

From: Diana Starr <biz@wildthingsdwell.org>
Sent: 5/28/2018 11:41:39 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: Thank you for voting with the people

Dear Mayor Manheimer, Councilpersons Young, Smith, Mayfield and Haynes,

Thank you for listening and voting with the people for some common sense, fair rules on Asheville Police Department consent searches. It is clear from the reaction from law enforcement to your motions that there is a critical and immediate need to curtail them from further abuses of the citizens and to send them a strong message that their abuses will not be tolerated in our community. Law enforcements over-reactions (Van Duncan's now infamous "slap in the face" is another recent glaring example) to even minor changes to their almost unlimited rule is quite telling and proves the essential need for these policy changes.

Several police representatives spoke in opposition to using written search requests but not one of them attempted a reasonable explanation for their objections. Instead, they used repeated threats of litigation, often with contemptuous defiance against council. It was foot-stomping petulance and bully tactics, which if done so easily in a public can only make us more fearful of their behavior when they are not on public camera. If, as they present, 99% of cops are "good guys", then the 1% who lead them need to be reminded, strongly, that they don't define their roles and methods, the public does when it votes for who will represent us in city council.

Thank you again for your excellent work on this step forward in holding APD accountable to the people.

Sincerely,
Diana Starr