

**From:** Cathy Ball  
**Sent:** 4/11/2021 12:03:24 PM  
**To:** "Kurt Thaesler" <kurt.thaesler@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** "councilgroup" <ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov>, "Debra Campbell" <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>, "Emily Ball" <eball@ashevillenc.gov>, "Chief David Zack" <dzack@ashevillenc.gov>, "Paul D'Angelo" <pdangelo@ashevillenc.gov>, "Nikki Reid" <nreid@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: camp eviction

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Mr. Thaesler.

Thanks for your email. We share the compassion for our homeless community. Unfortunately, these areas have become unsafe for both the campers and the community. A community member shared a video of one camper beating another camper. We cannot allow this to continue for anyone.

Again, thanks for caring about all of our community.

My best,  
Cathy

Cathy D. Ball, PE  
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On Sun, Apr 11, 2021 at 11:15 AM Kurt Thaesler <[kurt.thaesler@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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**Asheville, NC 28802**

**phone 828.259.5604**

**[esthermanheimer@avcouncil.com](mailto:esthermanheimer@avcouncil.com)**

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**From:** Kurt Thaesler <[kurt.thaesler@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.thaesler@gmail.com)>

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

**To:** [ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov](mailto: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.