

From: Kim Roney
Sent: 4/12/2021 9:01:33 AM
To: "Kurt Thaesler" <kurt.thaesler@gmail.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: camp eviction

Kurt, thank you for continuing to reach out and speak up for our neighbors on the streets experiencing homelessness.

I see you have some responses from my colleagues and staff. The budget work session this Tuesday will include a conversation on the \$26-million in funding anticipated to be distributed to Asheville as part of the American Relief Plan. The work session will not have public comment, but will be streamed and archived on the [City of Asheville's youtube channel](#).

I will continue to uplift that an equitable and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic should also address overlapping emergencies including systemic racism, climate change, and economic instability. I hope you will be among the neighbors continuing to hold us accountable to meaningful outcomes.

With Shared Concern,
Kim

On Sun, Apr 11, 2021 at 11:15 AM Kurt Thaesler <kurt.thaesler@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm saddened to hear that the city is again "addressing" homelessness by reducing the visibility and increasing the hardship of our community members who are suffering the most. As I'm sure you're aware, displacing them doesn't solve the problem.

The city's official response to the last eviction on Lexington Ave seemed to shift the blame to the DOT. However, the next planned actions at Aston Park and MLK Park will fall squarely on the shoulders of the city.

I'm glad to hear some work is being done to collaborate with nonprofit shelters and other community partners. But at the end of the day, I'm struggling to imagine any long-term solution that doesn't center around expanding the supply of free and subsidized housing programs. Please reconsider your response to the housing crisis in this city. It's sad that many citizens only see this as an eyesore or a nuisance, without giving a thought to the severe hardships that people in camps face every day. We must work to support and assist all members of our community.

Thank you for your continued efforts on this complex and challenging issue.

Kurt Thaesler

On Tue, Feb 2, 2021, 7:52 PM <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Thank you for writing to me about your concerns regarding the removal of the encampment of houseless individuals in Asheville. I am sorry this happened and I apologize on behalf of the City. The City's administration has reviewed this incident and released the below explanation and commitment to improve the City's efforts to support those experiencing homelessness.

<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/news/a-message-to-our-community-regarding-removal-of-homeless-camp/>

Thank you,

Esther



Esther Manheimer

Mayor, City of Asheville

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From: Kurt Thaesler <kurt.thaesler@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 12:26 PM

To: ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov

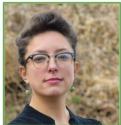
Subject: Lexington ave camp

I'm shocked and disgusted at the treatment of homeless people who were camping under the 240 bridge over Lexington Ave.

As one of the artists who conceptualized and painted the mural on that bridge, our vision was one of community, people carrying about each other, celebrating Asheville residents from all walks of life.

The middle of winter in the middle of a pandemic is not the right time to be displacing the homeless. These are the people among us who have the least resources and the most problems. The role of the city cannot and should not be making things harder for them.

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Kim Roney (she/her/ella)

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