

TimeStamp	Subject	Text
7/29/2020 12:41:00 AM	Reparations Now	<p>I was in the queue to speak, but I was skipped due to technical difficulties on the part of Asheville City Council, depriving me of the opportunity to publicly comment during the meeting. Here is the statement I would have delivered had the City Council's call-in worked correctly:</p> <p>First of all: We can't ban tear gas because "they'll use something worse?" Tear gas is a chemical weapon banned in warfare by the Geneva Convention. In this country, the police are waging war on us for exercising our first amendment rights. If you allow this to continue, if you don't take a stand against these abuses, you are on the wrong side of history.</p> <p>For all this hand wringing about "public safety," more policing does not make us safer. Police presence does not deter crime. As other callers have mentioned, increasing police presence is not the answer.</p> <p>Crime is tied to generational poverty, which is why we need reparations. We're facing a major eviction crisis and it's going to hit the black community the hardest.</p> <p>Every day I speak to dozens and dozens of people who don't know if they are going to have a home next month. People who have waited years for public housing. People who have lost their housing, can't a shelter bed, and have no choice but to sleep outside. In a pandemic.</p> <p>The news of the CSBG funds is welcome. But they will not be enough. They do not address the severe damage caused by generations of systematic racism.</p> <p>Keep black people in their homes. Fund education. Invest in Black owned businesses. Fund black homeownership. Put your money where your mouth is and commit to the reparations you agreed to.</p> <p>Defund the police by 50%.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ella Smith</p> <p>West Asheville</p>
7/29/2020 12:56:00 AM	Investing in Black Asheville: Public Comment	<p>Hello, my name is Rory and I am a resident of Asheville. The item I would like to comment on is the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget. First, I would like to say that I am very satisfied that reparations have been served and this was a big success for this city, its Black communities, and myself personally. But there is still more to be done for these communities to receive the security they deserve to have in the city they have chosen as their home. This is true for these communities of color as well as everyone else. As a White person, I have felt unsafe around policemen who were called to my house under nonviolent circumstances. My sister, who is a transgender female, overdosed and had a mental health crisis a couple of years ago and the first help to arrive at our home was the police. Not a social worker, not someone trained to handle a mental health crisis, not even someone my sister could feel safe around. Just an intimidating White male officer with a gun, whose unfitting job it was to help my sibling into the ambulance and give my mother and me a ride to the hospital in the back of his police vehicle. As you can imagine, this made the situation feel much more frightening than it should've, and I can only imagine how much more uneasy I would have felt if I were a Black person riding with this policeman. What if instead this had been someone to provide calm reassurance and refuge to me, someone trained to treat families with sympathy and guide us through our hardship? As other cities throughout the country have been doing, I believe Asheville can become an example of a greater system in which police are not relied on for every nonviolent scenario, every traffic problem, and every mental health crisis. I believe there are better options available, options which provide security that men armed with lethal weapons and irrelevant training cannot provide. For the good of this city and the workers that keep it running, I think police funding should be greatly reduced. Also, I believe the city council needs to make sure the people's needs are met by making community engagement with the council more accessible, not preventing certain kinds of public contact. I urge the City Council to commit to a divest/invest strategy with a timeline and a more transparent process that truly engages the community.</p>

TimeStamp	Subject	Text
7/29/2020 12:57:00 AM	My comments on the 07/28/2020 City Council meeting	<p>To the mayor, the city manager, members of city council,</p> <p>My name is Claudia Konijn, I am a resident of Asheville since 2003. I am the mother of two voting age young adults. My family, friends and I are deeply concerned about the inequality and systemic racism in Asheville, both historically and in the present.</p> <p>It is worrisome that you made the public comment process more difficult. I deplore the inserting of a complicated extra step, in the form of a sign-up form, into the process of participating in the public comment period of the City Council meetings. With this extra step you are discouraging public engagement in this important democratic process, and minimizing the number of voices being heard, instead of encouraging the community to participate, and listening to as many of us as you can.</p> <p>I would like to respond to the remarks that councilwoman Mayfield and mayor Mannheimer made during first phase of the meeting. I understand that you cannot be expected to solve the issues in Asheville around systemic racism, racist policing, and all the damage done to the Black residents of Asheville in two months.</p> <p>But maybe you can understand the impatience that so many community members have expressed to City Council as a measure of the urgency that we feel. It would go a long way towards creating trust if you would show us how you are involving the community as you move forward. That, in developing new ways to respond to calls for police service, you are talking to representatives of the Black community. If you would show us what you see when you look at all the issues before you through the lens of reparations.</p> <p>As far as we are concerned, you are not expected to come up with a complete solution for inequality and systemic racism in this city in two months. You are expected to show vision and develop new ways of looking at the issues before you, and in developing that vision find partners in the communities that have been damaged most by the pervasive inequality that characterizes life in Asheville.</p> <p>We want a process of deep public engagement, and instead of sounding somewhat defensive and criticizing the public for the way in which they engage with you, please make use of the many, many capable and engaged people who are excited and vocal about what this City needs to move towards justice and equity and dignity for all its residents.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Claudia Konijn</p>
7/29/2020 2:54:00 AM	Comments on Defunding the police	<p>My name is Harold Pitts. I'm a life long resident. Defunding the police department is a bad idea. If you defund the police the crime rate will go up and there will be more shootings and violence for sure. Look how the gang crime has gone up in the last couple of years. Please do not ruin Asheville by defunding the police.</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>

TimeStamp	Subject	Text
7/29/2020 4:17:00 AM	Submission for Public Comment, A Response to Calls to "Defund the Police"	<p>I accept that many intellectuals are of the opinion that it is impossible to get strict adherents to diametrically opposite viewpoints to agree, but I'll try. I intend what follows in the spirit of maximum parrhesia for all and compulsion of none.</p> <p>What I'm hearing is first a problem of semantics. To explain, I accept that the world is full of different cultures, each with its own perspectives on history and even its own mythologies. I was taught not to be ethnocentric, and so I'm not here to try to change any of that for anybody.</p> <p>What we have is one group saying the police are all racists. The police were formed in this country to capture runaway slaves and to this day they oppress people of color. Another group was taught, "The police are my friend," that they help keep bad guys off the street, that they're the folks you call when you feel endangered. They carry guns so we don't have to.</p> <p>So, when people chant, "Defund the police!" some people hear, "Let my people go! You've been whooping and beating us for almost three centuries!" And the other group hears, "Let arsonists and looters and rapists break any window and take whatever they want without consequences." When the latter hear cries to defund the police, they assume it is just the latest iteration of criminals trying to save face by turning law enforcement into the bad guy in the court of public opinion.</p> <p>The truth is, we all agree slavery is bad. Racism is bad. Oppression is bad. So, why don't we take the view that the cries to defund the police are cries to get rid of the exercise of and any organization that promulgates racism, oppression, and slavery? Slavery, oppression, and discrimination of protected classes are against the law already, so just enforce the law to the maximum extent.</p> <p>If Chief Zack is discriminating against protected classes, fire him. If he is commanding his force to use excessive force, fire him. I don't think he is, but maybe a "jury of peers" could review the facts and make the decision.</p> <p>I'm realize people crying to defund the police department arrived at 50% as the target value more by rote than calculus. To be more realistic, and you probably know this, you should probably seat at the same table members of law enforcement, African-American citizens who feel oppressed, and members of Black Asheville Demands and go line by line through the police budget and explain what is there and why. I'm sure there are things that are outdated, and maybe Black Asheville Demands has some good ideas.</p> <p>When there is disagreement, people can go beyond talking points and pull facts and studies and debate moral philosophies. Politics is the art of compromise, not the defeat of the other. If law-abiding people don't trust the police, the police need to know why and respond.</p> <p>In conclusion, calls to defund the police typically attack what looks from my perspective as a strawman, a police department bent on abusing people of color. The city needs to defund and prosecute the racist oppression "police" yesterday, while keeping alive the "police" that protects innocents who can't protect themselves.</p> <p>After all, everybody who is of a sound mind wants liberty and justice for all. Unfortunately, that phrase was uttered by the founders of this country, so it would probably be labeled a dog whistle. Because our founders were slave owners, we are told to dismiss everything else they did and said instead of doing what is right and expanding all the great things they taught about liberty to every human being. We would do better, rather than taking on the impossible task of litigating what was in Thomas Jefferson's or George Washington's heart, to litigate what is in our own heart and try better not to be mean or inconsiderate.</p> <p>As usual, public comment on this hot topic appears to be perpetrated by a small pressure group demanding democracy. The same people call multiple times during each meeting. While in a paper democracy each person gets an equal vote, in a practical democracy, the vote sways with the influence. That's why we have a constitutional republic, to protect groups like Black Asheville Demands from tyranny of the majority.</p>

TimeStamp	Subject	Text
7/29/2020 12:37:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget or Informal Discussion and Public Comment	<p>City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Erin Mastandrea and I have been an Asheville resident for almost 16 years. I currently live in Weaverville. I am writing in support of action to divest from the APD and invest in our black community. I lived and worked in downtown Asheville for about 12 years. In that time I saw our city line up a trajectory of action that caters to tourism, gratuitous development and out of town interests. These actions create and perpetuate disparate conditions for our at risk and segregated communities. In my time working the late night bar scene in the heart of downtown what I witnessed most often were issues involving mental health issues among our homeless population. Imagine how many people we could help by divesting from the APD to supply street medics and crisis intervention. Imagine how many lives could be uplifted by committing to invest in affordable housing, education, food security and healthcare access for our segregated black population. Our black community has suffered enough. It's time to be the progressive and loving city we claim to be.</p> <p>Please take the time and courage to put a concrete and community inclusive plan to divest and invest.</p> <p>Thank you, Erin Mastandrea</p>
7/29/2020 1:14:00 PM	City Council should divest from the police and invest in the Black community	<p>Seeing our city in national headlines as taking positive steps towards reparations made me so incredibly proud. We have made the promise. Now we must keep it. Council needs to commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the goal of divesting funds from the police department in order to invest in Black Asheville, and a clear timeline for that process;</li> <li>-releasing a detailed draft budget, so that the community can see where and how money is being allocated;</li> <li>-a public comment process that encourages participation, rather than one that is designed to drown out all but a few voices.</li> </ul> <p>I urge Council to commit to a divest/invest strategy with a timeline and a more transparent process that truly engages the community.</p> <p>Thank you, Hannah Epperson 52 Raleigh Rd. Asheville NC 28803</p>
7/29/2020 1:37:00 PM	Why no comment on Thursday's budget vote?	<p>There are so many things to comment on, but the biggest one right now is that there are 3 options on the table for the city budget as I understand from last night's council meeting, and I just got an email that there will be no comment on these items.</p> <p>I'll echo Councilman Young's statement from the meeting in saying that voting on these options without comment is a mistake and would be a really bad move since we, the public, have only commented on one option.</p> <p>Matt *Nature connection and skills for living with all of Earth's creatures   * mattcolombo.org [image: www.facebook.com/mattjcolombo] &lt;https://www.facebook.com/mattjcolombo&gt; [image: www.instagram.com/mattjcolombo] &lt;http://www.instagram. com/mattjcolombo&gt; [image: https://twitter.com/mattjcolombo/] &lt;https://twitter.com/mattjcolombo/&gt;</p>
7/29/2020 2:45:00 PM	Public input for City Council Meeting	<p>My name is Phil, and I'm emailing to demand an immediate defunding of the Asheville Police Department. For far too long this racist institution has terrorized our communities and neighbors. We do not need funds for more cops, tear gas, and hatred. The Asheville Police department is the largest per-capita department of any city in the state. Every dollar spent on this bloated police force is stolen from the rest of us. Defund the Asheville Police Department by 50% immediately. Those funds need to be under direct community control to address this city's long oppression of Black communities. We are sick of the council's delay tactics and refusal to act. Defund now. No Excuses. This is not an ask, this is a demand.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Phil Ferguson The Wandering Swordsman www.wanderingswordsmen.com thewanderingswordsmenllc@gmail.com www.facebook.com/wanderingswordsmen 828-785-2251</p>

TimeStamp	Subject	Text
7/29/2020 3:21:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Keverlee Burchett, and I am a resident of West Asheville. I am writing to request Asheville City Council commit to a plan to divest from the police and invest in the Black community.</p> <p>I am a white person living in a majority white neighborhood in which I feel safe. I have had no interactions with the police in my lifetime. Yet I still feel triggered when I see police because I know that they have the power to kill citizens in broad daylight and get away with it. I have lived a life privileged to never know the terror of a police encounter because policing is inherently racist. If Asheville is to live up to its reputation as a free-thinking, liberal town, we need to match our actions to our words. It is total bullshit to paint a Black Lives Matter mural around the [former] Vance monument but take no action to remedy the injustices experienced by Black people in our community.</p> <p>Asheville City Council should move immediately toward developing strategies to improve community health and safety through other means than the police. I am ashamed of our police department, particularly after we made national news for destroying medical supplies. We can do better, and we must.</p> <p>Thank you, Keverlee Burchett</p>
7/29/2020 4:12:00 PM	public comment on Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget	<p>Dear Members of City Council:</p> <p>I am writing to y'all again as an Asheville resident who is seeking change. I care greatly about this city, as an educator, small business owner and engaged citizen, and want to see our elected officials reflect the will of the people -- especially those of us pushing for a more just and equitable society.</p> <p>I wrote a couple of months ago as well, when many in the nation and our city felt anger over the killing of George Floyd and the bigger issue of police brutality facing Black and Brown people. At that time, I wrote to this group asking you all to reconsider the annual operating budget, so that our city funds are invested LESS in policing and MORE in community programs, Black-led businesses, and efforts to increase public well-being and safety. Here we are in late July and this issue is still on the table. We in Asheville are not giving up or turning away from this problem. It did not start this summer and I know it won't end this summer; we are in this fight for the long haul.</p> <p>I'm writing specifically to ask you to do a few things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-will you commit to sharing a detailed budget draft with the public so we know how you are proposing to spend our collective funds?</li> <li>-will you commit to divesting money from the bloated police department and instead funneling some portion of that into services to PREVENT social problems rather than RESPONDING to and often EXACERBATING them?</li> <li>-will you recognize that your recent commitment to reparations for Black Asheville is directly related to this budget issue?</li> <li>-finally, will you commit to doing everything in your power to ensure that your processes are transparent and inviting to the community? We need as much community input as possible in these matters. I don't know why public commenters were required to register online by Monday at Noon this week *(if any of you care to explain that to me I would genuinely like to hear your explanation)*. Can you understand how controversial this appears to many in the public? We are seeing egregious examples of federal overreach in some of our cities (Portland for example), and when we see our own City Council appear to limit the process of public engagement on the local level, many of us feel suspicious and concerned.</li> </ul> <p>I am heartened and inspired by many in our community who have become more engaged around issues of racial equity and justice. Reforming our ideas of policing and our priorities around city spending is a crucial part of this fight. Please do the right thing and help us reform our city to be leaders in the South and nation.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maia Surdam</p>

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7/29/2020 4:15:00 PM	Divest	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Ella Thomas and I am a native of Asheville. I have emailed numerous times already with my input regarding the urgency of Asheville committing to the Black community. This email is to urge the City Council to divest from APD, an overfunded and dangerous organization, and to invest in the Black community. In order to achieve this, I believe a timeline must be presented to the community and for transparency to occur in terms of intentions. This process should also be one in which the Black community is involved and allowed to make clear their needs.</p> <p>I also want to add my displeasure that people must pre-register in order to leave public comment. I find this to be a tactic that prevents less public input and makes voicing our opinion more difficult.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ella Thomas</p>
7/29/2020 6:52:00 PM	Public comment - FY 2020-2021 Annual Operating Budget	<p>Hello, my name is Madison Watson and on paper, I am a resident of Arden, NC. However, I live adjacently to Biltmore Park and Biltmore Forest, and therefore spend all of my time in Asheville.</p> <p>As a young, novel resident of the Asheville community, I made a choice in 2019 to reside in Asheville because of its geographic location and vibrant city culture, which is undoubtedly enriched by its beautiful BIPOC communities. However, as I continue my education process from a point of privilege, I have quickly learned that the City of Asheville has intentionally sought to quiet the voices of its marginalized citizens, especially the Black Community, throughout the city's history. Asheville is what it is today because of resources extracted from Black people. The City of Asheville deeply damaged the Black community through decades of exploitation, and through the encouragement of widespread gentrification, while growing its tax base. The Black community has suffered as a result of failures of the school system and the bias of the Asheville Police Department without redress. And on and on.</p> <p>As a member of the Asheville community, I am calling for the City of Asheville to *divest* from the police and *invest* in the Black community. I want to see the actualization of a process of deep public engagement to determine the way forward, rather than a secretive process with minimal participation from community members. Council needs to commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the goal of divesting funds from the police department in order to invest in Black Asheville, and a clear timeline for that process;</li> <li>- releasing a detailed draft budget, so that the community can see where and how money is being allocated;</li> <li>- a public comment process that encourages participation, rather than one that is designed to drown out all but a few voices.</li> </ul> <p>In summary, I urge Council to commit to a divest/invest strategy with a timeline and a more transparent process that truly engages the community.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>MW</p>
7/29/2020 6:54:00 PM	Comment- City Council meeting	<p>I attended yesterday's Council meeting and was disturbed by the lack of action on defunding the police department. The proposed public engagement process is woefully inadequate- and I say this having been involved in the recent noise ordinance process, which failed to include impacted communities or address serious noise concerns.</p> <p>The City should create a public engagement process that includes public input from start to finish, including designing research plans, designing surveys, and public access to all relevant data as well as an impartial 3rd party analysis of relevant data.</p> <p>Council's condescending dismissal of public demands was inappropriate.</p> <p>Regarding filling the vacancy on City Council, Council has the power to amend the charter to require a democratic process. Filling this vacancy by appointment would be a violation of public trust.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>Alyx Perry (she/her/ella) www.alyxperry.com&lt;http://www.alyxperry.com&gt; 828 713 9461</p>

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7/29/2020 6:58:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Operating Budget	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am a twenty year resident of Asheville, NC and staff of Copestone, your behavioral health crisis center. I have three children in Asheville, two that are starting adulthood and one that is twelve years old. I want this city to be a safe place for my children as well as my community members. I ask that you carefully prepare this budget keeping in mind that quantity of police does not equal safety to many minorities and lower income people in this community. I ask that you divest funding from the police department and invest in Black Asheville. I ask that you make a draft of your budget public so that we can be sure where the funding is being allocated.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</p> <p>Erica Deaton</p>
7/29/2020 8:15:00 PM	listen to the Black community and defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Lola Borovyk and I am a Ukrainian-American white woman who has been living and working in Asheville for almost three years. The council's decision to move forward with reparations for the city's Black citizens was a small, but welcome step towards equity in Asheville. I hope you can take that step to the next level (beyond empty bureaucratic promises) by continuing to listen to the demands of the Black community in our city and defunding the Asheville Police by at least 50%.</p> <p>The reparations for Asheville's Black citizens can be funded through the divestment of police. That 50% of the budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black businesses and start-ups, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. Do NOT create a Community Engagement Division within the police department which will do nothing to solve the current policing crisis. Asheville needs alternative crisis response systems that prioritize the safety and health of everyone, especially marginalized communities. We do not need more "engaged" policing, which is what the CED is offering, as the police institution has proven over and over again that it is incapable of policing itself. The APD must be demilitarized and removed from schools, and tear gas MUST be banned.</p> <p>I also must see follow-through on your promises for community engagement. That includes removing the symbols of white supremacy from street names, schools, and public parks. The Vance Monument MUST be removed, our Black community demands it and you need to be listening to their input on the matter, first and foremost. The community engagement process also requires budget transparency and you must provide a detailed draft budget.</p> <p>I hope to see tangible, positive outcomes from revising the budget that will benefit the communities whose needs Asheville has overlooked for far too long.</p> <p>In solidarity,</p> <p>Lola Borovyk</p>
7/29/2020 8:20:00 PM	DONT DEFUND POLICE	<p>Hello I live in the city of asheville and dont think it's right to defund our police. What are people suppose to do when they are in danger. We need police who are trained to handle situations. I do agree that any force should be documented at all times. The police are there to keep us safe and just because a few cops have made bad decisions doesnt mean we all have to suffer and fend for ourselves. That's not right. There are wonderful cops who take their job very serious. I feel much safer being about in the city knowing there are cops on duty. It makes me feel safer to see cops driving down Patton ave. I think if you defund the police the crime rate will go up and people wont do as told if there is no one to stop them. It will be mayhem. I would move from Asheville if they do defund police. I'm not living in a city where I domy feel safe. Please keep our city safe. Look what happened up town at the roits that will be an everyday thing if our police are defunded. You are making a huge mistake if u go with what others want. We need to be different and withhold the laws that were put into places decades ago.</p> <p>I could go on and on but I'm at work so please consider you decisions we need the police or our city will be in danger.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Ashley</p>

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7/29/2020 8:36:00 PM	Defund the APD and Reinvest That Money!	<p>My name is Jared Boger and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. In this request, I am asking that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. If true reparations are your aim, I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Please, the nation is watching you as you make these decisions. Lead with power and set a better example of how to properly take care of the communities that you are appointed to serve!</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons ([Source: Popular Democracy](https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities)). Understanding this, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Further, Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>I know that I am far from alone in these wishes. Can we count on you all to do what is right?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
7/29/2020 10:22:00 PM	Asheville City Budget	<p>Jared Boger Dear Council,</p> <p>I want to first say that this is a very difficult year and I certainly do not envy the decisions that you find yourselves making in the midst of a social movement and a global pandemic. Your jobs are difficult and I as a member of the public and an Asheville resident I understand that.</p> <p>I also want to say thank you for hearing everyone who signed up to offer public comment at last night's meeting. You did the right thing. I have been very concerned at the efforts that, from the outside, seem to be intended to limit public comment, by requiring that people sign up in advance and by limiting the amount of time that people can speak. Thank you for allowing everyone who signed up to be heard. Please understand that public comment is very important and making it as accessible as possible is important too.</p> <p>Next, I'm writing to urge you to pass only an interim budget during tomorrow's private meeting (which was a shady move on your part to postpone again) rather than moving forward with a budget for the entire year. It would be impossible to incorporate the requests of the people of Asheville and the Black Asheville Demands or to make any meaningful progress toward reparations if you pass the full year budget tomorrow as both Gwen and Vjay alluded to at the end of last night's meeting. I ask that this amended budget include an APD hiring freeze. You cannot elect the right budget, the people's budget, an informed or well planned budget in the midst of a time of great change by rushing to pass a document created in May. Too much has changed since then and too much is at stake. Allowing time for a new budget to form by September is the only way to make the people feel heard in this moment.</p> <p>Thank you Brian for the courageous leadership that I have seen you demonstrate through recent months. Thank you for advocating for the elimination of the use of teargas by APD. This change would be a small gesture but is one that lets the public know that you are taking the current plight of the people of Asheville seriously, as do your comments on the budget.</p> <p>Last, I ask for transparency and commitment to a process guided by the people who elected you. More than ever, the people of Asheville are paying attention and watching this decision process closely. A lot hinges on your decision to take the time to do this right or...not. I ask that you pass only an interim budget tomorrow, allowing yourselves the time (and your constituents the time to support you) to shape a new and amended budget for these difficult, important and ever changing times. Thank you.</p> <p>Emma Hutchens</p>



TimeStamp	Subject	Text
7/29/2020 11:41:00 PM	Re: Comment- City Council meeting	<p>Well done, Alyx - thank you!</p> <p>On Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 2:53 PM Alyx Perry &lt;alyx@alyxperry.com&gt; wrote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; I attended yesterday's Council meeting and was disturbed by the lack of</li> <li>&gt; action on defunding the police department. The proposed public engagement</li> <li>&gt; process is woefully inadequate- and I say this having been involved in the</li> <li>&gt; recent noise ordinance process, which failed to include impacted</li> <li>&gt; communities or address serious noise concerns.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; The City should create a public engagement process that includes public</li> <li>&gt; input * from start to finish*, including designing research plans,</li> <li>&gt; designing surveys, and public access to all relevant data as well as an</li> <li>&gt; impartial 3rd party analysis of relevant data.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; Council's condescending dismissal of public demands was inappropriate.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; Regarding filling the vacancy on City Council, Council has the power to</li> <li>&gt; amend the charter to require a democratic process. Filling this vacancy by</li> <li>&gt; appointment would be a violation of public trust.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; *Alyx Perry*</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; *(she/her/ella) *</li> <li>&gt; www.alyxperry.com</li> <li>&gt; 828 713 9461</li> <li>&gt;</li> </ul>