

## City Council July 28 2020 Voicemail Comments

Hi, this is Michael. I'm a resident of Asheville and I'm calling to support the 50% defunding of the police measure. 50% founding does not mean no police. It means putting that money where it can work more effectively more humanely and With Better Community Support militarization Weaponry lack of accountability documented racism Palm public perception and refusal to comply with the demands of the communities. They serve point to A system that is dangerous and flawed. The police are being asked to routinely performs social services that are not appropriate for their training or for their role. Stories from people of color and others across the city points to repeated and ongoing fear and abuse, even the officers deserve better than what they have now. It is time for a change and that time is now 50% defunding does not mean no police. Don't let people convince you of that step at this point join us in allocating funding towards reparations social services medical security income security protection for keeping our homes mental health reducing the prison population making our communities less violent. Creating more jobs in non-crime sectors Justice and equality for everyone. Even as we work to change the system you can help us uphold democracy. We ask you police and officials to pledge now to help everyone pretends to the right to vote uphold the right to gather and protest and have conversations in public space and join us in pushing for reparations and for the above stated goals of reallocating 50% of police funding towards social justice measures. sincerely Michael Whitmire

Jul 25, 2020 1:24 pm

Hi, my name is Sharon Withrow. I am calling to urge the city council to raise Asheville Firefighters pay to Fifteen dollars an hour. They deserve no less than any other city of Asheville employee and frankly. It's unconscionable that we would consider paying firefighters even as little as fifteen dollars an hour these men and women are risking their lives for us. You can at least pay them more than someone at Target with make thank you.

Jul 25, 2020 8:16 pm

Hello, my name is Jason linguanti. I live in West Asheville. I'm calling to express my my voice and my concern on a section five items e for the public here in the fiscal year for twenty twenty Twenty-One. I am I'm just really concerned that y'all are not taking the voice of the public seriously and not putting actual time and effort and Faith like just making those really tough decisions to change the budget and shift it with more money towards security. Uh, I think also it's concerning to see that y'all are putting in place a lot of money like walls for people to make comment and for their voices to be heard you're trying to silence these voices so that you all can continue on life. Things happened and not like actual effort towards supporting black people in this community. Um, I know those little things like the Vans monument and the Robert E Lee Memorial those things being removed or changed them is an effort and also saying that you're going to put together a committee for um, the advancement of black people in this community with reparations. Those are all things to get yourself in the public eye and to be seen as a positive Austin Community without actually making any effort towards police reform or reallocation of funds towards the black Community Bank in Asheville. And so I think this is just really frustrating and we're going to continue to fight for these things if y'all are not going to actually attend to them or try to sound choices will be out there.

Jul 26, 2020 11:09 am

My name is Lindsay Crumbley. I'm calling to demand an immediate defunding of the Asheville Police Department for far too long. This Racist institution has terrorized our communities and our neighbors and loved ones. We do not need funds for more cops tear gas and hatred we need more funds for social services and Human Services. 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 and I absolutely believe that and feel that I also want to point out that one and two people brutalized by the police have disabilities including developmental disabilities. And that won't be stood for any longer as well defund the Asheville Police Department by 50% immediately those funds need to be under direct Community Control to address the city's long oppression of black and other marginalized communities. We are sick of this council's delay tactics and refusal to act D fun now they're dead. No excuses. This is not an ask.

This is Adam and you serve the people of Asheville not the other way around and that includes are black and other marginalized communities. Thank you.

Jul 26, 2020 5:12 pm

Hello. I'm calling to leave a comment on public hearing item e my name is dr. Andrew Paul. And I live in West Asheville. I'm calling on my own behalf as a Nashville resident and also as a representative of the Asheville chapter of the democratic socialists of America or the essay for which I serve as one of two co-chairs last week with the essay voted to approve a set of statements in support of the movement for black lives. The statements included the following demand 50% of the eighties budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting the black community eliminating the racial opportunity Gap in Asheville City schools and funding and all civilian oversight committee with the power to both the APD and individual officers accountable. I will personally add that our members residents throughout Asheville want to see an immediate end to over policing and the systemic punitive. Directed towards black brown and marginalized communities the police don't prevent crime Social Services Comprehensive Health Care and jobs and housing. Do we believe that it may invest divest strategy transferring 50% of the police budget to programs that strengthen communities provide much-needed services and redistribute resources. This is what will make Asheville same and more Equitable. Thank you.

Jul 26, 2020 6:11 pm

Hello, my name is Martina Tyler Pell. I live in Woodson. I'm calling about the July 28th meeting with Section Five item about the the budget and I would just like it to be known that I am for defunding the police officer. Thank you. Bye.

Jul 26, 2020 7:14 pm

Hi, my name is Kelly Sanderson. I live in West Asheville in I am calling to ask that you defund the Asheville Police Department in both interim and the future budgets. We are in the middle of a pandemic. There are so many countless needs in our city greater than giving our Police Department more money. We need covid-19 front relief paycheck help childcare help homelessness. Help me go on and on with the list of things that we need more than a higher police budget in the middle of the pandemic when our police department has made national headlines and international headlines for treating protesters terribly. Thank you very much for refunding the police department.

Jul 26, 2020 7:22 pm

Hi, my name is Claire Solomon and I live in Asheville. You recently voted to provide reparations through funding for programs that will uplift black people in our community while I believe your decision was an excellent first step in bringing racial Justice to our city. I'm still concerned about the resolutions lack of concrete details. The next step in this process is to defund the racist dangerous ineffective Asheville Police Department by at least 50% and invest these funds into Community programs in accordance with black Asheville demands. This is how we woke up in our community. This is how we will prevent crime and keep people safe. This is how we will begin to hold ourselves accountable for the Injustice black people and people of color has have suffered off our hands for hundreds of years. We demand a detailed draft budget and the promise Community engagement process. We urge you to listen to the people you work for. Thank you.

Jul 26, 2020 8:29 pm

Hi, my name is Alex. Normally I work in Hospitality in town. And I'd like to request that the the members talk about some sort of an extension on uh-huh free parking at lot such as the Biltmore lot the uh, the increase, you know tourism to town has made a lot of the month a lot of hospitality people have to you know, go back to work and whatever capacity we can and with a lot of the shelters closed. It's honestly not safe at night for a lot of us walk home. There's there's more of a more of a disgruntled Presence at night. I think in that kind of also goes with I think the lack of faith the lack of foot patrols that are downtown and I can understand the the current tension kind of doesn't help that but the month free parking at the the Biltmore lot and a number of number of the other spots have

made it a lot more convenient in a lot safer for those of us who you know who who aren't getting our hours and who can't really afford to and who normally have to park way off on a street lot. So I'd like to ask that, uh, the the Biltmore may not be continued till the end of September, please. Thank you.

Jul 26, 2020 9:17 pm

Hello, my name is Jody and I'm calling to demand an immediate defunding of the Asheville Police Department. There's just too much stuff going on. It's just off this is. Just too much too long of a racist and it institution that have terrorized communities and neighbors funds don't need to be going to cops or tear gas or in any public place for tolerating. The actual police department is the largest per-capita Department of any City in the state. Every dollar spent on this bloated police has stolen from the rest of us. They can be going into better programs to actually make a difference in our community which we need and everyone can benefit from that. Please define the the actual police department by 50% at least immediately. Those funds need to be under direct Community Control to address the city belong oppression of black communities. We are sick of the cow with delay tactics and and refusal to act please define them now no excuses. This is not an ask where you're demanding this and we aren't going to stop and you better just Do this now before it's just too much work, you know like you just need to listen to the people. Thank you.

Jul 26, 2020 10:43 pm

Yes, my name is Sheila threat. I'm a resident of downtown Asheville. I was calling about the budget. I wouldn't like for you all to please consider giving our Asheville Firefighters fifteen dollars an hour, which they deserve. They shouldn't be begging you all to get fifteen dollars an hour. That's ridiculous. Also. I'm asking you all to use your brain common sense, and don't defund our Police Department. There's a lot of crime out there. Have you all checked the crime and Asheville? It's got high right now. So I'm asking you log consider the safety of the citizens of Asheville. Thank you. Have a good evening. Thanks.

Jul 27, 2020 8:45 am

My name is Kim. I'm a resident of Asheville. I am calling to make a comment on the public hearing section regarding the budget for the fiscal year of 20 20 20 21. I just like to comment that I would love to see Asheville divest the nearly eight million spent on the police department. Um and some that more to direct Community Support. Um, there's so many people I need right now. I would love to see that money better spent on the community and I would also like to see for tear gas to be banned for APD to not be able to use them for testers. And then lastly I just want to say I'm so proud of Asheville for vowing to send reparations to the black community here. I think it puts us on the map. It's gotten a lot of national attention. I'd love to see them follow through on that. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 8:59 am

Hi, this is Jonathan Wayne Scott calling from Ashville North Carolina. Been a resident here for twenty-two years and I just wanted to call and bid Consul councilman Kapoor fond farewell really remiss to see you go. I believe that you served with the highest degree of Integrity that I've seen from just about public official and your vote on not changing the Asheville City Charter to preserve our home at large election system was on the right side of both math and history and it will continue to be so in the future and I just wish you the best and um, and that's about it. I wish the best for everybody else on Council in these trying time belated birthday wishes to wage. The mayor who I mistakenly thought was turning fifty this year, but I guess 2020 is going to be at least ninety in that regards and you're only forty-nine. So happy birthday mayor belated birthday to Shaniqua Smith as well. Thank you. Brian Haynes for your service. I know that you'll be departing after this term Gwen. I know that you suck just celebrated a 19 year anniversary with your husband heard that on Carolina public radio recently and Mr. Young best best of luck to you and the upcoming campaign. We may be different in a lot of ways but we're both Sagittarius father-in-law. So hopefully we can aim our arrows in the same direction in the future. So I just wish the best for everybody but especially thank you to mr. Kapoor for your service. And again, I'm sorry to see you go. Ugh. I think that you were

definitely the type of leader that we need these days your ability to show some Contrition is something that's sorely lacking in leadership and your demonstration of that hopefully will be an inspiration to other leaders that a little bit of Contrition goes a long way and um, you received some of my own faith that leaders can do such a thing. So again best wishes to you and good luck to everybody else on uh-oh Council. I can't wait to suck. You guys I can't wait to get back to the normal where you know, we can meet in person. All right. Thanks a lot by

Jul 27, 2020 9:10 am

Hi, my name is Talia scarpelli. I'm calling in leaving a voicemail about the city budget. First of all, I heard that you were not playing voicemail during the meeting and that you are requiring people to register before they can speak during the meeting which seems like you're trying to suppress the voice of Faith people of Asheville. But regardless, I hope this much message is heard. So I'm calling it mostly about defunding the police to try to invest in the reparations that you just passed and I was reading online about this community engagement division, which sounds like an excuse to keep funding the police and to give them this budget increase which they do not need. I think what the city of Asheville would like to see would be some actual reparations made and I think that by defunding the police wage by at least fifty percent, that would be entirely possible. Thank you so much for your time.

Jul 27, 2020 9:14 am

Hi, my name is Francis a Nashville resident. I'm calling about public hearing item eat the police budget must be cut by at least 50% No delay tactics know token Cuts 50% Do you control the police department or just a police department control you if you can't even cut their budget how long until they realize they can act with total impunity and Asheville becomes like Portland. If you put out a budget that doesn't cut the police by at least fifty percent but includes cuts to other services, I will organize against you in every election for the rest of your career. We can't afford Cowardly Dog petitions that don't prioritize people's actual needs history is called on you in this moment to be brave act from compassion and vision wage not fear of the cops decide whether you're with all the citizens of Asheville or just the police.

Jul 27, 2020 9:21 am

Hi, my name is Justin Hall. I am a Asheville resident. I have been um for the majority of my life. I went to Isaac Dickson to Asheville middle went to a Chicago High the way that the city has failed. The black community is totally inexcusable. This is a moment that I'm expecting you as my representatives to show where you stand on this issue and vote to defund the APD wage. Um, I vote every election and you know, we're out here. We're paying attention and and we're not going to be easily distracted. You trying to make it harder for us to make comments only furthers our distrust in the city council. And so please show us that you are ready to take action on this and month that you're ready to be on the correct side of History because if not, then we'll make sure that we replace these next election. Thanks.

Jul 27, 2020 9:26 am

Hello, my name is Colette Heiser, and I'm calling to demand immediate defunding of the Asheville Police Department. This Racist institution has terrorized our communities and neighborhoods for far too long. Do not need to we do not need more funds for more cops tear gas and hatred the APG is the largest per-capita Department of any City in the state. Every dollar spent on this bloated police force in a stolen from the rest of us. Do you find the actual police department by 50% immediately these funds in need to be under direct Community Control to address the city's long oppression of black communities. We are seeing of the council's delay tactics and refusal to act D fun. Now. This is no excuses. This is not an ass. This is Adam and

Jul 27, 2020 9:26 am

Hi, my name is Lily and Murat. I'm calling to demand an immediate defunding of the actual police department. The police department received an exorbitant amount of funding every dollar spent on this department is taken from Valley Community Resources. These funds should be reallocated for use in areas that better contribute to the Asheville community and most importantly Asheville black community defund the Asheville Police Department by 50% immediately and redirect these funds towards area such as affordable housing social services and schools those funds need to be under direct Community Control to address the city's long a couple of black communities. We are sick of the council's delay tactics and refusal to act defund. Now, there are no excuses for this. This is not an ask this is Adam and forgiving us your word and publicly announced a commitment to reparations for black people in this community. We are counting on you to uphold This Promise. Thank you very much for your time.

Jul 27, 2020 9:53 am

Hey, my name is Tim cross and I live in West Asheville 28806 and I am calling concerning fiscal year 2020 to 2020 Jeep engine oil annual operating budget and this is public comment. I am a social worker and I am concerned about the lack of public comment in participation in the budget is to relate to divest in from police and invest in investing in Community College as a social worker. I have seen that uh social work and other professions have been seen as much more effective in dealing with things such as Mental Health crisis substance abuse. We have mobile crisis units to try to prevent. Um, some of the uh, unfortunate circumstances that come about When police who have not been adequately trained to deal with these are the Frontline social workers should be involved in this addiction specialist should be involved in this wage Community should be involved in this. Um, so I am calling, um to urge Council to divest in more funding to police invest in a strategy, um, that diverts more funds to uh, those better equipped to deal with these things in 20 21. Again, my name is Tim took us to 8806. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 10:22 am

Hi, my name is Pedro. Should L. I live in Weaverville, North Carolina and I'm calling about the fiscal 2020-21 annual operating budget. I realize that I'm not a resident of Asheville City. However, I am a business owner and Weaverville of no evil foods for a national brand. We draw a lot of attention to the community in general and we're a company that very much supports drug testing in the community around us. We would really appreciate and urge the council to commit to divest from the police and invest in strategy for supporting the community in ways that are more beneficial to its constituents. I hope that you take this into consideration and listen to the community in this point as we feel is very important. Thank you so much for your time.

Jul 27, 2020 10:25 am

Hello, my name is Isabel semantics and I'm a resident of North Asheville. I'm calling to demand in the media to funding of Asheville Police Department for far too long. This Racist institution has terrorized our communities and neighborhoods. We do not need fun. For more cops to your gas and hatred do not need funds for studies to tell us that it's policing is a racist institution. The Asheville Police Department is the only the largest per-capita Department of any City in the state. Every dollar set on the floated police force is stolen from the rest of us see from the Nashville Police Department by at least 50% immediately those clubs who could be under direct Community Control to address this community the cities along the oppression of black communities. We are sick of the council's delay tactics and refusal Act tax refund now or lose your job see voted out no excuses. This is not a nap. This is a man be from the police.

Jul 27, 2020 10:25 am

Hello, this is Alexis done. And I'm a constituent from West Asheville. I'm calling today for public comment on the Asheville city council interim budget. I'm advocating for the reduction of that actual police departments twenty nine point six million dollar budget with no additional funding allocated to that department in the Asheville 2226 school year. I'm also advocating for divesting Asheville Police Police Department fund by at least 50% And for those funds

to be directly invested back into the community particularly. Our communities of color Asheville has made a good choice and the development of reparation committee, which do tend to be rare in government, but it is all only about faith if there's no follow-through. We the people are holding you accountable you do work for us to take action in the promises made for reparations and Community engagement. The community demands are to divest from Asheville Police Department with direct indirect.Sent back into the community to ban the use of tear gas in our city to not create a community engagement division within the Asheville Police Department to demilitarize Jose police department and remove officers from schools to remove symbols of white supremacy from our street name schools and public parks to implement the promise Community engagement process and to release the entire detailed draft of our City's budget that we have a right to see it's called action transparency and integrity my friends. Let's actually make history and our beautiful city by holding ourselves and each other accountable to making the changes that actually benefit I diverse and inclusive community. Thank you for your time. Again, please vote against the increase in the budget for Asheville Police Department and vote for the divestment from that department. Hope you have a beautiful meeting. Thank you, bye-bye.

Jul 27, 2020 10:45 am

Hello, my name is Keaton Hill. I'm a resident of Asheville and I'm calling regarding the budget the 2021 budget and I strongly urge Council to and staff to divest from the police. And invest in Asheville black communities. We are asking for a prep public engagement to determine the way forward and having a secretive process that excludes Community participation or only allows for minimal participation from community members is not acceptable. This is too important to keep just for a few people.We want to divest funds from the police department order to invest in Black Asheville, and we need a clear timeline for that process. Please Release a detailed draft budget. So the community can see where and how the money is being allocated and we demand a public comment process that encourages participation not like the one that the council changed where we have to pre-register to make a live public comment. We need all voices in this and we hope that staff and city council members will commit to this will you commit thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 10:45 am

Hello, my name is Chloe Lieberman and I am wanting to make a comment on the city council meeting this Tuesday, July 28th in particular around the operating budget. I wanted to voice my support for reorganizing the budget so that less money goes towards the Asheville Police Department and instead that money gets funneled into to support and development in our black communities as has been specifically requested by residents and organizers in the black community. And the reason that I am requesting and voicing my support for this.Is because it's really time for a change and we here in Nashville have an opportunity to to Model A positive change in a way that probably won't happen in other parts of the state. Although it might but I think we can really be a leader in this and Shifting the way that the city government and the way that but our locations kind of walk our talk when we say that we want to support equity and we want to support positive life and livelihood for our black is an opportunity to really put some action behind that claim. So I hope that you consider that and thank you for listening.

Jul 27, 2020 10:55 am

Hi, my name is Bailey Sheridan and I'm a resident of Asheville and the student at UNC. I I'm writing to demand the immediate defunding of the Asheville Police Department. This institution has terrorized our communication and neighbors for too long. We do not need to fund hatred bigotry and violence at the hands of a volts APD the largest per-capita department for any City in the state instead. We need to fund Community projects such as equal access to housing education in mental health care immediately. Do you find a p d by least fifty percent and keep growing? I'm sickened at the office refusal to act and its complicity in the industry social injustice defund now no more excuses.

Jul 27, 2020 11:01 am

Hi, this is Kate. I'm calling from West Asheville. I'm a long-time resident of Asheville, North Carolina, and I'm calling to make a comment on the budget portion of the meeting tomorrow. I'm asking that y'all. As you have been with other specific demands from this intergenerational group from of black folks in Asheville. But you meet the first demand and that you immediately defund the actual police department by 50% at least off and reallocate that money back to the black community. As you have mentioned. You're already planning to put money into divorce. services for the black community in Nashville, and I'm asking that you put your money where your mouth is and literally take that money from what folks have been asking from day one from the police department and put it into the black community. Thank you. Bye.

Jul 27, 2020 11:23 am

Hi, my name is Stevie Kaczynski. I am a resident of North Asheville. I'm calling today as a concerned citizen. I believe that fifty percent of the Asheville Police Department budget can be reallocated into areas of support that the community needs. So they're the black community needs the support of city council. There should be a reparations plan in place tangible reparations. Now, we can be investing in public housing other public health measures for food security and mental health. There are so many areas of need in our city in in our County and giving more money to the police does not feel like an option that's going to help the people. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 11:34 am

Hi, my name is Lauren Rothman and I'm commenting on public hearing item number e z I'm calling to demand the immediate defunding of the Asheville Police Department by 50% those funds need to be under direct Community Control to address the city's long oppression of black communities. And this does not need to be delayed this needs to be immediate. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 11:37 am

I wish to comment on public hearing item. My name is Craig cologne and I'm calling to demand immediately defunding of the Asheville Police Department for far too long. This Racist institution has terrorized our communities and neighbors. We do not need this for more cops tear gas and hatred the actual police department is the largest per-capita Department of any City in the state. Every dollar spent on this loaded police force is stolen the rest of us deep on the actual police department like 50% immediately. Those funds need to be under direct Community Control to address this City's long impression of black communities. We are sick council's delay tactics and refusal to act. Do you find now? No excuses. This is not an ask. This is Adam and

Jul 27, 2020 11:44 am

My name is Claudia Cohen. I'm I'm a resident of Asheville since 2003. I'm a mother of two voting age young adults and my family and my friends who are all very concerned about the inequality and systemic racism in our city. First of all, I can Dem your measure to insert an online sign-up form in law office of participating in the City Council meetings public comment. Shame on you for making this Democratic process less accessible and trying to minimize public engagement instead of encouraging it and this brings me to my second Point actual city council needs to listen to the community that it serves and this community is calling for actual to divest from the police and invest in a community. The community has been clearly been asking for this and for a process of deep public engagement to determine our way forward rather than a secretive process with wage. More participation from community members Council needs to commit to the goal of divesting funds from the police department in order to invest in Black Asheville and a clear Time Life the process commit to releasing a detailed draft budget so that the community can see where and how money is being allocated and to a public comment process that encourages participation would rather than one that is designed to drown out all but a few voices back in June City officials promised us to engage

the community in a transparent process wage and that big structural changes to the actual police department were coming now. It's almost two months later and many members of city council have not offered a clear response to the divest invest demand, like actual demands. Are they prepared to commit to the goal of divesting from the police department in order to invest more deeply in the black community? That is what I want to know. I want to know where you stand and I want to know where this is going. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 11:51 am

My name is Zach Hebb. I reside in Pisgah Forest and I'm contributing to the open public comment. I want to take it just a brief moment to point out the great hypocrisy of the decision that the Council made and last month's meeting last month the city council approved reparations for black residents. What standard do you make such a decision? Why should the citizens of Asheville be responsible for the crimes of people in the past month? This is a major Distortion of true biblical Justice holding people responsible for wrongs. They have not committed is not Justice individuals are responsible for their own actions. Not the actions of the others. God says and Ezekiel 18 vs. 20 the sun will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity nor with a father bear the punishment for the sons-in-law the righteousness of the righteous will be up on himself and the wickedness of the wicked will be up on himself. This is also a distortion of true forgiveness true forgiveness is the cancellation of a debt. This is modeled and what Jesus Christ has done for those who repent of their sins and put their faith in him when one repents and puts their faith in hand. Jesus can then forgive them and he does not try to collect on the wrongs that were done. You have distorted true biblical forgiveness by allowing Asheville residents to collect on a wrong that was done to their descendants true forgiveness does not collect on the wrongs that were committed but more importantly by doing this you have implied that you actually believe that black lives matter and the truth of the matter is is that you do not believe that black lives matter. I can say this with great confidence because you allow the number one killer of black lives in America to remain open for business in your own City the business that you allow to remain open in your own City that murders black lives weekend and week out is Planned Parenthood this birth This was founded by a white supremacist, and she wanted to and she said in her own words quote exterminate the negro population in quote. Do you see how hypocritical this is off? The Asheville city council a truly does not care about black lives. If they did then they would not allow the number one killer of black lives to be open for business in their City. The opposite is actually true and that is you support the murder of innocent black children. I am pleading with you through a pint of your hypocrisy and stop the Bloodshed in Asheville and truly care for black lives by shutting down. The number one killer of black lives in your community. These pre-born children are demanding you're in a position. You will be held accountable before God for not interposing. So I encourage you to act now. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 11:53 am

My name is Chris Petersen. I'm calling to say that I support our police force and our police chief and I'm against any defunding wage. In fact, I think this Council and manager owes this police chief and his force a big apology this mayor and manager led a bunch of Thursday, our city and destroy our small businesses shame on you you all want to be ashamed and you all ought to resign today this Council and manager or or also guilty of bankrupting our city to the tune of twenty million dollars. And now of course you want the taxpayers to bail you out again so you can get cover up your incompetencies. I have an idea instead of changing street names and schools. How about doing your job and fixing our budget? I also blame all the Sheep out there the keep voting you robots in the office you all belong to the same old corrupt party that has control this sick for over sixty year. You're only interested in your power and your money and not the people. good day and good riddance

Jul 27, 2020 12:35 pm

Hello, my name is Katie costanzo. I live in North Asheville. I'm leaving a comment for the city council meeting on July 28th on Tuesday, because I'm absolutely sick of seeing them specifically black people suffer from systemic defunding to police brutality and murder. I stand in solidarity with other residents and organizations that are calling for the city to divest from the police and invest in the black community and actual policies that keep people safe like



health care and education and Social Services. You need a transparent release of the budget draft wage. So the community can be involved with where and how their own money is spent and then co-creating the infrastructure and institutions that directly impact them every single day. We need a public comment process that empowers and encourages people to participate and influence. There's and their communities own well-being rather than one that is set up to dispatch power and silence people. Thank you very much.

Jul 27, 2020 1:04 pm

Hello, my name is Ellie. I live in Montreal area in the neighborhood and I am requesting that you off divest from the police department and invest into black communities that reparations that you're providing is a good start but it is not enough money and police department needs to have higher quality police officers that require a bachelor's degree and off they have taken psychology sociology social justice, they understand and have a grasp of knowledge of different cultures and that police officers are really dedicated to the community setting certain, especially black community and especially that they are well-educated. Yep. So so much about the history of slavery itself to really understand value of honor and respect what community in Nashville even most important that we have police officers that are dedicating their lives to black people in Asheville and emphasize that I am now not as many people working in, but those few pops having extremely important jobs dedicating their jobs and their lives too long black people of Asheville. So pleased right now you need to divest and take money out of the police department so that we can focus on black communities directing them and then we can revisit the police department and what kind of role that is, but for right now, they can't just be walking around the city's threatening the lives of black people while we trying to figure the birth. You need to take them out of the picture and Empower black people as it is, so please divest in the police department right now and start reinvesting in Black communities. Thank you. Again. My name is Ellie Hardy and I live in Montford area and Montford neighborhood specifically Westover Drive, so, all right. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 1:09 pm

My name is John my live on Northwood Road in the Grove Park section of Asheville calling regarding item e as in Edward on tomorrow's agenda absolutely believe the council should pass a budget since the mayor has declared. We are eight million dollars in debt. We need to find out where the money has been going besides shroud is on both months and other such nonsense further. I would suggest that the council absolutely not take one penny out of the proposed continuing resolution for the police department full budget. Thank you for your time.

Jul 27, 2020 1:14 pm

Hi, my name's Jill Stevens. And I am a property owner in Nashville and very concerned about the upcoming council meeting and what's going on in the council. I want to urge you to commit to a divest invest strategy with a timeline in a more transparent process that truly engaging Community. I'm very very concerned about how long it's taking to get this out to the public and to engage the public wage. I think it's crucial in this time that public be a big part of what's going on there and that you that you listen to them and you know begin this project immediately. So that's my comment. And yes, I hope you can take this to heart and and vote them off. In the council meeting tomorrow Tuesday. Thank you. Bye.

Jul 27, 2020 1:38 pm

I when reviewing the city's budget. I was Disturbed to see that or designated towards for public health housing projects and investments in addressing the significant Equity gap between the black and white communities in Asheville. The city has plenty of evidence on this. So I think it is time now to make sure that the budget the income it to decrease of my budget 50% and to shift those to the black community to provide a clear timeline for this plan investment deeply engaged as well as draft budget. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 1:39 pm

Hi there. I just wanted to leave a comment before tomorrow's meeting. My name is Sarah Wells. I'm a resident here in Nashville. I live in Montford 58 Pearson Drive. I am calling to encourage you all to discuss and vote to divert a portion of Nashville's budget away from the APD and reinvested into some black communities here feels like some appropriate reparations a good place to start. My phone number is 828-775-9555. Again, 12:58 a.m. Here in Nashville. Thank you. Bye.

Jul 27, 2020 1:49 pm

Hello, my name is Angela Don. I'm a resident Asheville and I'm calling about the 2020 2021 fiscal year in operating budget. I'm calling to ask the council to vote on the vesting from the actual police department. But at least 50% off spent that investing and the the community and more specifically the black Community Bank. The dashboard Police Department for too long has been racist institution that has terrorized communities and neighbors. Do not need funds for more cops tear gas and hatred has the largest per-capita Department any City in the state. Every dollar spent on the squad of police force is stolen from the rest of us to fund the LT by least 50% off. As I said, those funds need to be go into the community for specifically the last movie and also for affordable housing. We're I'm sick of the Shack app so fun now no more excuses. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 3:05 pm

Hello, my name is Pauline medlicott. I am a resident of Weaverville and a retired school teacher who is extremely interested in. Dismantling our structural racist system in this area and I'm asking you to put on your home. I'm home asking the council to commit to a d best invest strategy with the timeline and transparent process. It engages the community month for taking resources partially from the police budget and putting them into a social services and support for black residents of Asheville. Please let me know what you all have done to go in that direction. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 3:35 pm

Hello, my name is Jody and I'm a Nashville Community member as a person concerned about my neighbors who are black and brown people. I am writing to you to ask you to please divest from Asheville Police Department and reinvest in Black communities in Nashville, when the budget approval was cancelled on June 9th. It was reportedly because the city was willing to consider changes to policing and Thursday and that those changes would be identified and explored by engaging the community in a transparent process. The city's residents have yet to be engaged in the rethinking the city policing and there had been no word from you as the city council on whether you are committed to the community's demand to divest from the actual police department. At least fifty percent reinvest those dead ends into our communities. And what kind of draft budget for the Asheville Police Department might be considered in the process. I've also come to understand that actual police department has developed a proposal for something they call Community engagement that involves a homeless Outreach team a mental health addiction coordinator and integrity unit and a Garland reduction strategy. I could see how on the service these things might sound like they could be good for our community. But I employed to see that they are not and that these are not issues to which took officers should be responding being helpless and using drugs have been needlessly criminalized and has not behaved in a way that has led me as a community members have believed that they should not be trusted with ensuring their own Integrity prevention of gun violence can be expected to occur by meeting communities needs in their deepest ways. It does not seem appropriate to put any of these programs hands of police, but it does seem appropriate to divest from the police and put those funds into actual Community safety and well-being. Please heed The Call by black Asheville and divest from the dead. Starting now pledged to divest from the APD at least fifty percent for the future and plan for engagement with the black community on how the funds can be reallocated to truly ensure Public Safety.

Jul 27, 2020 4:58 pm

Good afternoon. My name is Noelle Nicol and I'm calling regarding the fiscal year budget and it's a portion of the public comment. My name is Noelle Nicol I said and I have lived in Asheville for nearly twenty-five years. I'm a licensed clinical social worker and I worked in the criminal justice system for fifteen years until recently. I would say I am an advocate for police reform now. However, it is clear. We must completely transform our approach to Public Safety policing in our country was never created and never intended to meet our community's just pressing needs and regardless of training or financial resources. The APD does not have the capacity to meet our community's needs by continuing the current level of funding. We are perpetuating policies and practices that are not only wasteful and misguided but also result in at the very least moral injury of our law enforcement officers and far worse continued trauma for the wage. Longest was black and brown skin to think that a police officer was limited training in crisis intervention is as equally equipped to respond to a mental health or substance abuse crisis as I am with a master's degree in social work and years of experience is ill guided and frankly dangerous. We must divest funds from the APD and invest in community-based respect to switch facilitate Safety and Security for all Asheville residence as I'm sure you're aware multiple cities similar to Asheville have adopted community-based response programs, and they have experienced success wage including a decrease in gun violence similar to the work of our counties safety and Justice challenge Grant Community engagement. I urge you to engage the community in a process to create a comprehensive plan for investing and services critically needed especially investment in Black Asheville and divesting from the APD additionally. Please do not dead. Start your duties as elected representatives by anything less than full transparency of the draft budget developing a clear timeline for your investment in the black community and providing opportunity for all voices to comment on your progress. The community has a capacity along with your leadership to create programs and services that better meet our needs. However, you must allow them immunity to participate fully and deeply grateful for your service and look forward to hearing ways. I can support the efforts of council and transforming the APD and Transforming Our Community that response as we build greater capacity to respond with compassion and Equity to our most pressing needs and desires. Thank you.

Jul 27, 2020 5:01 pm