining the Basilica of St. Lawrence, then City Council is not representing its constituents if they vote for the latest McKibbon-Kessler boondoggle to hit the drawing board. I simply cannot understand why City Council members, duly elected by Asheville City residents, do not simply follow the Will of the People.

I have written to all of you before, at one time or another, regarding the fallacy of kneeling down to Mammon when it comes to protecting one of Asheville's treasures. The argument that the City "can't afford" a park in front of the Basilica is fallacious. Grass and trees are cheap compared to the cost of building a hotel on that spot. Council Members should look to what's good for our community as a whole, not just what's good for some wealthy investors.

So please, Esther Mannheim, Gordon Smith, Chris Pelly, and Marc Hunt. Think of the legacy you will be leaving if you vote for another hotel requiring huge expenditures that will impact City taxpayers--just like the millions of dollars that the City had to sink into the foundation of "Aloft" -- the high-flying venture that really benefited only the vulture capitalists. Please, Jan Davis, don't let personal differences with other Council Members blind you to the reality of turning Downtown Asheville into a concrete jungle instead of wide, green spaces. And finally, please Mayor Bellamy, do what your constituents expect of you in leading City Council to some *rapprochement* between PARC and the Catholic Diocese so that our children and our children's children can enjoy a leisurely walk in the park. It goes without saying that visitors to our Fair City will enjoy that, as well.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier  
26 Stonebridge Drive  
Asheville, NC 28805

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier  
**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2012 8:23 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Basilica

Dear Members of City Council,

Do you really represent the taxpaying citizens of Asheville? It's hard to say. One thing I do know, which is that only 13% of your electorate favor building a hotel on the City-owned property adjoining St. Lawrence Basilica. That means that 87% favor something else. That 87% is divided between the PARC proposal of a green space, and the Catholic Church offer, which would also protect Guastavino's master work and our most famous landmark.

I find the solution to be a simple one. Why doesn't City Council ditch the offer of McKibbin and Kessler? Instead, negotiate a compromise between the Church and PARC. I can't imagine why anyone hasn't thought of this.

But, please, please, don't vacillate and conduct another study. Either do your business or get off the Council and make way for those who will look after those who elected you. Otherwise, you will be remembered for simply bleating like baby sheep--poor little lambs who have gone astray.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier  
26 Stonebridge Dr.  
Asheville 28805

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Richard Cary <richard.cary@att.net> on behalf of Richard Cary  
**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2012 7:44 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** parc etc

Let's have a park. A green space. If we were to add a .05% tax on... whatever... for five years, or ten years, we'd pay ourselves for a lovely park, and much (public bathrooms?). We could have easily avoided the ugliness of "US Cellular..." had we been given the chance to raise the identicle funds ourselves. Duh. Even Republicans can see the sense in this kind of thinking, yes? Thank you in advance.

Richard Cary  
37 Howard Street  
AVL NC 28806

828-301-5779

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Jan Davis  
**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2012 11:16 AM  
**To:** Tom Hayes  
**Subject:** Re: Basilica Hotel

Thanks!

On Fri, Aug 17, 2012 at 10:38 AM, Tom Hayes <tehayes@charter.net> wrote:

> Council Members,

> I want to express my support for the McKibbon proposal Option #2. Getting a deal with the Church to straighten Page is certainly going to be tricky but it is key to the concept in my mind. I don't support a park only option as expressed by PARC.

>

> I do have some questions for the McKibbon proposal. Will McKibbon construct the hotel and plaza with their money? Who is responsible for damage to the Basilica if that is caused by construction? Who maintains the plaza after it is built? What are those costs annually? Will the City pay for the street work? Who will pay for the underground utilities if they need to be rerouted?

>

> I know you have a big responsibility here to negotiate the best deal for all the parties involved. It has to work for everyone. The area will be revitalized because of this project and no longer be an eyesore. The Basilica and the Civic Center will be enhanced by this project.

> Thanks.

> Tom Hayes

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Tom Hayes <tehayes@charter.net> on behalf of Tom Hayes  
**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2012 10:38 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Basilica Hotel

Council Members,

I want to express my support for the McKibbon proposal Option #2. Getting a deal with the Church to straighten Page is certainly going to be tricky but it is key to the concept in my mind. I don't support a park only option as expressed by PARC.

I do have some questions for the McKibbon proposal. Will McKibbon construct the hotel and plaza with their money? Who is responsible for damage to the Basilica if that is caused by construction? Who maintains the plaza after it is built? What are those costs annually? Will the City pay for the street work? Who will pay for the underground utilities if they need to be rerouted?

I know you have a big responsibility here to negotiate the best deal for all the parties involved. It has to work for everyone. The area will be revitalized because of this project and no longer be an eyesore. The Basilica and the Civic Center will be enhanced by this project.

Thanks.

Tom Hayes



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** hauntedheadnc <hauntedheadnc@yahoo.com> on behalf of hauntedheadnc  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2012 8:33 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** McKibbon hotel proposal

Dear City Council members,

I'm writing to you today to express my wholehearted support for the Haywood Street hotel as currently proposed by the McKibbon group.

The fact of the matter is that sometimes growth is good, sometimes there are good places for growth, and while parks are nice -- not every single parcel of empty downtown property should become one. This last point is most salient in light of the fact that thanks to our state's Republican majority, it might as well be illegal now for a city to expand its borders. That means that any new tax revenue in the city of Asheville is going to have to come from growth and development inside the existing city limits -- and the hotel proposal is exactly that kind of growth. It would also be wise to consider the fact that Asheville is already enormously blessed with recreational facilities, passive green space, and park lands -- all of which have to be maintained as it is with taxpayer dollars. Furthermore, it would be prudent to consider that there are already large-scale recreation and park facilities, such as the development of Overlook Park, planned. In short, Asheville has enough park land for the moment and already has plans in place to provide more as the city grows.

As I understand it, Asheville does not have the money to build a new park, and maintaining its current park resources costs an enormous amount of money. To change this situation, such as a fairer distribution of hotel room taxes, would require action from a state government which has already well proven its antipathy to the city of Asheville through legislation that will remove the airport and WNC Agricultural Center from city control and would do the same to the city's water system. Clearly, we cannot count on the state to change anything that would even give Asheville the money to build a park on the Haywood Street location and even if the state were amenable to the idea, changing such laws would probably take years.

What this all means is that as nice as a park might be, there is no money to build one and there really isn't any pressing need for it. And that is why the parcel in question would be best suited for the kind of dense, multi-story development that already makes up the downtown area. We have heard in the media that to build the hotel would invite an Atlantan nightmare of overdevelopment, but that kind of fearmongering is unwarranted and distasteful. Downtown, arguably the most loved district in the city, is dense and it is urban and it will harm nothing there to invite more of the same sort of development that already makes up the area. Despite claims by PARC, this building is not a high-rise and even if it were, there is already one across the street and two more in sight of the proposed building site, so another high-rise would hardly be out of place or scale. The McKibbon group has presented us with an attractive design sensitive to nearby historic architecture, and has proven itself to be a good corporate citizen in other respects such as with its braille art and charity project at the Aloft Hotel.

In short, McKibbon has given us a great design that incorporates the very plaza the project's detractors demand, it has proven a commitment to Asheville, and the location is utterly perfect for this kind of well-designed urban development.

Please approve the hotel project.

Sincerely,

Austin Blythe

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2012 6:14 AM  
**To:** Jan Davis; Gordon Smith; cecil@braveulysses.com  
**Cc:** jboyle@citizen-times.com  
**Subject:** Fw: We're better than Greenville

Here is the response given to me by the Editor of a local newspaper--not the AC-T, where Randy Hammer has apparently put the muzzle on John Boyle, who has not given me the courtesy of an answer. Given Mr. Hammer's predilection for large hotels, I can understand his position. But it is not the position of most of the tax payers in Asheville. I think it behooves City Council to understand that. Please pass along this Editor's opinion to Mayor Bellamy and to other members of Council.

Len Carrier  
26 Stonebridge Drive  
Asheville, NC 28805

**Subject:** Re: We're better than Greenville

"I agree with you about not building a hotel there.

I agree we need a better city manager.

I disagree with your statement that we should be more like Greenville. Not a good idea. Way too bland and pc"

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Leonard Carrier](#)  
**To:** [jboyle@citizen-times.com](mailto:jboyle@citizen-times.com)  
**Cc:** [Jan Davis](#) ; [Gordon Smith](#) ; [cecil@braveulysses.com](mailto:cecil@braveulysses.com)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2012 7:48 AM  
**Subject:** We're better than Greenville

Dear Mr. Boyle,

I usually agree with your analyses in the AC-T, but it struck me that in your "Tangled Web," piece today you'd also become ensnared in that web. McKibbon Hotel Group desperately wants a hotel--apparently any type of hotel--on City-owned property. Now John McKibbon wants to partner with Richard Kessler to put up something like The Grand Bohemian of Biltmore Village.

Am I missing something? We already have a Grand Bohemian-style hotel. Why do we need another one across from the Basilica? Why do we need any sort of hotel on that site? We already have Hotel Indigo close by, and we have Crowne Plaza right across the bridge.

On a recent trip to Downtown Greenville, SC, I asked a Greenvillean how Greenville turned itself from a crime-ridden slum into a wonderful venue, complete with waterfalls over the Reedy River and the second-longest single-suspension bridge in the world--second only to Germany! Here was his answer in three parts: (1) They had a forward-thinking City Manager (unlike our Gary Jackson, who seems to be stuck in the 20th century); (2) they had a citizenry that was tired of wrangling and wanted Greenville to be truly "green"; (3) they had visionary corporate co-operation to supply the funds. Simple, *ne c'est pas*?

So my question is: "Why can't Asheville be more like Greenville?" We already have the energized citizenry. I'm sure that corporate heads and the media will get on board once they see the future. (Are you listening Randy Hammer?) All we need is a new City Manager, unless Gary Jackson can become more futuristic in his thinking.

I say, kudos for Terry Bellamy, Cecil Bothwell, and Gordon Smith for their efforts to have the City-owned land in question turned into a beautiful park, as PARC has advocated. I hope they can convince Mannheim, Pelley, and Davis that this is the best route to take. As a City taxpayer, I don't mind paying my taxes for worthwhile purposes. I don't want my money wasted by having it put toward yet another foot-dragging study.

Sincerely,

Leonard Carrier  
26 Stonebridge Drive  
Asheville 28805

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Summer Rain <jsrain@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Summer Rain  
**Sent:** Monday, August 13, 2012 5:06 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:** letters@citizen-times.com; letters@mountainx.com; PARC  
**Subject:** Selling of our land once again

There is so little land left downtown that adding one more towering hotel is totally insane in my eyes. The terribly designed looming building going up across from The City Bakery is another example that City Council has shown they have little or no aesthetic training or judgement in making decisions that this very issue demands. And now to sell off one, if not the last strip, of empty land to another group, church or private person to have again a poorly designed structure built in what was a lovely charming and historical downtown that pulled in the only source of revenue, tourists, that downtown has is once again being endangered. Tourists don't need to be right in the heart of our once historical downtown to come and stay in a hotel. Selling to the church will also destroy this last piece of historical land.

Please use common sense stop this madness of selling off more of our HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN.

J.S.Rain

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** MARNIE MIKELL <artdept@great-eastern-sun.com> on behalf of MARNIE MIKELL  
**Sent:** Monday, August 13, 2012 12:43 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Hotel Plan Near Basilica

As a resident of Asheville, I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed hotel plan for the city-owned property across from the Basilica of St. Lawrence. A recent poll conducted by PARC shows that most of those responding favor a public park on that location. It is open greenspace that would display the beautiful Basilica of St. Lawrence, and greenspace that would give a respite from the concrete and steel of the city. The hotel would make a lot of money for one developer. The park would create a memorable experience for Asheville residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for considering my message.

Marnie Mikell

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Gail Jolley <g9jolley@gmail.com> on behalf of Gail Jolley  
**Sent:** Monday, August 13, 2012 11:03 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** No hotel in front of the Basilica

It seems that the results of PARC's telephone poll are clear: the people of Asheville do not want another hotel towering over the downtown area. Aloft Hotel is almost finished, and it is one of the ugliest buildings we have downtown next to the Indigo Hotel, which is just as ugly, but at least it's off on the edge of things. Why must we have only ugly tall buildings?

Gail Jolley

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 12, 2012 7:17 AM  
**To:** councilgroup Group;Gary Jackson;Dawa Hitch  
**Subject:** Asheville voters DO NOT want a hotel on Haywood property

For immediate release 8/11/12

What: Public opinion poll of Asheville voters concerning Haywood Street property

Who: Cecil Bothwell, PARCPAC and Voice Broadcasting Corp. (an automated polling company)

Contact: 828-713-8840

Here is the text used in the public opinion poll of Asheville voters:

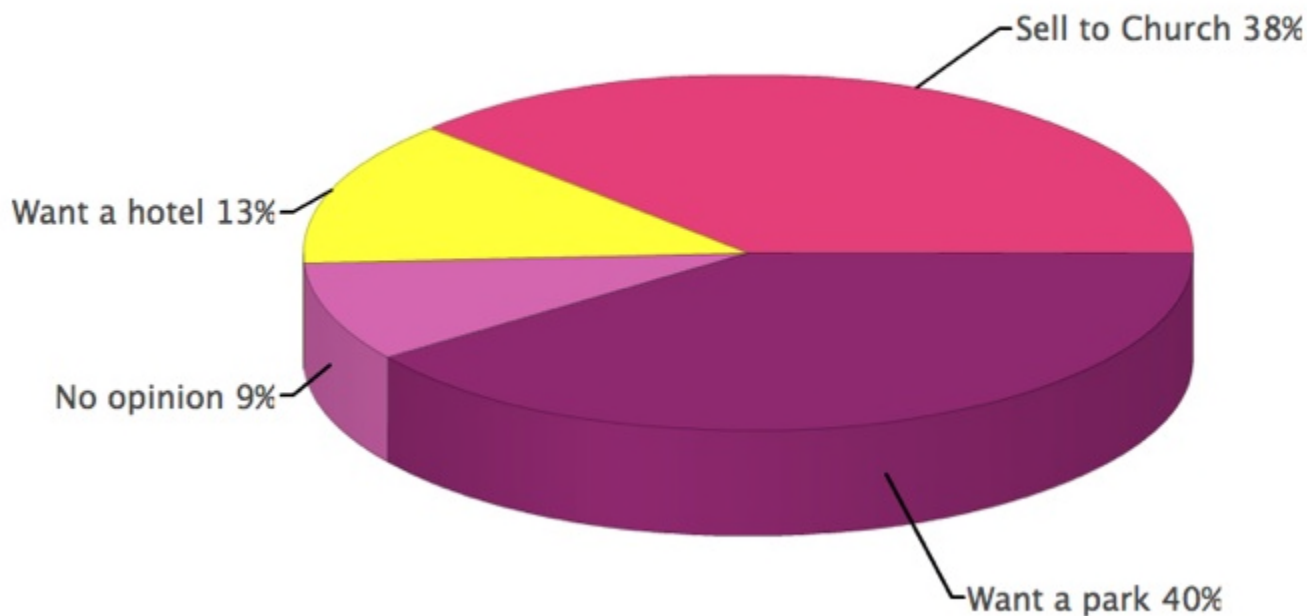
"The first question is about the city-owned land across from the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Some people favor a hotel, others selling the land to the church for their development, and others favor a public park.

If you favor the McKibbin Hotel, please press 1

If you favor selling the land to the Diocese of Charlotte, press 2

If you favor a public park, press 3

If you have no opinion, press 4"



A new poll released today shows that most Asheville voters do not want to see a hotel on the city-owned property across from the Civic Center.

PARC PAC obtained a phone list of all Asheville voters who cast ballots in at least two of the last three City elections. That list included 8,713 consistently engaged voters: Unaffiliated, Republican, Democrat. We employed an automated phone polling company to conduct the survey. 40 percent favored a public park, 35 percent want to sell the land to the Catholic church and 25 percent favor a hotel on the site (the rest indicated "no opinion.")



The poll was conducted after the *Citizen-Times*' big front-page story last Tuesday and McKibbin's public presentation of its plan. So even after all of our persuasion the developers must muster, the public still opposes a hotel in that location.

A seven story hotel looming over the Basilica came in dead last among those who answered the question.





The church has said that it would use the property for parking for now and would sell at a later date for development. This is their rendering of a four-story building and a paved patio.

Some people are under the mistaken impression that the church wants the property for greenspace but that is not the case.

I believe it is time to withdraw the defunct deal the City of Asheville made with McKibbin back in 2008 (they defaulted on their contract to complete the project within 2-3 years). We need to rethink use of this space in line with citizen preferences.

-Cecil Bothwell  
Asheville City Council

St. Lawrence Green would be a park where people are: going to and coming from the Civic Center, the Church, the Green Arcade, Pack Memorial Library, the Battery Park, and the Vanderbilt.



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2012 7:48 AM  
**To:** jboyle@citizen-times.com  
**Cc:** Jan Davis;Gordon Smith;cecil@braveulysses.com  
**Subject:** We're better than Greenville

Dear Mr. Boyle,

I usually agree with your analyses in the AC-T, but it struck me that in your "Tangled Web," piece today you'd also become ensnared in that web. McKibbon Hotel Group desperately wants a hotel--apparently any type of hotel--on City-owned property. Now John McKibbon wants to partner with Richard Kessler to put up something like The Grand Bohemian of Biltmore Village.

Am I missing something? We already have a Grand Bohemian-style hotel. Why do we need another one across from the Basilica? Why do we need any sort of hotel on that site? We already have Hotel Indigo close by, and we have Crowne Plaza right across the bridge.

On a recent trip to Downtown Greenville, SC, I asked a Greenvillean how Greenville turned itself from a crime-ridden slum into a wonderful venue, complete with waterfalls over the Reedy River and the second-longest single-suspension bridge in the world--second only to Germany! Here was his answer in three parts: (1) They had a forward-thinking City Manager (unlike our Gary Jackson, who seems to be stuck in the 20th century); (2) they had a citizenry that was tired of wrangling and wanted Greenville to be truly "green"; (3) they had visionary corporate co-operation to supply the funds. Simple, *ne c'est pas*?

So my question is: "Why can't Asheville be more like Greenville?" We already have the energized citizenry. I'm sure that corporate heads and the media will get on board once they see the future. (Are you listening Randy Hammer?) All we need is a new City Manager, unless Gary Jackson can become more futuristic in his thinking.

I say, kudos for Terry Bellamy, Cecil Bothwell, and Gordon Smith for their efforts to have the City-owned land in question turned into a beautiful park, as PARC has advocated. I hope they can convince Mannheim, Pelley, and Davis that this is the best route to take. As a City taxpayer, I don't mind paying my taxes for worthwhile purposes. I don't want my money wasted by having it put toward yet another foot-dragging study.

Sincerely,

Leonard Carrier  
26 Stonebridge Drive  
Asheville 28805

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Marc Hunt <marchunt@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Marc Hunt  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 05, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** 'Christopher Pratt'; 'Esther Manheimer'  
**Cc:** 'Cecil Bothwell'; 'Chris Pelly'; 'Gordon Smith'; 'Jan Davis'; 'Mayor Bellamy'; 'Maggie Burleson'; paula@mckibbonhotels.com  
**Subject:** RE: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

Dr. Pratt

We have exchanged emails before, and I think you know my general take on the situation, but I wanted to share my updated view which I provide to folks who write.

Thank you for being in touch.

Marc Hunt

+++++

Thanks for writing me regarding the future of the city-owned parcel across from the US Cellular Center and the Basilica of Saint Lawrence. I appreciate your concern. Let me share my current thinking on the project.

I am committed to an outcome for the site which:

- From a design and quality standpoint enhances and adds to the vibrancy of that portion of downtown and especially complements that Basilica, the US Cellular Center, and other surrounding buildings.
- Ensures that any structures are set back from the Basilica so as to maintain site-lines to the Basilica.
- Includes a public plaza / open space
- Utilizes construction techniques that ensure no structural damage to the historic Basilica.
- Activates improved use and function of the US Cellular Center.

The short clip here is provided by official representatives of the Basilica and Diocese of Charlotte as their vision for the site, and it is consistent with a site plan and structures that would meet my hopes for the site. It features a six-story structure and open plaza area separating the building from the

Basilica: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0A5NGEW3Gc>

A few more thoughts:

**Public Park/Green Space Versus Buildings?** – As former chairman of the Asheville Greenway Commission and land conservation professional, I am a strong advocate for parks and green space in this community. Some are avidly promoting the idea of a stand-alone green park here as being a simple choice, but I do not see this site working out as a stand-alone park. I do think approximately half of the site being dedicated to public open space featuring some horticultural elements would be great. As for the key issue of funding, note that the effort to build nearby Pack Square Park, while very successful in many ways, so far is more than \$ 1.5 million short of its initial fundraising goal. The City is also falling well short of the \$600k annually required to operate and maintain that park according to the initial vision for it as a “signature park”. Given Asheville’s overly limited fiscal resources, the struggle to fund what we currently have, a price-tag for a stand-alone park project on this site that would be several million, and the competing demands for parks and, greenways from other parts of town, I cannot support prioritization of another full-scale park downtown. I do feel that significant public space as a plaza in conjunction with a smart real estate development project can work and be aesthetically great, so I am advocating for that.

**Hotel versus Another Type of Development?** – The City is currently in negotiation with McKibbon Hotel Group for development of the site to feature retail spaces at street level, hotel on upper floors, with structured parking included. That negotiation is based on McKibbon’s providing an initial winning proposal under a competitive RFP process four years ago. There is no downside to seeing this process through, and I support the City’s completing its discussions with McKibbon before any decision is made by Council. I will only support a development agreement with McKibbon if the project strongly supports all the principals outlined above, and if it does not, we should abandon the partnership with McKibbon. I am open to the idea of a well-designed high-quality hotel (not an imposing ugly one) because that might best activate use of the US Cellular Center while also protecting the interests of the Basilica and the rest of the neighborhood. While some segments of the hotel/motel market in the region are struggling, I have recently been hearing that there does seem to be healthy and growing demand of quality downtown hotel choices. I want to learn more about that, and do not immediately buy into the notion that we have too many hotels downtown already. As for design, note that the vision for the site put forward by the Basilica/Diocese could work quite well as a hotel (see above video link). Many in the community seem to fear a “high-rise” development. I can only support a project that would be limited and fit height-wise between the neighboring Vanderbilt Apartments and Battery Park Apartments.

**City-Led or Basilica-Led Development?** - Parishioners of the Basilica have done a great job helping City leaders understand the importance of great design and implementation for the site, and that is indeed resulting in the commitment to a quality outcome by the City. The Asheville Design Center was recently facilitating collaborative design efforts among official Diocese/Basilica representatives, McKibbon, and City officials. I was disappointed when, on July 5<sup>th</sup>, the Diocese/Basilica representatives unilaterally withdrew from those productive discussions, declaring that the only acceptable outcome would for the Diocese to own the site and plan/control its future development. The City owns the property and should negotiate directly with a developer to ensure a great design and implementation to benefit the entire community. I was elected to make sure that the best interest of the entire community will be served in situations like this. The Diocese of Charlotte and parishioners of the Basilica have proposed that the City sell the land to the Diocese and allow the Diocese to negotiate with a developer for design and implementation. I am uncomfortable delegating that much authority to any group for a site so important to the whole community. Note that representatives of the Basilica say they fully intend to sell the property to a developer just as the City might, a point that does not seem to be well understood in the community. Representatives say that their vision is retail/office/rental apartments with plaza, not a hugely different outcome than what the City is currently negotiating for.

**Economic and Fiscal Considerations** – Downtown character and function are enormously important to our regional economic development. Getting a well-designed and highly functional development outcome for the site is critical. The City must be fairly compensated in selling the site, and given the City’s serious fiscal challenges, we really need to see the property productively on the tax role.

**Next Steps** - Early in 2012, Council directed City staff to continue in the earlier-committed RFP process with McKibbon to see whether or not an acceptable site plan, design, and development agreement might be arranged. That process is ongoing and should be completed within a few weeks – perhaps by late September. Council will simply review progress at its August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**The Scenario I Most Worry About** – Surface parking lots kill downtown vibrancy. I fear that political crossfire and stalemate along with limited willingness of key stakeholders to negotiate for shared benefits in the outcome will halt progress. If that happens, the site would likely devolve to an uninspiring surface parking lot for years to come. That would be tragic.

Marc Hunt  
Asheville City Council Member

+++++

**From:** Christopher Pratt [mailto:christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 02, 2012 11:12 AM

**To:** Esther Manheimer

**Cc:** Dr. Christopher Pratt; Cecil Bothwell; Chris Pelly; Gordon Smith; Jan Davis; Marc Hunt; Mayor Bellamy; Maggie Burleson; paula@mckibbonhotels.com

**Subject:** Re: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

Dear Councillor Manheimer, Asheville City Council, Mayor Bellamy,

Thank you for your reply, however, isn't it time our City Council stops playing games with this process. Why is Council ignoring the facts? One might wonder if this isn't SOP for our City government. We all know that:

- the Basilica also submitted a bit in the first RFQ and it was acknowledged in writing by the City, and
- that the Basilica's proposal should be given full consideration first as it is rightfully due through the historical private state statute arrangement (G.S. 160A-266) with the city for the development of the Haywood site.

One might ask Is someone withholding information from the Council, and if so why, or is it that the Council is choosing to ignore the record.

Your email and the McKibbon invitation forwarded by the City regarding an August 7 design presentation, and also to the public announcement of the same in the Asheville Citizen-Times on July 30 convey misleading and apparently false information which one could only imagine you and your colleagues and McKibbon knew. Did you not?

The reference in the publicity regarding McKibbon meeting with the Basilica is misleading and should be publicly retracted. There is no approved relationship or collaboration between the

Basilica and either the McKibbon Group or the Asheville Design Center. No such engagement was ever approved and the Basilica is not aware of, let alone were they consulted about any designs that they may be presenting or you may be considering.

The St. Lawrence Plaza web site presents the only approved messaging from the Basilica. The Basilica's stand has always been to support a developer only if and when the Basilica has been granted a historical private state statute arrangement (G.S. 160A-266) with the city for the development of the Haywood site.

There is no authorized support from the Basilica for the 2007 McKibbon RFQ, moreover, there is vigorous objection from the Basilica to any hotel being built on this Haywood site. Please refer to the letter from the Basilica counsel on May 24, 2012 written to the city, available via a link on the web site. That is the only direction approved by the Basilica.

We understand that the city staff's desire is to keep this five year RFQ alive, but this is not

a position we support.

However, it is also then incumbent on the City to keep the Basilica proposal alive and give it all consideration due to it first as it is rightfully due through the historical private state statute arrangement (G.S. 160A-266) with the city for the development of the Haywood site.

At this time, the Basilica has not authorized any Basilica representatives who will be attending the August 7th presentation. This is the first we are hearing about that meeting and any supposed collaboration with the Basilica.

I believe the Basilica Pastor/Rector will be responding more formally with a letter to John McKibbin. The only engagement to date with a developer by the Basilica is with the Kessler Development Group for a plaza with residential retail and commercial, and this will go forward only when the city approves private negotiations with the Basilica.

We believe ONLY the Basilica will be able to draw world class architectural design expertise to this project and ensure that the Basilica is protected during construction. This is a liability we believe no developer should undertake without full approval and support of the Basilica.

Please let's stop wasting taxpayer money and time and acknowledge what is the crux of this matter that:

- the Basilica also submitted a bid in the first RFQ and it was acknowledged in writing by the City, and
- that the Basilica's proposal should be given full consideration first as it is rightfully due through the historical private state statute arrangement (G.S. 160A-266) with the city for the development of the Haywood site.

If you have not already, please view the proposed St. Lawrence Plaza online at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0A5NGEW3Gc>

and the Petition supporting the St. Lawrence Plaza at:

[\*\*http://www.change.org/petitions/city-council-of-asheville-north-carolina-negotiate-to-sell-property-opposite-basilica-to-diocese-of-charlotte\*\*](http://www.change.org/petitions/city-council-of-asheville-north-carolina-negotiate-to-sell-property-opposite-basilica-to-diocese-of-charlotte)

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Pratt and Mrs. Jimmie Cochran Pratt, MPA

## Chairmen, New Generations of Global Entrepreneurs

120 Norwood Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28804-3618 USA  
+828-253-8158  
[christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com)

On Wed, Aug 1, 2012 at 9:35 AM, Esther Manheimer <[emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com](mailto:emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com)> wrote:

Mr. Pratt: I believe McKibbon is, on its own initiative, holding this public meeting. Anyone can reserve the space and make their own presentation. I would certainly welcome Kessler to do the same.

Thank you for the email.

-Esther Manheimer

---

**From:** Christopher Pratt [mailto:[christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 31, 2012 9:03 PM  
**To:** Maria Mason; Bud Hansbury; PARC; [AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov)  
**Cc:** Carmen Ramos-Kennedy; Anne Fitzgerald Smith; Briggs Sherwood; Jane Whitman; Sue & Jim Donato; Bob Long - Musician; Will Teller -Musician; Thomas Nelson -Musician; Blaine Greenfield; Charlie Thomas; Allison Biddix; John Bascom -Musician; Alex Burch -Musician; Bill & Marleen Hutt; Frank Kirkland  
**Subject:** Re: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

**Did the McKibbon group develop this plan “Through meetings with the Basilica” as this email states?**

**And when will the Kessler Group be given the same opportunity?**

**Chris**

On Tue, Jul 31, 2012 at 5:46 PM, Maria Mason <[mariamaso@gmail.com](mailto:mariamaso@gmail.com)> wrote:

EXCELLENT, Dr. Pratt.

Hey, everyone: PASS THIS ON!!!

Respectfully yours,

Maria Mason



Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Christopher Pratt <[christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com)>

**Date:** July 31, 2012 4:35:59 PM EDT

**To:** "Dr. Christopher Pratt" <[christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Fwd: FW: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

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

**From:** Maggie Burleson <[MBurleson@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:MBurleson@ashevillenc.gov)>

**Date:** Tue, Jul 31, 2012 at 3:04 PM

**Subject:** FW: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

**To:** Cecil Bothwell <[cecil@braveulysses.com](mailto:cecil@braveulysses.com)>, Chris Pelly <[chrispelly@avlcouncil.com](mailto:chrispelly@avlcouncil.com)>, Esther Manheimer <[emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com](mailto:emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com)>, Gordon Smith <[gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com](mailto:gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com)>, Jan Davis <[jandavis@avlcouncil.com](mailto:jandavis@avlcouncil.com)>, Marc Hunt <[marchunt@avlcouncil.com](mailto:marchunt@avlcouncil.com)>, Mayor Bellamy <[mayorbellamy@avlcouncil.com](mailto:mayorbellamy@avlcouncil.com)>

City Council is invited to the following:

## **McKIBBON HOTEL GROUP TO PRESENT FIRST DESIGN DRAWINGS FOR HAYWOOD STREET PROPERTY**

*Public invited to preview plans for mixed-use hotel, plaza/piazza, restaurant and retail development*

(ASHEVILLE, NC –07/31/12) **McKibbon Hotel Group, Inc.** will present the first design drawings for their proposed development of the city-owned Haywood Street site, across the street from the Basilica of St. Lawrence and the U.S. Cellular Center on **Tuesday, August 7 at 5:30 p.m.** at the **U.S. Cellular Center Banquet Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 87 Haywood Street, Asheville.** The meeting is open to the public, and **doors will open at 5:00 p.m.** for seating and preview of site renderings.

“Through meetings with the Basilica, the Asheville Design Center and City representatives, we are prepared to develop a property that will enhance the neighborhood and complement the Basilica, which is such an important historic landmark for our city,” explained **John McKibbon**, Chairman of McKibbon Hotel Group. McKibbon will lead the 30-minute presentation, and will ask for public comment at the meeting’s conclusion.



In addition to the presentation of new site renderings, the meeting will include:

✍ McKibbon Company History, Previous Urban Projects and Company Involvement in Asheville Community – John McKibbon, Chairman

✍ Overview of the Haywood Project – Architects Buck Lindsay and Chad Roberson, Lindsay Pope Brayfield Clifford and Associates

✍ Precautions That Will Be Taken to Protect Surrounding Buildings During Construction – Jill Heimburg, PE, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Asheville, NC

**About McKibbon Hotel Group, Inc./McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.**

McKibbon Hotel Group, Inc., based in Gainesville, Georgia, is a privately owned enterprise that has grown into an award-winning premier real estate developer and owner of nationally franchised hotel brands for Marriott, Hilton, Starwood and Hyatt hotels. McKibbon is proud to be a recognized leader for over 87 years in the hospitality industry, and McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc., based in Tampa, Florida, currently operates over 65 mid and upscale brands in 8 states throughout the Southeast. The company has a rich history and culture that promotes a family oriented environment, while holding true to its core values of honesty, integrity and loyalty. For more information, visit [www.mckibbon.com](http://www.mckibbon.com).



Paula MacDonald | Director of Communications

McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.

5315 Avion Park Drive, Suite 120 | Tampa, Florida 33607

p: [813.472.7390](tel:813.472.7390) | f: [813.241.2389](tel:813.241.2389) | c: [813.545.1009](tel:813.545.1009) | [www.mckibbon.com](http://www.mckibbon.com) | [www.facebook.com/mckibbonhotels](https://www.facebook.com/mckibbonhotels)



11 North Market Street, Asheville, NC 28801 | [828-258-2991](tel:828.258.2991) | FAX [828-255-0255](tel:828.255.0255)

422 South Main Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792 | [828-697-6196](tel:828.697.6196) | FAX [828-693-3999](tel:828.693.3999)

To comply with certain U.S. Treasury regulations, we inform you that, unless expressly stated otherwise, any U.S. Federal tax advice contained in this email, including attachments, is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, by any person for the purpose of avoiding any penalties imposed by the Internal Revenue Service.

This electronic transmission contains information from the law firm of Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes and Davis, P.A., that may be confidential or privileged. The information is intended solely for the recipient. Use by any other party is not authorized. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this information is prohibited. If you received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by telephone [\(828-258-2991\)](tel:828-258-2991) or by email [info@vwlawfirm.com](mailto:info@vwlawfirm.com). Thank you for your cooperation.

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Rita Livezey <rdlive@charter.net> on behalf of Rita Livezey  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 02, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; Elaine Lite  
**Cc:** 'Maggie Burleson'; John Boyle  
**Subject:** FW: McKibbon and Basilica  
**Attachments:** 5 24 2012 ltr from W Louis Bissette Jr re- The Basilica of St Lawrence Project.pdf

Madam Mayor, Vice Mayor, Members of the City Council, and Members of PARC,

The email below, in response to Paula MacDonald of the McKibbon Group, clarifies the Basilica's position on the Haywood St. property issue. We feel the recent press release by McKibbon referring to "meetings with the Basilica" is misleading as implying some sort of collaboration between McKibbon and the Basilica that clearly does not exist. We have received a number of calls from people who are outraged, assuming from the statement that we were moving forward in a collaborative relationship with the McKibbon Group. Hopefully this will put those rumors to rest.

Very sincerely,

**Rita Livezey**  
**Social Justice Commissioner | Roman Catholic Parish of the Basilica of St. Lawrence | Asheville, NC**

**View Proposed St. Lawrence Plaza**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0A5NGEW3Gc>

**Sign Petition Supporting St. Lawrence Plaza**  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/city-council-of-asheville-north-carolina-negotiate-to-sell-property-opposite-basilica-to-diocese-of-charlotte>

---

**From:** MMMLLC [mailto:MMMLInvestments@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 01, 2012 9:10 PM  
**To:** paula@mckibbonhotels.com  
**Cc:** 'Rita Livezey'; 'Bud Hansbury'  
**Subject:** McKibbon and Basilica

Dear Ms. MacDonald,  
*Letter further forwarded to Pastor/Rector Fr. Wilbur Thomas, Bud Hansbury and Rita Livezey.*

I appreciate your communication to the Basilica and the communication letter from John McKibbon to the Basilica and Bishop.

I am in receipt of both. Our Pastor/Rector, the Very Rev. Fr. Wilbur Thomas, informed me that he was planning to respond to John McKibbon's letter directly.

These past few weeks have been a very busy schedule for our Pastor..

I am the senior advisor for the real estate interest surrounding the Basilica of St. Lawrence and was appointed that position by our Pastor/Rector Fr. Wilbur Thomas. I also communicate with the Diocese on matters regarding our proposed acquisition of the Haywood Site. I also serve as member of the Parish Pastoral Council that report on these matters to the council and Pastor.

### RE: 2007 RFQ

Though we appreciate your enthusiasm regarding your hopes on the 2007 RFQ, along with the marketing of your meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>, some of the information you have been given is misrepresented. Bud Hansbury as Operation Director of the Basilica and Matt Mores (myself) have not met with any McKibbon representatives for almost five years. Though

John McKibbon was very considerate, the results coming out of that meeting and drawings we saw were not in line with anything the Basilica would approve. In March 2012 I had only one meeting with ADC that was very successful. This ended with receiving their support to help with designs of our plaza and they agreed to support, at that time, the Basilica having private state statute rights to the Haywood site development. The next day the director of ADC called me to apologize that he had to reverse their decision to support us and that he was informed by certain city staff not to get ADC involved with the Basilica “because this is too hot of an issue”.

RE: Basilica offer to purchase:

The Bishop on behalf of the Basilica presented an offer to purchase the Haywood site January 17, 2012. At that time we were also lead to believe the 2007 RFQ was no longer valid or had expired. The city requested we present this offer at City Council on January 10, 2012. The offer was presented and received with no objections and was further directed to be presented to the Planning and Economic Development (PED) the following Tuesday, January 17. It was not until this meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> that we were stunned that city staff was directing the members of City Council at PED to a resurrection of a five year old 2007 RFQ.

RE: Meetings with John McKibbon (no other meetings were approved)

On behalf of the Basilica, I made two attempts to meet with John McKibbon for a private one on one meeting. The first time was through an associate Dennis Pearson in January 2012. The second time was through our attorney in March 2012. A private meeting was never considered or accepted by John McKibbon.

RE: Basilica has a committed developer (No other relationship today will be approved)

At the request of city staff and certain city council members, we were asked to deliver a qualified developer for the St. Lawrence Plaza before we could be considered for private negotiations and private development rights. This has now been addressed with the announcement and commitment of Richard Kessler, who we feel comes very qualified with a strong historical construction background in almost all his projects. This type of construction coincides with what we vision for the property fronting the Basilica.

Richard Kessler and John McKibbon also met by phone to confirm the arrangement of this engagement with the Basilica on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

RE: Basilica's Firm Direction: May 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 letter is in the public record.

Though some misguided meetings may have occurred because of the request of certain city staff to have these meetings, as of the May 24<sup>th</sup> letter, this is the only direction approved by the Basilica.

Please see the attached letter that went to the city on May 24, 2012. This letter was written following a lengthy meeting between Fr. Wilbur Thomas and counsel and written at the direction of Fr. Wilbur Thomas. This is the only defined direction that should be followed in regards to the Basilica. There were no other authorized meetings of engagement that should have been occurring before this letter and definitely not after this May 24<sup>th</sup> date.

Brief Defined Points:

- The Basilica does not support a hotel on this site.
- The Basilica is requesting private development rights and believes that the state statute for historical relevance, NCGS.160a-266, is written to protect this exact situation and carries more significance than an RFQ.
- The Basilica is the most qualified to protect its interest with construction around the 103 year old structure. We do not believe any developer should be allowed to take that liability risk without the Basilica signing off and controlling construction parameters.
- At the request of the city to deliver a developer before being considered for private negotiations under state statute, the Basilica will delivers Richard Kessler as a partner once these private rights are granted.

I apologize, but I see no grounds at this point to recognize the 2007 RFQ as relevant to today's economy and feasibility for city conveying city own property, nor will we support allowing a hotel on this site working against the other private hotel groups. The only direction we approve is spelled out in the May 24<sup>th</sup> letter. This communication was further defined with the city over the past week.

I am sure you can understand how your invite for August 7 as written is very misleading to our constituents and advocate support.

I will be in and out of my office until August 7<sup>th</sup> with limited email, but if additional information is required, both Bud Hansbury and Rita Livezey are qualified to respond.

Sincerely,  
Matt Mores

-----  
Also attached is a response from Rita Livezey, who along with carrying one of the most important positions at the Basilica, also manages communication of the web site, which is the Basilica's platform for setting the correct direction.

-----  
Ms. MacDonald,

Unfortunately it is not merely my opinion that the quote is misleading. While it may have been literally accurate that there were some meetings attended in common, we have received a number of calls from people who are outraged, assuming from the statement that we were moving forward in a collaborative relationship with the McKibbon Group.

Very sincerely,  
Rita Livezey

-----  
**From:** Paula MacDonald [<mailto:paula@mckibbonhotels.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 01, 2012 4:35 PM  
**To:** [rdlive@charter.net](mailto:rdlive@charter.net)  
**Subject:** McKibbon Hotel Group Haywood Site Meeting - August 7

Ms. Livezey,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding our upcoming meeting on August 7 to present McKibbon's latest site renderings to the public. It is our sincere desire to include all members of the Asheville community in this important process, including interested friends and members of the St. Lawrence Basilica.

Regarding your opinion that the reference to meeting with the Basilica in Mr. McKibbon's quote is misleading and should be publicly retracted, I must respectfully disagree with you. McKibbon's development team has, in fact, met at least five times with Basilica representatives (with at least three of those meetings occurring in the last 60 days), along with the Asheville Design Center and representatives of the City. These meetings were attended by various representatives of the Basilica, including architect John Ellis, Basilica counsel Louis Bisette, and Basilica representatives Matt Mores and Bud Hansbury. Additionally, John McKibbon reached out personally to Father Thomas, Bishop Jugis and the St. Lawrence Parish Pastoral Council in a letter dated July 13, 2012, asking for a personal meeting to discuss the project and plans, with no response to his request. I believe that McKibbon Hotel Group has made a good faith effort to involve the Basilica in every step of the process to this point, and has consistently attempted to include the Basilica in design discussions.

I do hope that Basilica representatives will reconsider attending the meeting on August 7, and look forward to correspondence from Father Thomas. Thank you for providing me with an update regarding the management of content of the St. Lawrence Plaza website.



Paula MacDonald | Director of Communications  
McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.  
5315 Avion Park Drive, Suite 120 | Tampa, Florida 33607  
p: 813.472.7390 | f: 813.241.2389 | c: 813.545.1009

| [www.mckibbon.com](http://www.mckibbon.com) | [www.facebook.com/mckibbonhotels](https://www.facebook.com/mckibbonhotels)



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Mike Walker <walkmex@yahoo.com> on behalf of Mike Walker  
**Sent:** Friday, June 29, 2012 5:58 AM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** St Lawrence Basilica "Park"

I strongly support establishing the land across from the Basilica as a green space. I am resident of 21 Battery Park and pay a lot of taxes to the city. Asheville could be a much better city than it is but it takes strong leadership & a vision to make it so. Please stand back and decide what you want Asheville to be and stop letting it evolve based on special interests.

Michael Walker  
21 Battery Park Ave Suite 404

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Tracy Hildebrand <traceanna@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Tracy Hildebrand  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2012 6:39 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** Land across from Basilica

Dear City Council,  
I urge you to reconsider the sale of the land across from Basilica to be developed into a hotel. Instead, I hope you will consider other options, including a greenway or selling the land to the Catholic church.  
Thank you  
Tracy Hildebrand



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Tom Berner <tberner@charter.net> on behalf of Tom Berner  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2012 5:14 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** land use

Please, please, a GREEN SPACE in front of the Basilica! Tom Berner, city resident, tax payer and voter. Thank you.

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Cathy Early <cearly@plumdogfinancial.com> on behalf of Cathy Early  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2012 3:53 PM  
**To:** 'City Council'; 'PARC'  
**Subject:** St Lawrence Green

I wholeheartedly support the Green area in front of St. Lawrence. That end of town is in desperate need of a face lift, plus it would be shame not to highlight and showcase a beautiful monument and building such as St Lawrence.

I hope City council can have a long term vision. The City of Asheville will continue to grow, and we should be cognizant of keeping some special areas of the City special, as the Green area in front of the church certainly would do.

Thank you.

*Cathy Early*

ID #58767

**Mortgage Manager**

**PlumDog Financial**

NMLS # 58590

**p 828 274-1515**

**f 828 274-1514**

**c 828 242-7194**

[www.plumdogfinancial.com](http://www.plumdogfinancial.com)

PlumDog happily donates \$50 for every loan closed to Mission Children's Hospital.



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Jan Davis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 27, 2012 3:06 PM  
**To:** brian burns  
**Subject:** Re: New hotel downtown.

Thanks! I am a proponent of re-opening the RFP process. Please be aware there is much misinformation being spewed by PARC.

On Wed, Jun 27, 2012 at 10:51 AM, brian burns <bburnsey@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Mr. Davis,  
> Would you carry a daily tire inventory based on the one busiest day  
> your business has ever experienced? Probably not. Do we need to have  
> an oversupply of hotel rooms for those few days the tourist flock to  
> town? Not really.  
> Asheville is a nice size. Downtown has loads of charm and  
> character, and plenty of hotels and motels. Five years ago, we did not  
> have Hotel Indigo, Grand Bohemian, Aloft, and our beautiful GPI has  
> been sold with a major refresh in the works. Not to mention the  
> possibility of Biltmore building a new hotel on their property.  
> Yet, now we are thinking of adding yet another hotel to the mix.  
> I really believe we may have reached, or passed the tipping point  
> concerning hotels and really do not need another hotel in downtown  
> Asheville. The space across from the Basilica could be so much more,  
> but another soulless hotel would not add one iota of charm to that  
> corner. Let's face it, Hotel Indigo is rather boring, and the new  
> Aloft hotel borders on just plain ugly. Don't add another to the mix.  
> Please, consider an alternative choice for the corner of Haywood Road.  
> From a downtown resident, and patron of Asheville's best tire  
> store (yours),  
> Brian Burns

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Susan Kokora <susankokora@charter.net> on behalf of Susan Kokora  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:17 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** a park

Dear City Council,

I love the idea of a park across from the St. Lawrence Basilica.

Our beautiful city would do well do have more green areas both for tourists and residents.

A park would be an area of aesthetic beauty for our city. As our climate continues to warm, it would be a desired retreat for visitors.

I am traveling abroad this summer and I have found many of the parks in Europe to be stunning "draws" for people...areas of culture (ie. visiting musicians, bands, symphonies), places of relaxation to sit and relax, spots where nature can find a nook, ie. birds, squirrels, gardens, trees, etc. I would love to see Asheville provide more parks/green spaces downtown.

It would sadden me to see another parking deck and high rise across from the Basilica.

I appreciate the work you do for our city.

Susan Kokora & John Combs  
19 Melrose Ave.  
Asheville, NC 28804

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** sandy jones <smilesandyj@gmail.com> on behalf of sandy jones  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 27, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** PLEASE!

why must you close our city in with large looming hotels...that take away from the beauty and uniqueness of this city?

the aloft hotel....at that spot you could see the sunset over our mountains....now all you see is a tall building that blocks the reason people come here. to enjoy the outdoors.

I used to live near charlotte....and the people that visit here are always asking me why so many buildings are being built in asheville.... THEY DO NOT COME HERE FOR THE HOTELS! They like the outdoor venues, festivals, music, and outside cafes, art galleries, walking the streets and going into the unique stores. I have been told numerous times if asheville starts becoming like other bigger cities...where the streets are closed in by building after building....they will just stay home.

PLEASE LISTEN....we don't NEED another hotel...or high rise of any sort. This is my second letter to you.

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Richard Stiles <Richard.Stiles@ProsperaFinancial.com> on behalf of Richard Stiles  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 27, 2012 10:36 AM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** St Lawrence

Mayor and City Council,

I'm responding in regards to the City's deliberations surrounding the public property in front of the St Lawrence Basilica. While I appreciate the economic impact a hotel would contribute to the tax base, I'm opposed to crowding the historic Basilica with just another commercial big box.

Possibly if the proposed development was historic in nature or of such unique design as to compliment the existing church property I might feel differently; however, McKibben's contribution to the City's "skyscape" on Biltmore Ave is visual proof that either the developer or the proposed development needs further review.

This reminds me of the 1980s effort to build a mall downtown. Too many in the leadership were convinced the mall was the answer when in fact we have learned that Asheville's success is derived from rebuilding upon our unique architectural inventory.

Guastavino's masterpiece must not be comprised! Treat it as a lode-stone and if a building is necessary, let it be complimentary and not a distraction.

Your consideration is appreciated,  
Richard Stiles

Richard Stiles

Hansen Stiles & Associates  
117 Cherry Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Phone (828)255-5227  
Fax (828)505-4952

Prospera Financial will not accept orders and/or instructions transmitted by e-mail, and will not be responsible for carrying out such orders and/or instructions. Please do not transmit such information by email.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager.

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Robert Eaton Kelley <reatonkelley@charter.net> on behalf of Robert Eaton Kelley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 26, 2012 7:12 AM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** Create St. Lawrence Green!

Listen to the Citizenry: Create St. Lawrence Green!

Robert Kelley  
28803

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Rachel Sternberg <rsternberg1@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Rachel Sternberg  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 5:14 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** Land in front of St. Lawrence'

Dear Council Members~

I'm writing to **STRONGLY** urge you to reserve the land in front of the St. Lawrence Basilica for a **GREEN SPACE** - such as a park that would enhance downtown immeasurably, provide an inviting face to visitors, and serve **ALL** the people in the Asheville community.

We have enough hotels. We definitely do not need another, high priced hotel in the downtown area. But we have only Pritchard Park downtown and another green space to provide a place for rest would be the best use of that land. And, with the Basilica such a lovely and important feature of the Asheville landscape, it would be a crime to "hide it" behind a large building. The Basilica is a natural accompaniment to a beautiful green space.

Please do not let outside interests and corporate greed influence your decision. That land should be for **ALL** the **PEOPLE**.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Rachel Sternberg



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** S DUMONT <sarahdumont@bellsouth.net> on behalf of S DUMONT  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 5:10 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** St Lawrence green space

Good Day,

I strongly urge you to earmark the space proposed for hotel/parking development as a green space park. This will greatly enhance the downtown Asheville area, serving residents as well as tourists. We have adequate hotel rooms in or near downtown, but are sadly lacking in beautiful natural areas for locals and visitors to relax and recreate in. Asheville needs this to keep attracting tourists.

Please listen to the wishes of those of us who love Asheville, pay taxes, and vote, and make the progressive choice to say yes to preserving and creating a nurturing and beautiful space for all Asheville to enjoy for many years to come.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Dumont

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Ruby D. Moore <rubydhaliwal@yahoo.com> on behalf of Ruby D. Moore  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** st. lawrence

Hello City Council,

I am writing to advocate that the area in front of the St. Lawrence Basilica not be sold for a hotel. I'm not sure that Asheville downtown needs another hotel and I definitely don't think so in that area.

Having just visited Greenville, SC last night, we were very impressed with the open areas in the downtown there. Inviting, clean, GREEN-I think that your foresight is necessary in making sure our city is a great place to live, work, and play for its citizens-this will automatically make it more appealing for tourists and their dollars.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ruby Moore  
North Asheville resident

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Mary Johnson <rmjohnson@gmail.com> on behalf of Mary Johnson  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 11:53 AM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** Parks over pavement

You got it. I am for another park and want you to listen! Please hear the voices of the residents of Asheville. When we moved here in 1982 the city motto was COOL, GREEN ASHEVILLE. Mary and Randy Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Gurley <mfgurley@charter.net> on behalf of Gurley  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 24, 2012 7:20 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** St. Lawrence Green

Council Members,

I would like to add my name to the long list of Asheville citizens who appreciate our city green spaces. Setting aside public areas for enjoyment by residents and visitors is quite important. It is rare that the Council has the rare opportunity to make this important addition of a park in downtown Asheville. The location across from the beautiful Basilica of St. Lawrence could hardly be improved upon as a site in which we could all enjoy a restful moment.

Please consider carefully before letting this slip through our fingers.

Thank you for thinking of the future,  
Marianne Gurley

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Lorraine Plaxico <lplaxico@charter.net> on behalf of Lorraine Plaxico  
**Sent:** Friday, June 22, 2012 6:15 AM  
**To:** 'City Council'; 'PARC'  
**Subject:** park

PLEASE consider that Asheville is a tourist magnet because we are so unique, so unlike every other town. Great cities have great parks. Parks are destinations too. Look at Washington DC. New York. London. We really have very few downtown. The Basilica is our touch of Europe..please keep it that way!

Thank you,  
Lorraine

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Carole Wilson <quietlykayaking@gmail.com> on behalf of Carole Wilson  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2012 6:57 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** McKibben Project

Please City Council--look at the history of opposition to this McKibben project--and please think strongly about selling this land to the Basillica. We have enough sterile uncreative bldgs. like BB&T ruining the viewsheds. Not everything is about money, and people in Asheville aren't here for city life. I do not know anyone for this personally. Thanks, Carole Wilson

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Pat McKee <PMcKee@CarolinaEHS.com> on behalf of Pat McKee  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** 'City Council'; 'PARC'  
**Subject:** Basilica property

I urge you to vote against selling the property across from the St. Lawrence Basilica to McKibbin Properties. This land belongs to the citizens of Asheville and should be put to use for the benefit of all, not for the wealthiest among us. Another green space in this city would offer enjoyment to residents and to visitors.

Pat McKee  
25 Brookwood Road  
Asheville NC 28804

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Joe and Frances Sechler <f105driver@gmail.com> on behalf of Joe and Frances Sechler  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2012 11:45 AM  
**To:** City Council , PARC  
**Subject:** Oppose MccKibbon Project

I strongly oppose the MccKibbon project - the proposed hotel in front of the Basilica. Smart cities, especially those which rely primarily on tourists for revenue, establish and maintain beautiful parks and greenways. That is what we need in the subject vacant lot; no more concrete and high rises. There's plenty of lodging for tourists. We need to find them more places to sit in the shade and soak in the total ambiance of Asheville.

Hotel - no; park - yes

Joe Sechler



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Jan Davis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** Ed Dyson  
**Subject:** Re: Park

Thanks, Ed. I think you will find lots of misinformation being fomented by PARC. Please realize Council does not have a real proposal from the Diocese at this time. We will not make a decision until we can get a significant proposal good for our community.

Regards

Jan

On Tue, Jun 19, 2012 at 10:05 PM, Ed Dyson <mostlyed@gmail.com> wrote:

> I would like to add my name in opposition to a hotel accross from the

> civic center.

>

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Kathy Patrick <msclarkin@gmail.com> on behalf of Kathy Patrick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 10:59 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** greenway

I feel strongly that a greenway/park is the best way to use this property....what a beautiful addition to our wonderful city!

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Martha Wight <martha7b@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Martha Wight  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 9:40 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** Park in front of St. Lawrence

A park makes the most sense, please use the land in front of the church wisely and think twice before voting for another high rise that detracts from our lovely city instead of adds to it. Eventually a high rise will become old and out of date, but a park will be everlasting green and easily loved by those downtown.

martha Wight  
64 Willowbrook Road  
Asheville, NC

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Lynn Eddy <Lynn.Eddy@charter.net> on behalf of Lynn Eddy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 9:32 PM  
**To:** 'City Council'; 'PARC'  
**Subject:** Across from the Basilica

Please don't take away the charm of our city any more than has already been done. Certainly it's not all about tourists, but most of them don't seek out Asheville for its luxury hotels. The space across from the Basilica should be a beautiful park!

Lynn Eddy  
25 Gardenwood Lane  
Asheville, 28803

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Sara May <maybloomer@yahoo.com> on behalf of Sara May  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 6:20 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** We need a park across from the Basilica, not another hotel

Dear Asheville City Council members,

Please heed the above message and act on it--do the right thing!

Thanks,  
Sara May  
38 Campground Road  
Asheville, NC 28805

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** marci@aquamystique.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 6:12 PM  
**To:** City@aquamystique.com;PARC  
**Subject:** St. Lawrence Basilica

I am horrified to find out that a hotel (!!!!!) might be built across from the basilica, destroying the look at and the look from this priceless piece of Asheville architectural history. We don't need another hotel downtown!!!

For God's sake, don't do this. Allow the church, which is paying good money, to beautify the space for the benefit of the city and all its residents and tourists.

Keep the basilica visible to everyone.

Sincerely,

Marcianne Miller  
149 Beverly Rd.  
Asheville, NC 28805  
phone: 828-505-3185  
email: [marci@aquamystique.com](mailto:marci@aquamystique.com)

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Lew Gelfond <mail@lewelfond.com> on behalf of Lew Gelfond  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** land in front of Basilica of St. Lawrence

Dear City Council Members - I am opposed to selling the parcel of land in front of the church to be used for a hotel. The church is a beautiful landmark, and the residents of Asheville would be better served if the parcel of land in front of it were developed as a park. Susan Jensen, 43 Vermont Court 28806

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Bill Maloney <maloneyw@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Bill Maloney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:51 PM  
**To:** 'City Council'; 'PARC'  
**Subject:** Sell the land to the Basilica

To City Council Members:

I would like to see the City sell the land to the Basilica of St. Lawrence.

We have plenty of hotels and the occupancy is around 63%.

We have only One Historic Basilica.

Asheville is a Tourism City. People do not come here to see our hotels.

Invest in one more reason why people should visit us.

Selling the property to the Basilica is wise for tax dollars and it's a smart investment in the future of Asheville.

Sincerely,

Bill Maloney  
President, Software Solutions of Asheville, Inc.  
*Custom Microsoft Database Applications*  
*MCAS Microsoft Certified Application Specialist*

Office: 828-258-1171  
Cell: 828-230-0103  
[www.swsolution.com](http://www.swsolution.com)



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Michael Wechter <mswclu@att.net> on behalf of Michael Wechter  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Cc:** mswclu@att.net  
**Subject:** property accross from the Basilica

It's time that council listen to those it has been elected to represent. There are 2 hotels already within a block that are hardly bursting at the seams with occupancy! Why must this city consistently grant almost every developers wish list to the detriment of the residents? (McKibbon is already building another hotel on Biltmore, how many more are needed?)

Thank you,  
Michael Wechter

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Lynn Morningstar <Lynn\_Morningstar@ZuckerStar.net> on behalf of Lynn Morningstar  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** City Council;PARC  
**Subject:** NO HOTEL

NO HOTEL ACROSS FROM THE BASILICA IN ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA.

Lynn Morningstar  
209 White Pine  
Asheville, NC 28805

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2012 3:30 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** PARC proposal

Dear Council Members,

As an Asheville City taxpayer, I support the plan of PARC to turn the land adjacent to the St. Lawrence Basilica into a green space. I am opposed to having another hotel built anywhere on this property.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier  
26 Stonebridge Drive  
Asheville, NC 28805-1464

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** George Fleming <georgefleming6@yahoo.com> on behalf of George Fleming  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 10, 2012 4:23 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'  
**Subject:** St, Lawrence Green

I have been amazed that the City has been planning on going ahead with selling the land in front of St. Lawrence and the Civic Center. This is a very, very important decision that requires citizen input as it is selling off one of the last pieces of undeveloped downtown land. Especially when St Lawrence offered a better offer and their proposal provides a much needed green space...and we don't need more hotel rooms.

Bigger and more is the default mantra of an unconscious community and economic system!

Thank you.

George Fleming

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Ted <digbygroove@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Ted  
**Sent:** Friday, June 08, 2012 8:00 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Park or developed

I want to go on record and express my desires that council leave the land undeveloped, and used as a public park

Ted williams

West Asheville

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Marcell Williams <mwnc31@aol.com> on behalf of Marcell Williams  
**Sent:** Friday, June 08, 2012 6:58 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; PARC <ashevilleparc@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Basilica of St. Lawrence

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am writing to express my concern regarding the vacant lot across from the church. For the life of me I can't understand why the city don't sell the lot to the church. All we need is another hotel/motel in the downtown district. It is so crowded now that I hardly go down town anymore and this would be one more reason to stay away. The lot would make a great place for a park and it would connect the church and the grove arcade area. It would be a great place for people to stop and relax for a few minutes as they enjoy our town. Seems \$ is the deciding factor in everything that is done nowadays. Please let the people decide the fate of the lot. Let "us" the people decide. Thank you for your time. Carolyn R. Williams. 20 Sedgefield Road, Candler, NC 28715 (yes, I'm live in the city limits)

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Susan Griffin <susanfgriffin@gmail.com> on behalf of Susan Griffin  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 07, 2012 12:51 PM  
**To:** charlie@email.skyrunner.net; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:** Peter Alberice; Lou Bissette; David Brown; Asheville Grown Business Alliance; Steve Frabitore; Larry Harris; Kim MacQueen; Chuck Pickering; Carol Schneidewind; George Saenger; Stephanie Swepson-Twitty; Pat Whalen  
**Subject:** What's wrong with ... PARC? Why are they spreading misinformation?

This is one of the most irresponsible mailings I have seen regarding the proposed BID. Had anyone contacted me or any other member of the Interim Board who actually has facts, this piece would never have been circulated. All the information seems to be taken from last year's open forums, which were held to educate the public about what BIDs *can* do, and what they do in other cities. In those forums we emphatically stated that there was no one way to do a BID, and any BID here would uniquely express the needs of Asheville, under the direction of the property owners and other stakeholders contributing to the BID. The Interim Board, made up of such property owners, was selected in January 2012 to come up with a specific proposal for downtown Asheville. This mailing doesn't reflect their proposal, which will be presented to Council on June 12, but instead is filled with misinformation.

1. A BID is not modeled after the CVB. BIDs are a well-established and proven management tool, with over 1000 throughout the country and 50 in North Carolina alone. They are non-profit corporations set up to provide services the city can or will not provide. The money comes from property owners in the district, and is distributed by a Board responsible and responsive to, and in fact, made up of, those property owners, with provisions for other stakeholder input as well. The scope of programs and services to be provided are clearly laid out in the proposal. Although the proposal calls for the initial Board to be selected by the Interim Board, those members will have terms of 1-, 2-, or 3-years, with expected elections to replace the initial board on staggered terms. This ensures that the two and one-half years of research and institutional knowledge about BIDs will be carried forward as the services begin, but allows for elections going forward. The annual meetings will be open to all.
2. The proposed assessment will raise \$500k of the \$800k budget, much higher than the 1/3 stated below. Even so, the \$800k is a goal figure; we are still negotiating with the City and County on their contributions. Should the BID pass, our guaranteed budget will be about \$630k, enough to fully fund the Clean and Safe program and begin work on the advocacy program.
3. The proposal does not include any suggestion of a marketing or event function. In fact, only two programs are addressed in the proposal: a Clean and Safe function, and an Advocacy function. The Asheville Downtown Association recently decided to focus on Marketing and Events, and hired an Executive Director with experience in these areas. Their decision to draw back from an advocacy role was made in anticipation of a BID being implemented, which would take over that aspect. The BID would coordinate with the ADA as a downtown partner, but there is no provision in the BID proposal for any sort of marketing or event function.
4. The BID will provide specified services (the Clean and Safe program) regardless of city budgetary changes. By law, the services provided by a BID must *supplement* those already provided by the City. NC statutes also mandate that the city can not reduce the service level to a BID unless services are reduced city-wide. If the city reduces services across the board, they can also reduce services downtown. What the BID guarantees is that there will be a consistent, sustainable organization focused on the needs of downtown property owners, no matter what happens with City Council.

5. Downtown is used more heavily than any other area of the City. We have more tourists, more business, more people here every day. The city already provides a higher level of services here, but it is not enough to ensure that everyone who comes here has a great experience. We need a higher standard of cleanliness, and we property owners are willing to pay for that service ourselves. Of course property owners benefit as: more use = more sales = better environment to start businesses = more amenities for residents = more residential growth = more property and sales tax generated = **MORE MONEY TO BE SPREAD AMONG ALL CITY AND COUNTY RESIDENTS**. This is the only proposal on the table that doesn't simply ask for a piece of the pie, it makes the pie bigger to benefit all Buncombe county residents. We're not pitting downtown against the rest of the city; exactly the opposite. Instead of petitioning the city to give us a bigger share of the budget, we're offering to take on \$600k+ of those extra services ourselves. Most cities view the implementation of a BID as a gift, allowing them to better distribute services city-wide while leveraging existing services within the district.

The charge to the Downtown Management Committee, expressed in the proposal by the Interim Board, was to create an action plan for Strategy 7 of the Downtown Master Plan, managing downtown Asheville. Our goals, as set out in that document, include the following:

- Maintain the distinctive character and unique attributes that are so much a part of what makes Asheville Asheville
- Ensure that the Downtown is always clean, safe and green
- Empower Downtown property and business owners, residents, major employers and other key stakeholders to collaborate in making decisions and investments that support mutual Downtown interests

We are convinced that the proposed BID is the best way to carry out those directives.

Susan Griffin, Chair  
Downtown Management Committee



6/6/12



### What's wrong with the BID?

The biggest problem with the proposed Business Improvement District (BID) is that ***an unelected board would collect tax money and spend it as they wish.***

If this sounds familiar, that's because it is.



It's modeled on the much-criticised Convention and Visitors Bureau, which collects the hotel room tax and spends it on peeling signs and direct payments to zipline companies and nightclubs.

Like the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the new BID would replace the government function of spending tax money, in this case an additional property tax of seven cents per hundred downtown.

Organizers of the BID told business owners that the new tax would pay only one-third of the BID budget. One third would come from the City and County, and one third from grants. At one early meeting, when a property owner objected to a tax increase, another advised him to shut up, saying: "You're paying a nickel and getting fifteen cents."

That was then. Now that the BID is coming before Council, there's no more talk of "Pay a nickel, get fifteen cents." Now it's, "We just want to tax ourselves."

During the first BID organizing meetings, advocates said money would mainly be used to advertise downtown and to fund more street festivals. That pitch was successful with many downtown merchants.

But downtown residents would also have to pay the new tax (and many of them are not eager for more beer festivals). When they raised objections, organizers for the BID started saying that most of the money is going to the "Clean and Safe" program.

***One of the most unusual aspects of the proposal has flown under the radar and received almost no attention.***

That's the contract between the new BID and the City specifying that current city services downtown *cannot be reduced*.

In the words of the BID folks, "It does not matter who's on Council or who wins elections, services to downtown will stay the same." In the BID world, elections are irrelevant.

So in some future recession, services might be reduced to other parts of the city, **but not to downtown.**

If you live in Kenilworth or West Asheville, your services might be reduced, but not downtown where the merchants would have a contract with the city.

If the proposal passes, some future City Council might well have to cut services to schools or in the neighborhoods, but would be contractually bound to keep services downtown funded at the same level. **Is that fair?**

Democracy matters. Elections matter. Corporations shouldn't decide how tax dollars are spent. Downtown is part of Asheville, not a separate entity that needs its own treasury.

Asheville is one city, one entity. We don't need the divisions that the BID would create, pitting one area against another.

Susan Griffin  
[susanfgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:susanfgriffin@gmail.com)

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Chas Fitzgerald <cfitz@WilBowUSA.com> on behalf of Chas Fitzgerald  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 07, 2012 11:28 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** City property across from Basilica

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

No doubt you are feeling the groundswell of opposition to selling the city-owned property to McKibbin for a highrise hotel.

I have no issues with utilizing downtown property for redevelopment, and the more intensely and efficiently land is utilized downtown to make use of the existing infrastructure and walkability is good planning.

However, one must remember that the land is owned by tax dollars of the citizens and the citizens are voicing their concerns and objections to this proposal.

The Basilica is one of downtown's landmarks and attractions to tourists of all faiths who are interested in its unique self supporting tile dome. Does the City not benefit from tourism?

You have the chance as stewards of the public investment to enhance public spaces for citizens and tourists by improving a portion of the property to be a plaza for the convention center that affords breathing space in front of the church and serves to protect the historic structure from structural damage that major construction could cause directly across the street.

Furthermore, to continue to honor a contract when the developer has been in technical default on the purchase contract for literally years is suspect. Any other seller would have terminated the option or the contract long ago. The property needs to be put out to the market for proposal and let the citizens have input as to the best proposal, with the City requiring or retaining land for a public plaza.

Respectfully,

Chas Fitzgerald

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** JJ Kitt <jjkitt@yahoo.com> on behalf of JJ Kitt  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 07, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Green space

The thought of another high-rise hotel in downtown Asheville is absurd. Especially given the location that you're considering across from the church. Listen to the voices of the majority of the people in the community who strongly oppose this hotel. Our tax money, our decision!

Joseph Kitt

Sent from my iPhone

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** John Huie <John@JohnHuie.com> on behalf of John Huie  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 07, 2012 9:15 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Keep the space green!

TO: City Council  
FROM: John Huie, Citizen

Turn the space across from the Basilica into the GREEN SPACE it must be!

It will add to the uniqueness of downtown Asheville.

Just do it!

John Huie  
Asheville, NC



**John C. Huie, Ph. D.**

**Educational Consultant**

**Professional Member, Independent Educational Consultants Association**  
**Therapeutic Residential/Wilderness and Boarding School Placements**

**Guiding Families To Settings Where Children Can Thrive**

**1333 Merrimon Avenue**  
**Asheville, NC 28804**  
**828 252 8062 – Asheville Office**  
**828 989 9100 – Charlotte Office**  
**828 225 1702 - FAX**

**[John@johnhuie.com](mailto:John@johnhuie.com)**  
**<http://www.johnhuie.blogspot.com>**



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Mark Hansman <gushansman@aol.com> on behalf of Mark Hansman  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 07, 2012 4:19 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Land across bassillica

You have no right to sell this land to your greedy cooperate friends, you don't own it, the tax payers do. Why don't you stop your underhanded back room deals city council is like Taminy hall. Think of the people for once

Sent from my iPhone

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Tyler Martin <tyler4abundance@gmail.com> on behalf of Tyler Martin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 10:54 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** SAVE OUR TOWN

My daddy taught me to learn from my mistakes. Please, .... be careful about the property in front of Civic Center/St. Lawrence /Libary/Grove Arcade.

STAPLES..... You struggled to get the size of that billboard reduced, after initially allowing it to be put up.

US CELLULAR.... You are breaking city sign regulations, after receiving a few bucks from another corporation.

McKIBBEN..... You know that a park will be a blessing, for us and all tourists, and this is the reason we voted you into office - assets for all.

Tyler Martin  
134 Skyview Drive  
Asheville

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Harry Woggon <hakw@charter.net> on behalf of Harry Woggon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 4:45 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** PLEASE A PARK NEXT TO THE BASICILA OF ST. LAWRENCE

Please have a park next to the Basicilla of St. Lawrence. They have offered money for the space We have enough already of hotels downtown.

Let the people add to the funds from the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, even if it is but a small amount, it will show our solidarity with the the Spiritual aspects of life and the world.

We need Green Space and trees for all our citizens.

Thank you

Harry and Genelda Woggon

118 Macon Ave, Asheville



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Vicki Rowe-Currence <rowecurrence@gmail.com> on behalf of Vicki Rowe-Currence  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Basilica Green

I live at 38 Woodcrest Road in the city and I want a Basilica green, not a hotel built in that space across from the basilica and Civic Center

Vicki Rowe-Currence  
828-252-7880

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** SMITH CRAIG T <smithcraigt@gmail.com> on behalf of SMITH CRAIG T  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 1:06 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Let's have a park.

A park at the Basilica would serve Asheville as a very positive space forever. The city should be very demanding as to what is built on the site if the land is sold to the church. The Basilica should come up with much more and attractive plan than they have presented to date.

Sent from my iPhone

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** k4noff@charter.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 1:04 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** St. Lawerence

Please, No hotel in front of St. Lawrence Church. Make a park for all to enjoy.  
Kathy Kelly  
Asheville, NC 28805

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Margaret Foxx <foxxjim@charter.net> on behalf of Margaret Foxx  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** green space vs. high rise

When tourists visit they are looking to see what the establishment of Asheville value. The older the cities visited, the more the treasure of the old becomes evident. In Rochester, NY there is a beautiful park in front of St Mary's Church. There is a monument to George Washington, shade, benches and a refuge for office workers downtown. Savannah GA's main attraction is its parks, shade and benches .

We have the Basilica - by the same architect as the Grand Central Station in NYC! It is beyond common sense that a high rise hotel is even being considered for that space. What we have to do is get rid of the cement and make a park worthy of Asheville. A monument to Thomas Wolfe perhaps, or a reference to the TB sanitoriums we were once famous for, Robert E. Lee and the school he founded here. Be real!

Margaret Mary Z. Foxx

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** bentcreek <bentcreek@ioa.com> on behalf of bentcreek  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 12:40 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'  
**Subject:** re bid

I was contacted by PARC and agree with them. "It's modeled on the much-criticised Convention and Visitors Bureau, which collects the hotel room tax and spends it on peeling signs and direct payments to zipline companies and nightclubs." As a business that pays the hotel room tax I am quite disappointed in how the money is spent. When there is tax money being spent there needs to be some one in charge of spending that money that must answer to the tax payer and voter. I would recommend we find a better way to fund for downtown clean ups. Forget more festivals.

*Jodee & Doug Sellers*



## Bent Creek Lodge

Website: [www.bentcreeknc.com](http://www.bentcreeknc.com)  
Email: [bentcreek@ioa.com](mailto:bentcreek@ioa.com)  
Phone: 1-877-231-6574 toll free

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Frank Coney <fcms1982@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Frank Coney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2012 10:03 AM  
**To:** 'Jan Davis'  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed McKibben Purchase

Dear Jan,

Thanks for your reply. I appreciate your keeping an open mind on the City's proposal to sell the lot across from the Basilica. I would ask you continue to keep the long term interests of the City in mind and not focus exclusively on the sales price. I realize a large commercial establishment will increase the City's tax base. Having said that, failing to meaningfully increase the City's property or sales tax rate is not realistic given the amount of growth Asheville has experienced. A SMALL tax increase could bring in needed revenues and enable among other things the City to pay its EMTs, firemen, and policemen a more equitable raise. Asheville needs to retain the unique ambiance that makes it so attractive to our lifeblood: tourism. Another large hotel downtown will not contribute to that image.

Thanks for your consideration.

Frank Coney

-----Original Message-----

From: Jan Davis [mailto:jandavis@avlcouncil.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 9:17 AM  
To: Frank Coney  
Subject: Re: Proposed McKibben Purchase

Frank

I don't think any Council member is intent on building a hotel; however, the only real proposal is from McKibbon. The Basilica has expressed interest to build a mixed use building but not put forward a real proposal other than a parking lot, the poorest use other than temporary. There is no ability to build a stand alone park, we are desperately trying to pay the shortfall and the plan for maintenance of the Pack Square Park, presently. Frank, there is much misinformation out there, a lot fomented by PARC. I, personally, will work toward putting the request for proposal out again so the Basilica or other interested developers have an equal opportunity to bring forward meaningful projects.

Regards

Jan

On Tue, Jun 5, 2012 at 11:53 AM, Frank Coney <fcms1982@bellsouth.net> wrote:

> I urge all those on City Council to approve the proposed purchase of  
> the lot in front of St Lawrence as proposed by the Church. We do not  
> need yet another giant building, particularly a hotel in that  
> location. Can't anyone on Council look at the choice which would  
> benefit most of the citizens of Asheville for perpetuity rather than a  
> choice which will benefit an out of state corporation? A green space  
> in that area would enhance the beauty of the area and serve as a draw  
> for residents and tourists alike. The Church has made a generous  
> offer to

the City. I request you approve their offer.

> If you are intent on building yet another hotel, consider the area on  
> south Coxe Avenue or Buxton Street.

>

>

>

> Thank you for considering this request.

>

>

>

> Frank D. Coney

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** FRED FLAXMAN <fflaxman@frontier.com> on behalf of FRED FLAXMAN  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:** PARC  
**Subject:** A park in front of the Bascilica

A tree-shaded public park in front of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, using land already owned by the City of Asheville for the purpose, would seem to be a non-brainer for those who want to improve the appearance, functionality, and joyful daily use of downtown. Please support this idea for the future benefit of this great little city!

## *Fred Flaxman*

Author of [\*Sixty Slices of Life ... on Wry: The Private Life of a Public Broadcaster\*](#),

winner of the 2011 Pinnacle Book Award for memoir.

Rave reviews at [Amazon.com](#), [Rhapsody in Books](#), [Reading at the Beach](#), [BookPleasures.com](#), [The Book Nook](#), and [Radio World](#).

Editor of [\*The Timeless Tales of Reginald Bretnor\*](#).

Producer/Presenter of [\*Compact Discoveries\*](#).

36 Pickens Lane,  
Weaverville, NC 28787-9321 - telephone:  
828-645-8580

[www.fredflaxman.com](http://www.fredflaxman.com)

[www.sixtyslices.com](http://www.sixtyslices.com)

[www.compactdiscoveries.com](http://www.compactdiscoveries.com)

[www.bretnor.com](http://www.bretnor.com)

[fredflaxman.wordpress.com/](http://fredflaxman.wordpress.com/)



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Frank Coney <fcms1982@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Frank Coney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:54 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'  
**Subject:** Proposed McKibben Purchase

I urge all those on City Council to approve the proposed purchase of the lot in front of St Lawrence as proposed by the Church. We do not need yet another giant building, particularly a hotel in that location. Can't anyone on Council look at the choice which would benefit most of the citizens of Asheville for perpetuity rather than a choice which will benefit an out of state corporation? A green space in that area would enhance the beauty of the area and serve as a draw for residents and tourists alike. The Church has made a generous offer to the City. I request you approve their offer. If you are intent on building yet another hotel, consider the area on south Coxe Avenue or Buxton Street.

Thank you for considering this request.

Frank D. Coney

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Tony Cecil <forcruzur@aol.com> on behalf of Tony Cecil  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:44 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Land across from the Basilica.

Hi everybody.As an ex real estate dev.(I did 37 Hiawassee motel to condo's) I would think the city would be better served to make something for everyone to use and enjoy.thanks Tony Cecil

Sent from my iPad

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Catherine Faherty <catina@main.nc.us> on behalf of Catherine Faherty  
**Sent:** Monday, June 04, 2012 8:55 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Basilica of St. Lawrence area

To Members of Asheville City Council,

PLEASE DO NOT sell our land to McKibbon, hotel chain. We NEED a beautiful green space there! For all, tourists and locals alike to share, enjoy. Please do not sell it!! Please make a green space!

Thank you  
Catherine Faherty  
Resident and downtown worker since 1984

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Marie Moore <smoore1934@gmail.com> on behalf of Marie Moore  
**Sent:** Monday, June 04, 2012 7:13 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** land across from the Basilica

Dear Members of the City Council,

Please don't let the City's need for money overcome the best long range plan for the citizens of Asheville. A park would add so much to that part of the City. No, it wouldn't bring a lot of money but it would invite people to spend in other ways.

Please don't ok the plan for a hotel.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Marie S. Moore, Asheville

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Tom Donohue <dono3356@me.com> on behalf of Tom Donohue  
**Sent:** Monday, June 04, 2012 1:48 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Land

The city has enough hotels,let the church use the land for a park.

Sent from my iPhone

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** cody b. hughey <dancerbeez@gmail.com> on behalf of cody b. hughey  
**Sent:** Monday, June 04, 2012 1:29 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Greenspace at the Basilica

Hello decision makers,

In my opinion as an Asheville resident of 15 years, I believe that having a beautiful green space in front of the Basilica is the best move for the city. There's no refuge in downtown for a respite in the summer months--and Pritchard Park is filled with concrete. Let's keep that section and make it green! What beauty that would be in that spot near the Civic Center and connecting the library, the Grove Arcade and the other walking areas around there.

Blessings,

Cody Hughey  
West Asheville Resident

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Esther Cartwright - AvL <ecartwright@avltech.com> on behalf of Esther Cartwright - AvL  
**Sent:** Monday, June 04, 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Park not Hotel

Please do not sell the lot across from the Basilica to a developer and instead turn it into a green space we can all use and enjoy.

Kind Regards,  
Esther Cartwright

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Cicada Brokaw <tub65966@temple.edu> on behalf of Cicada  
**Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2012 1:47 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** It is Time enough already

It is time enough already for City council to permanently ditch plans to build on the site across from the Basilica and to convert this area to a park, to some green space. Green space is sorely needed near the Civic center and across from the Basilica. The amount of concrete and asphalt in this area chokes the area. Please step up to the plate and do something visionary! Place this park into a plan for our city's future!

Sincerely,

Harold Cicada Brokaw Dennis



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** C. Walgate <cwalgate@bellsouth.net> on behalf of C. Walgate  
**Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** FW: St. Lawrence Green Space

---

**From:** C. Walgate [mailto:cwalgate@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2012 11:58 AM  
**To:** 'AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov'; 'PARC'  
**Subject:** St. Lawrence Green Space

As a city taxpayer for over 40 years, I am appalled at council's decision for the property across from St. Lawrence. Do I need to remind you that you are making a decision about taxpayer owner property, and the majority of friends and neighbors want a green space not another monster that blocks the views like Biltmore Ave. A few more building additions like the Biltmore Ave construction and who wants to walk the streets of Asheville. What are you thinking? You will have your luxury hotels and no occupants. You are elected to work for your constituents not corporate executives. Please think long term and what is best for the majority of our citizens and not the privileged few.

Cathy Walgate

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Amy Renigar <amyrenigar@gmail.com> on behalf of Amy Renigar  
**Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2012 7:15 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Please make St. Lawrence GREEN

Dear City Council,

I am asking that you please use the area in front of St. Lawrence Basilica to create a community green space. What makes Asheville attractive to tourists is that it isn't a BIG city. Both local residents and tourists LOVE Pritchard Park, and to have a space with an even more beautiful view would attract even more people.

I realize it all comes down to money, but I know there is a way to work with the public to raise funds needed to make the green space. If you can turn down the big bucks offered from a corporation in support of your citizens, then we can pull together and make the space green.

Regards,  
Amy Renigar  
Weaverville, NC

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Stanley Corwin <colnstash@att.net> on behalf of Stanley Corwin  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 31, 2012 9:04 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Land use infront of the Basilica

Please not another luxury hotel --Two have recently been built in the downtown area. Please go with the option presented by St. Lawrence.  
Colette Corwin

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** bwweather <bwweather@bellsouth.net> on behalf of bwweather  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** property across from the basilica

Dear City Council members,

I implore you to not sell the property across from the basilica to the McKibbon hotel people. Building a hotel on this site would be a terrible idea. The city already has two new hotels (including the one going up on Biltmore Ave.) in the downtown area and does not need another one. Please look at the pictures of a proposed park and imagine what a wonderful asset that would be to Asheville. We citizens have already voiced our strong opposition to erecting a large building on this site--please listen to us.

Sincerely,

Barbara Weatherall  
10 Trappers Run Dr.  
Asheville NC 28805

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Cheryl Orengo <ctorengo@gmail.com> on behalf of Cheryl Orengo  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;+PARC+  
**Subject:** Land next to Basilica

Dear Council Members,

I agree with Parc with the situation of park versus another high rise hotel in downtown Asheville next to the Basilica. The park gets my vote! We now have enough new structures in Asheville that look like boxes with windows. The beautiful architecture of Asheville is now laden with modern high rise box structures that are taking away from the beauty of Asheville and the mountains. People come to Asheville's downtown because it is beautiful and vibrant so we need to preserve what we have left by adding another park area, not another boxey hotel next to a beautiful, historic building like the Basilica. It appears as if the people of Asheville own the area next to the Basilica so please listen to Ashevilleians not a corporate hotel chain!

Yours respectfully, Cheryl Orengo

--

PEACE - It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. (unknown)

Cheryl Thomas Orengo, BS, ICCE, CD(DONA), PCD(DONA)  
Phone- 828-258-3327  
[www.peacefulbeginning.org](http://www.peacefulbeginning.org)

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** moonspirit48@bellsouth.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 9:16 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Make St. Lawrence GREEN

The citizens of this city clearly DO NOT WANT a high rise put in front of the church. Turning this space into a park is an ideal solution for this land purchased with TAXPAYERS' MONEY...not yours!

*Kindly, Kathleen*

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Ann Bury <annbur@charter.net> on behalf of Ann Bury  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 8:23 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** City property

To Asheville City Council Members:

I think the space across the street from the Basilica should be used as a park which all residents and tourists can enjoy. It should have shade trees and benches in it where people can have a place to rest, reflect or read about the attractions nearby--the Grove Arcade, the Basilica, the Library, and the former Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

Let's not have another hotel in the downtown area. That would only serve a few people from out-of-town, and the park will serve residents as well as tourists.

Ann Bury  
230 Lovely Lane, Asheville, NC 28803

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Bill Crownover <billcrownover@gmail.com> on behalf of billcrownover@bellsouth.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:00 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Property near St. Lawrence Cathedral

I am totally opposed to the sale of the property across from St. Lawrence Cathedral to McKibbin or any other developer since I believe that we need a nice, small green space in that part of town. Please slow down and think more about beauty and less about tax dollars.

I have lived in Asheville for 60+ years, born and raised in the local schools and currently live in east Asheville. We love our great city and downtown and we hope you will think quality over quantity when it comes to major decisions like this.

Thank you,

Bill and Barbara Crownover  
8 Pine Spring Drive  
Asheville, NC 28805



**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Butch Giusto <bgiusto@radiitechnologies.com> on behalf of Butch Giusto  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:04 AM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'  
**Subject:** Basillica Hotel Sellout

Why reproduce the mistakes of most cities that lose their green space to developers? Why add even more traffic and congestion to an already congested downtown?

Who bebfits from this project? Certainly it is not the citizens of Asheville.

***Butch Giusto***  
***President***



**RADII**  
**TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**

INNOVATION - QUALITY - INTEGRITY

[www.RADIITECHNOLOGIES.COM](http://www.RADIITECHNOLOGIES.COM)

**800.207.1839 Asheville office**  
**828.333.0005 cell**  
**866.309.0196 Fax**  
[\*\*bgiusto@radiitechnologies.com\*\*](mailto:bgiusto@radiitechnologies.com)

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Alfred Lyons <alfredlyons@yahoo.com> on behalf of Alfred Lyons  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 29, 2012 2:59 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC  
**Subject:** Park in front of Basilica

Dear members of Asheville council,

Please do not sell the land to a hotel. Please consider a park in front of the Basilica. I am a city resident and voter.

Thank you,

Alfred Lyons  
708 New Haw Creek Rd  
Asheville, NC 28805

Sent from my iPhone

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Jan Davis  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 01, 2012 7:00 PM  
**To:** Mayor Bellamy  
**Subject:** Re: Hope you can come!

Good call.

On Sunday, April 1, 2012, Mayor Bellamy <[mayorbellamy@gmail.com](mailto:mayorbellamy@gmail.com)> wrote:

> Thank you for the update. I will not be attending.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 1, 2012, at 1:28 PM, Jan Davis <[jandavis@avlcouncil.com](mailto:jandavis@avlcouncil.com)> wrote:

>

> I was and orinally committed to do so. After speaking to Valerie, I recognized it would take the typical nasty PARC/ Valorie/Elaine/Barry feel that, as a committe representative, might compromise our forward progress with Moffitt. She is over the top and a huge turn-off; though, I think the public outcry is useful but do not like being aligned with them.

> jan

>

> On Sunday, April 1, 2012, Mayor Bellamy <[mayorbellamy@gmail.com](mailto:mayorbellamy@gmail.com)> wrote:

>> Were you invited to speak?

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>> Begin forwarded message:

>>

>> From: Valerie Hoh <[valeriehoh@charter.net](mailto:valeriehoh@charter.net)>

>> Date: March 31, 2012 11:19:59 PM EDT

>> To: Mayor Terry Bellamy <[TerryBellamy@avlcouncil.com](mailto:TerryBellamy@avlcouncil.com)>

>> Subject: Hope you can come!

>>

>> Press Conference Advisory

>>

>> To: News Editors and Assignment Editors

>> From: Elaine Lite 828-255-8537

>> Event: Press Conference

>> "Raleigh: Hands Off Buncombe's Water" campaign

>> Details: 3 p.m. Thursday, April 5, City/County Plaza

>>

>> Organizers of the campaign "Raleigh: Hands Off Buncombe's Water" will hold a press conference and unveil new civic action plans in the protest against the proposed seizure of the local water system by the state. The event will include statements from Oscar Wong, President of Highland Brewery; David Gantt, Chair of the Buncombe County Commissioners; and Chris Pelly, Asheville City Council and member of the Metropolitan Sewage District board. For more information,

visit: [speakingforbuncombe.wordpress.com](http://speakingforbuncombe.wordpress.com) & [ashevillewater.blogspot.com](http://ashevillewater.blogspot.com)

>> .

>>

>>

>> Invitation to “Raleigh: Hands Off Buncombe’s Water” press conference:

>>

>> Dear Friends,

>>

>> We would like to invite you to a brief press conference at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at City/County Plaza where we will unveil new civic action plans in the protest against the proposed seizure of the local water system by the state and ask businesses to get involved. Brief statements will be made by Oscar Wong, President of Highland Brewery; David Gantt, Chair of the Buncombe County Commissioners; and Chris Pelly, a member of both Asheville City Council and the Metropolitan Sewage District board.

>>

>> If you believe that decisions about Buncombe’s water should be made locally and not in Raleigh, then come support our work. We encourage you to stand in solidarity with us against the actions of N.C. Representative Tim Moffitt who has said, “All water issues are State issues, not local.” We don’t accept that statement and would love to have your support at the press conference as we continue the fight for local water rights.

>>

>>

>> Please make and bring your protest signs (Ideas: “Stop It, Moffitt!! Hands off our water!” “Hands off our faucet, Moffitt!” “Don’t annex our water!” Etc.)

>> Bring your kids. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate civic action.

>> Stand with us in support of the current water system!

>>

>>

>> Thanks,

>> Heather Rayburn, Valerie Hoh, Elaine Lite, and Barry Summers

>> [speakingforbuncombe.wordpress.com](http://speakingforbuncombe.wordpress.com) & [ashevillewater.blogspot.com](http://ashevillewater.blogspot.com)

>>

>>

>>

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Jan Davis  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 01, 2012 1:29 PM  
**To:** Mayor Bellamy  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hope you can come!

I was and orinally committed to do so. After speaking to Valerie, I recognized it would take the typical nasty PARC/ Valorie/Elaine/Barry feel that, as a committe representative, might compromise our forward progress with Moffitt. She is over the top and a huge turn-off; though, I think the public outcry is useful but do not like being aligned with them.

jan

On Sunday, April 1, 2012, Mayor Bellamy <[mayorbellamy@gmail.com](mailto:mayorbellamy@gmail.com)> wrote:

> Were you invited to speak?

>

> Sent from my iPhone

> Begin forwarded message:

>

> From: Valerie Hoh <[valeriehoh@charter.net](mailto:valeriehoh@charter.net)>

> Date: March 31, 2012 11:19:59 PM EDT

> To: Mayor Terry Bellamy <[TerryBellamy@avlcouncil.com](mailto:TerryBellamy@avlcouncil.com)>

> Subject: Hope you can come!

>

> Press Conference Advisory

>

> To: News Editors and Assignment Editors

> From: Elaine Lite 828-255-8537

> Event: Press Conference

> "Raleigh: Hands Off Buncombe's Water" campaign

> Details: 3 p.m. Thursday, April 5, City/County Plaza

>

> Organizers of the campaign "Raleigh: Hands Off Buncombe's Water" will hold a press conference and unveil new civic action plans in the protest against the proposed seizure of the local water system by the state. The event will include statements from Oscar Wong, President of Highland Brewery; David Gantt, Chair of the Buncombe County Commissioners; and Chris Pelly, Asheville City Council and member of the Metropolitan Sewage District board. For more information,

visit: [speakingforbuncombe.wordpress.com](http://speakingforbuncombe.wordpress.com) & [ashevillewater.blogspot.com](http://ashevillewater.blogspot.com)

> .

>

>

> Invitation to "Raleigh: Hands Off Buncombe's Water" press conference:

>

> Dear Friends,

>

> We would like to invite you to a brief press conference at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at City/County Plaza where we will unveil new civic action plans in the protest against the proposed seizure of the local water system by the state and ask businesses to get involved. Brief statements will be made by Oscar Wong, President of Highland Brewery; David Gantt, Chair of the Buncombe County Commissioners; and Chris Pelly, a member

of both Asheville City Council and the Metropolitan Sewage District board.

>

> If you believe that decisions about Buncombe's water should be made locally and not in Raleigh, then come support our work. We encourage you to stand in solidarity with us against the actions of N.C. Representative Tim Moffitt who has said, "All water issues are State issues, not local." We don't accept that statement and would love to have your support at the press conference as we continue the fight for local water rights.

>

>

> Please make and bring your protest signs (Ideas: "Stop It, Moffitt!! Hands off our water!" "Hands off our faucet, Moffitt!" "Don't annex our water!" Etc.)

> Bring your kids. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate civic action.

> Stand with us in support of the current water system!

>

>

> Thanks,

> Heather Rayburn, Valerie Hoh, Elaine Lite, and Barry Summers

> [speakingforbuncombe.wordpress.com](http://speakingforbuncombe.wordpress.com) & [ashevillewater.blogspot.com](http://ashevillewater.blogspot.com)

>

>

>