

From: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com
Sent: 4/14/2021 1:28:40 PM
To: "'Reuben DeJernette'" <rdejernette@yahoo.com>
Cc: "'Cathy Ball'" <cball@ashevillenc.gov>, dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: RE: Our City Parks

Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Reuben – I agree with much of what you say below and I have studied how cities are accommodating camping on city property to manage large numbers of folks who are unhoused. There are a couple of large cities doing this and they contract with non-profits to provide onsite services. Without staffing and onsite facilities and services, the sites become unsafe, as you’ve witnessed. The city does not have trained staff (or even enough staff) to man these sites and our partners are already stretched thin (e.g. Homeward Bound). We are working with the faith-based community to see if they can step in and help provides locations and staffing.

Thank you,
Esther



Esther Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
phone 828.259.5604
esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

From: 'Reuben DeJernette' via councilgroup <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:46 PM
To: ashevillescitycouncilapr132021@publicinput.com
Cc: ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Our City Parks

Hello all; regarding our City Parks and encampments...I was not aware this topic was on the agenda and apologize for my lack of attendance.

If this was a situation that was just thrust upon us this past Monday 04.12.2021 that would be one thing...however this is something that has been present for quite a long time. If one would find the Pandemic as the cause, it would be fair to state this has been apparent for the last nine (9) months. Since moving to our present location in 2017 and looking at the banks along the French Broad River, I have personally observed encampments for at least three (3) years.

My point is, we have been aware of encampments in Asheville for a while and we have squandered the time to resolve and/or establish an adequate solution.

Allowing our City Parks to be turned into encampments is not wise, on so many levels. The City should have been more proactive in facing this situation and looking the other way has produced a conundrum. It pits those who do not live near our parks and are largely in favor of encampments...against those who live near and frequent the city parks and are adamantly

opposed to encampments.

Question is...why has the city not established a viable location and furnished the barest of facilities for a large encampment ? Maybe turning a parking garage into an encampment using portable toilets and having water available...a large field that could be used or a parking lot at one of the many locations that have been shuttered ?

To simply look the other way and let the nearby residents deal with the many negative situations shows me that our City Admin does not value nor care about the situation, as it takes time to address and requires accountability.

Recently we have furnished video of two different assaults' at Aston City Park...are you waiting for a fatality before you address this ? ?

I AM OPPOSED TO ENCAMPMENTS AT OUR CITY PARKS !!

Regards, Reuben DeJernette

257 South French Broad AVE