

**From:** Dawa Hitch  
**Sent:** 4/16/2021 7:45:36 PM  
**To:** "Cathy Ball" <cball@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Cc:** "Debra Campbell" <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: draft

This time with the title included if that is helpful.

City responds to Aston Park encampment, shelter provided for homeless on site

Today was the end of the seven day notice for those who were illegally camping at Aston Park. City staff along with Homeward Bound has been continuously working with these individuals to provide support and shelter options since safety concerns were identified at the camp.

It is important to note there were two distinct groups of people who had tents erected on City property.

The first group consisted of people experiencing homelessness. At the end of the day today, there were 6 people still on site who did not have a place to shelter. All 6 people were offered shelter at the Red Roof Inn and all 6 accepted. A similar plan for providing low barrier shelter is being finalized for people in other camps who have been given notice to dismantle camps on City property.

A second group of tents were erected yesterday by protesters. After the people who needed shelter were taken to the Red Roof Inn, protesters remained on site. Protesters obstructed City staff attempts to remove the newly erected tents. It was explained to these individuals that they would be arrested if they continued to obstruct City staff's cleanup of the site. At this time three protesters have been arrested.

The City remains committed to partnerships with the community to develop solutions to end homelessness.

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 8:42 PM Dawa Hitch <[dhitch@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:dhitch@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:  
So sorry. This is it. Cut/paste error on my end.

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On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 8:40 PM Dawa Hitch <[dhitch@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:dhitch@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:  
Shoot. Here you go. Grammar catch.

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On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 8:39 PM Dawa Hitch <[dhitch@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:dhitch@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:

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Here you go. Blog Post/Press Release  
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**City responds to Aston Park encampment, shelter provided for homeless on site**

Statement from Assistant City Manager Cathy Ball:

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On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 8:35 PM Cathy Ball <[cball@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:cball@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:

Can you send me a final clean version, Dawa?

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 8:34 PM Dawa Hitch <[dhitch@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:dhitch@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:  
Got it. Changes made. Chief is good.

Title for press release/blog post is:

City responds to Aston Park encampment, shelter provided for homeless on site

Everything is loaded to go after Council gets their communication from Cathy.

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 8:25 PM Cathy Ball <[cball@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:cball@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:  
As soon as the edits are made, please let me know.

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 8:20 PM Debra Campbell <[dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:  
Dawa for some reason from my phone its not letting me edit. So here you go.

Suggested changes.  
Sentence it was explained to these....  
delete would have to be and replace with would be arrested.

At this time three protesters have been arrested rather than were arrested.

Otherwise I am good.

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021, 8:04 PM Dawa Hitch <[dhitch@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:dhitch@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:

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**Dawa Hitch**

City of Asheville

Director  
Communication &  
Public Engagement Department  
828-552-1311 l mobile

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Cathy D. Ball, PE  
Assistant City Manager  
City of Asheville  
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Asheville, NC 28802  
(W) 828-259-5939  
(C) 828-691-4623

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