From: Eric Jackson <ejackson@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 2/14/2018 8:10:40 PM
To: Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: [#99614] CfA Summit Session Proposals - Invitation to edit

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If it works for you, let's talk at 2pm (and I can be available from then on until about 6:30pm). We can either do a hangout or phone, as you prefer. My office phone is 828-259-5722 and my cell is 781-296-6267.

Have a good evening!

Eric

On Wed, Feb 14, 2018 at 6:52 PM, Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com> wrote:

> Hi Eric,
>
> Sure - I'm free any time at / after 11am tomorrow, and I'd definitely like to set up a time to meet for a wider discussion as well.
>
> Let me know when you want to talk tomorrow, and regarding a time to meet - let me know if there's days next week that work well for you.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Patrick Conant
> patrick@prcapps.com
> PRC Applications
> www.prcapps.com
>
>
>> On Wed, 14 Feb at 5:23 PM , Eric Jackson <ejackson@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
>> Hi, Patrick,
>>
>> This makes total sense. Can we do a call tomorrow to talk through a couple options?
>>
>> I would prefer to have you there, whether we did a joint session or two separate ones. If it makes sense to go for that, I'll figure out funding (CfA has a free conference ticket in any case, and we can figure out how to raise money for travel support). But I really want to have a longer conversation regardless, outside the summit context. It's important to me personally and I consider it really important for Code for Asheville (and, frankly, the City) as well.
>>
>> Eric
>>
>>> On Wed, Feb 14, 2018 at 3:46 PM, Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com> wrote:
>>> Hi Eric,
>>>
>>> First, I'd like to say thank you for reaching out to me regarding this session proposal. I've been thinking about this a lot, and I'm struggling to decide if this is a good fit for me. Unfortunately, I do wish we had a chance to connect before this and have a wider discussion - and I would still like to make that happen - but we'll do our best to focus on this session proposal for now due to the upcoming deadline.
>>>
>>> While I think these are interesting session proposals, they are really reflections of the narrative and discussions occurring within our City hall - and I think that's a feature, not a bug, that makes this content relevant to other cities.
>>>
>>> At the same time - I have to be honest that these discussions make me, in many ways, uncomfortable. My experience over the past year has been challenging, draining, painful. The work speaks for itself - I'm proud to make those sacrifices, but those are the costs of volunteering your time to help build a 21st Century City - if you dare to criticize government in the process.

My concern is that these sessions place my work in the context of a narrative crafted by the City, and I think that approach limits my ability to be honest and share a lot of the difficult realities of the process. I felt similarly after last year's Open Data Day - I'm allowed to participate, but the process is carefully structured - and that leaves me feeling less than genuine.

I don't have the full context of the request from Code for America - but I think these proposals differ from a request, say, for me to present my work with BeLoved and the NAACP as examples of community-driven efforts to use open data for policy advocacy. I'm not sure if that's a good fit to be tied in with sessions from City staff, or even if the CfA summit is the right place for that perspective to be heard.

In other words - I think these are good sessions, and you should move forward with them without me.

There's also an issue of cost - as my business has become increasingly busy, it's difficult to take a week off of work, and that's compounded by the significant cost of travel / lodging etc to attend. I'm not sure what funding is available, but I'd need to weigh whether those expenses are the best use of our limited resources at PRC Apps.

I'd be happy to continue this discussion with you, but I wanted to provide some clarity before tomorrow's deadline - let me know if you'd like to set up a time to talk, or send me a message on Slack!

Thank you,

Patrick Conant
patrick@prcapps.com
PRC Applications
www.prcapps.com

> On Tue, 13 Feb at 1:43 PM , Eric Jackson <ejackson@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
> Cool - as long as we get in by Thursday we're fine. Good luck tonight!
>
> Eric
>
>> On Tue, Feb 13, 2018 at 1:42 PM, Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com> wrote:
>> Hi Eric,
>>
>> I'm a bit tied up today between Jesse being out of town and my Council presentation - but I took a quick look at the document and I'll definitely respond in more detail tomorrow!
>>
>> Thank you,
>>
>> Patrick Conant
>> patrick@prcapps.com
>> PRC Applications
>> www.prcapps.com
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>> –
>> **Eric Jackson**
>> Digital Services Architect
>> City of Asheville: IT Services
>> **Email:** ejackson@ashevillenc.gov
>> **Office:** 828-259-5722

–
Eric Jackson
Digital Services Architect

City of Asheville: IT Services
Email: ejackson@ashevillenc.gov
Office: 828-259-5722

– –

Eric Jackson
Digital Services Architect
City of Asheville: IT Services
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Office: 828-259-5722