



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/4/2020 7:31:00 AM	APD budget	<p>To the Asheville City Council:</p> <p>In advance of City Council's budget meeting on June 9, 2020, I am writing to advocate for a reduction of the Asheville Police Department's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 20-21 budget.</p> <p>Do not approve an increase in budget for the police department. Decrease their existing budget. Consider making deadly weapons less of a presence on our streets by limiting officers' access to weapons. Make racial sensitivity training mandatory for all officers (per the 2017 APD annual report, it is currently voluntary). Remove police from our public schools. Children should not be confronted with armed officers in a learning environment.</p> <p>We have seen across the country that police are bringing violence, mayhem, and death to our communities. Please be part of the solution by limited their already inflated budget. Thank you.</p> <p>Nadia Zefri A concerned Asheville resident</p>
6/4/2020 10:24:00 AM	Budget Process	<p>Dear Council Members & Chief of Police,</p> <p>I am a white constituent residing in Haw Creek, and I wish to make my voice known in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. I am imploring you to redistribute much of the budget you are allocating for the police department, and especially to reallocate the 4% increase to your Equity & Inclusion budget. I am proposing a 25% decrease to the Police Department budget and to split that money amongst Equity & Inclusion, Planning & Urban Design, and Education & Childcare.</p> <p>I also wish for the Police Department's budget to be restructured, removing money from militarization and moving it towards Citizen Review Boards to police the police, a full scale study on the use of force within APD from an outside agency populated primarily by BIPOC, and create a Use of Force Continuum. I also request that ALL use of force is reported.</p> <p>The actions of the police are absolutely disturbing and are a cog in the massive machine of systemic racism. If you don't believe this, please look up the story of COINTELPRO, it is still alive today.</p> <p>Lauren Kaufmann</p>
6/4/2020 11:02:00 AM	Redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Melissa Vincent and I'm an Asheville native. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can we count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Melissa</p>



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		<p>To Asheville City Council and City Manager,</p> <p>In the wake of recent events, as a resident of the Asheville area for almost 30 years, and as a citizen and member of this planet for 37, I ask that you consider Defunding the APD per the June 9th Public Hearing and the June 23rd vote.</p> <p>A Letter to Demand Divestment from Police and an Investment in Black Communities:</p> <p>Black communities across the nation are mourning the deaths of George Floyd, tortured to death by Minneapolis police, Ahmaud Arbery, a jogger who was killed while running in a residential neighborhood in Brunswick, Georgia, Breonna Taylor an EMT killed while asleep in her bed in Louisville, KY, Dreasjon Reed in Indianapolis and Tony McDade in Tallahassee. Their names are added to a devastatingly long list of Black people who have been killed at the hands of vigilantes or law enforcement. Not to mention the others whose names we don't yet know, and may never know since they were killed without a camera recording it.</p> <p>At the same time, the United States leads the world in COVID-19 cases. So far, more than 100,000 people — enough to fill a football stadium— have perished from the virus, with over one million cases confirmed, and those numbers don't reflect all the people dying from virus-related illnesses. Black people are suffering disproportionately from COVID-19, four times more likely to die than their white neighbors.</p> <p>It is important to state this within the context of the scourge of anti-Black police terror and the resulting uprisings taking place across the U.S.</p> <p>The COVID-19 deaths and the deaths caused by police terror are connected and consequential to each other. The United States does not have a national healthcare system. Instead, we have the largest military budget in the world, and some of the most well-funded and militarized police departments in the world, too. Policing and militarization overwhelmingly dominate the bulk of national and local budgets. In fact, police and military funding has increased every single year since 1973, and at the same time, funding for public health decreased every year, crystallized most recently when the Trump administration eliminated the US Pandemic Response Team in 2018, citing "costs".</p> <p>Black communities are living in persistent fear of being killed by state authorities like police, immigration agents or even white vigilantes who are emboldened by state actors. According to the Urban Institute, in 1977, state and local governments spent \$60 billion on police and corrections . In 2017, they spent \$194 billion. A 220 percent increase. Despite continued profiling, harassment, terror and killing of Black communities, local and federal decision-makers continue to invest in the police, which leaves Black people vulnerable and our communities no safer.</p> <p>Where could that money go? It could go towards building healthy communities, to the health of our elders and children, to neighborhood infrastructure, to education, to childcare, to support a vibrant Black future. The possibilities are endless.</p> <p>I join in solidarity with the freedom fighters in Minneapolis, Louisville, and across the United States. And we call for the end to police terror.</p> <p>*PLEASE TAKE THE PLEDGE TO: *</p> <p>Vote *NO* on all increases to police budgets</p>



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6/4/2020 12:25:00 PM	Fwd: Reallocation of APD Funding	<p>My comments for this meeting agenda are below.</p> <p>----- Forwarded message ----- From: Alexa Verink <alexa.verink@gmail.com> Date: Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 12:04 PM Subject: Reallocation of APD Funding To: <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>, <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com>, <brianhaynes@avlcouncil.com>, <vijay Kapoor@avlcouncil.com>, <juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com>, <sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com>, <keithyoung@avlcouncil.com></p> <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing to *advocate for a reduction of APD's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.* I moved to Asheville at the beginning of March, after living in cities all over the country, because I saw it as a haven for people who want to feel heard & truly express themselves - their truth, their art, their thoughts. I'm happy to now be a part of this community & contribute to its economy through my job at No Evil Foods, but I've been greatly disheartened by how the local government, and especially police forces, are handling the population's right to express their anger with the systemic racism that persists in this country.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive deescalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests, bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protesters with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, and in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department. *I suggest these funds be reallocated to mental health service providers, social workers, victim/survivor advocates, and others in this community who are creating opportunity for the under-privileged,* rather than continuing to suppress them. These are generally the organizations that are scrambling for funding, & spending far too much of their energy on finding that funding, vs. being able to help the community.</p> <p>I hope you take these thoughts into consideration during your APD budget review.</p> <p>Sincerely, Alexa Verink</p>



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6/4/2020 12:47:00 PM	City of Asheville 2020 Budget Process - Reject APD Funding Request	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Jake Faber. I am a resident at 8 Oakcrest Drive, and I am writing today to demand that the *Asheville Police Department's requested budget increase for 2021 be* *rejected*, and that allocations be shifted from APD's existing budget to other programs that will address the systemic racism that continues to affect our community.</p> <p>The department's disturbing use of force, both during recent protests and in the past (particularly the 2017 excessive use of force incident involving Johnnie Jermaine Rush), are grounds for the council to seriously reconsider funding for a department that has proven itself unable to ensure public safety for all.</p> <p>In particular, city council can redirect crucial resources towards significantly expanding next year's budget for *Equity & Inclusion*, which will bring more minority-owned businesses to Asheville; *Planning & Urban Design*, which will lead to more affordable housing studies; and *Transit*. Additionally, a city-wide cost of living wage increase and a community and economic development program focused on affordable housing and homelessness would ensure that our community's most vulnerable members are safe in Asheville.</p> <p>I urge you to do your part in making sure that the city of Asheville is safe for people of color, and to redirect additional APD funding to programs that will protect our community.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jake</p>
6/4/2020 1:43:00 PM	We Demand APD Budget Increases Are Cut	<p>To the Asheville City Council, City Manager, and Mayor of Asheville,</p> <p>Hello, my name is Nicole Lissenden and I am an Asheville citizen. I am writing this email to you to demand the stop of a \$400,000 budget increase to the Asheville Police Department in the City of Asheville's FY21 budget. With some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in North Carolina, and ongoing outright discrimination and violence towards Black residents, that department has not even remotely earned a budget increase.</p> <p>Those funds should go to meet community needs such as affordable housing, public transportation, and other programs to address systematic racism. I would also encourage you to consider using those funds for COVID-19 in Asheville's Black and Latinx communities, which have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic.</p> <p>Nicole Lissenden</p>



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6/4/2020 2:01:00 PM	Defend Black Lives. Defund APD.	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget. I am a social worker and community member who has lived here for nearly a decade. I have been closely following the behavior of APD and the ways they've been allowed to antagonize black communities.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive deescalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes even after a public overhaul of use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, and in fact, demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department. Police funding should be reallocated to meet community needs such as affordable housing, public transportation, and other programs to address systemic racism. We can do better.</p> <p>Sincerely, Becky Baylor</p>
6/4/2020 3:41:00 PM	APD Funding 2020-2021 Thoughts	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing to advocate for a reduction of the APD's budget by a large margin.</p> <p>I have lived in Asheville for approximately 4 years, as I went to UNCA, and will likely live there again.</p> <p>Despite years and much spending on police sensitivity and numerous other methods intended to improve the quality of so-called policing, disparities still persist in the Asheville community. A recent instance for example, is when APD met peaceful protestors with tear gas and destroyed vital resources such as water and medical equipment.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust and violates the sense of community in Asheville.</p> <p>Funds should be reallocated to more affordable housing and healthcare.</p>



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6/4/2020 3:52:00 PM	June 9, 2020 Public Hearing	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I, a resident of Asheville, NC, do NOT support the 2021 Budget being proposed on Tuesday, June 23rd.</p> <p>If you have been paying ANY attention to your citizens and the unrest across the nation, you know that the 4% INCREASE in the police budget is the exact opposite of what people are calling for. DEFUND the program and disperse the suggested increase to the programs of equity and inclusion, parks and recreation, planning and urban design, and sustainability. There is absolutely zero reason a police department should have a \$30 million budget.</p> <p>LISTEN to your constituents.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Ariel Dressen</p> <p>University of North Carolina at Asheville Class of 2021</p> <p>Psychology Major Neuroscience Minor</p> <p>University Advancement Donor Relations Intern</p> <p>Student Alumni Association President</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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6/4/2020 3:55:00 PM	Defund	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I, a resident of Asheville, NC, do NOT support the 2021 Budget being proposed on Tuesday, June 23rd. If you have been paying ANY attention to your citizens and the unrest across the nation, you know that the 4% INCREASE in the police budget is the exact opposite of what people are calling for. DEFUND the program and disperse the suggested increase to the programs of equity and inclusion, parks and recreation, planning and urban design, and sustainability. There is absolutely zero reason a police department should have a \$30 million budget. LISTEN to your constituents.</p>
6/4/2020 4:28:00 PM	We Demand APD Budget Increases Are Cut	<p>To the Asheville City Council, City Manager, and Mayor of Asheville,</p> <p>Hello, my name is Hannah Joyner and I am an Asheville citizen. I am writing this email to you to demand the stop of a \$400,000 budget increase to the Asheville Police Department in the City of Asheville's FY21 budget. With some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in North Carolina, and ongoing outright discrimination and violence towards Black residents, that department has not even remotely earned a budget increase.</p> <p>Those funds should go to meet community needs such as affordable housing, public transportation, and other programs to address systematic racism. I would also encourage you to consider using those funds for COVID-19 in Asheville's Black and Latinx communities, which have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Hannah Joyner</p>



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6/4/2020 4:46:00 PM	Reallocate APD funds — BLACK LIVES MATTER	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>I have lived less than an hour from Asheville my entire life and I grew up making many trips to the WNC Nature Center, Chuck E Cheese, downtown Asheville, and peaceful protests of all kinds. I went to UNC Asheville, got my degree in Mass Communication, and just graduated with distinction in my department less than a month ago.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of the use of forceful policies.</p> <p>This does NOT ensure public trust, and, in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We CANNOT continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>One way to fight police brutality and reimagine public safety is to move more money away from the police force and into other programs that focus on education, affordable housing, economic security, and mental health. Many social service agencies and community organizations can serve as alternatives to violence. I demand that the \$30,057,325 that is allocated for the police department instead goes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -*Equity & Inclusion*, which is meant to bring more minority-owned businesses to AVL -*A citywide cost-of-living wage increase* -*Planning & Urban Design*, which leads to affordable housing studies -*Transit*, which is underfunded against the 2018 Transit Master Plan -*A community and economic development program focused on affordable housing/homelessness* <p>It's time to defund the APD and reallocate those funds to places that would better serve black people and black communities. Black lives matter. Asheville needs to step up. There are no excuses.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mayden McDaniel UNC Asheville Graduate Mass Communication -- Best,</p> <p>Mayden McDaniel UNC Asheville Graduate Mass Communication</p>



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		<p>Dear City Council, I am writing to advocate for a reduction of the Asheville Police Department's \$2.5 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the Police Department in the proposed 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>I am a student at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Living in Asheville for a number of years now, I consider it a second home and I care deeply about the community. I will not be silent after seeing the injustices faced by my community.</p> <p>According to the 2019-2020 budget, Asheville aims to foster an equitable and diverse community that is livable in addition to promoting a healthy and clean environment. Reports and analysis from the County's Detention Center revealed that in Buncombe County, Black individuals make up 21 percent of the jail population despite only making up 6.4 percent of the local population <https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/jrac/safety-justice-challenge/factsheet.pdf> .</p> <p>During the recent protests in Asheville, the Asheville Police Department destroyed the supplies of protesters for no valid reason <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/06/03/george-floyd-protests-police-destroy-medical-station-asheville/3124847001/>. Hundreds of dollars worth of medical supplies, food, and water were ruined despite the medical station being approved of by the city, according to the medical team of EMTs and doctors.</p> <p>As a student at UNCA, the destruction of supplies is especially vile to witness. Throughout my time at the university, there have been numerous instances <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2019/04/01/water-problems-beginning-impact-asheville-breweries-and-restaurants/3329975002/> each semester in which the water coming from the sinks has been discolored and unsafe to drink, to the point of boil-water advisories <https://wlos.com/news/local/boil-advisory-has-not-been-issued-yet-for-asheville-water-customers> being issued and water bottles being distributed on campus <https://wlos.com/news/local/east-asheville-boil-water-advisory>. The destruction of supplies by the Asheville Police Department is disgusting and the officers must be held accountable for their actions. Additionally, as a city with a large homeless population that lacks these basic resources, the actions of these officers are revolting and they should be punished accordingly.</p> <p>These actions are a violation of the Geneva Convention, which states the destruction of medical supplies is considered a war crime. This behavior from the Asheville Police Department is inhumane and unjust, and there is no excuse for the actions of these officers or the invalid justification from the Chief of Police <https://wlos.com/news/local/asheville-police-destroy-medical-medical-station-water-supplies>. Protestors were met with violence, tear gas, and rubber bullets <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2020/06/03/george-floyd-protests-asheville-fourth-night-ends-quickly-more-tear-gas/3140995001/>. For a city aiming towards a healthy and equitable reputation, this action from the Asheville Police Department is absolutely unacceptable.</p> <p>The 2019-2020 budget <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2t_Ch5LbY5eZ19Db0hFYThVR0V6b2JqcXo4NGhFTDk2OVZr/view?usp=sharing> allocated \$168,000 towards the Police Department's budget for equipment, software, and maintenance to support the department's use of body-worn and vehicle dashboard cameras. Based on the actions of the Asheville Police Department and the blatant neglect towards the people of Asheville, real reform within</p>



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6/4/2020 5:48:00 PM	Reduction of APD's Budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>I have spent the last three years in Asheville as a student at UNCA. I will be graduating in May 2021 with a degree in Mass Communications. I absolutely love being able to call Asheville my home while I'm at school.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of the use of forceful policies.</p> <p>This does NOT ensure public trust, and, in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We CANNOT continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>One way to fight police brutality and reimagine public safety is to move more money away from the police force and into other programs that focus on education, affordable housing, economic security, and mental health. Many social service agencies and community organizations can serve as alternatives to violence. I demand that the \$30,057,325 that is allocated for the police department instead goes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Equity & Inclusion, which is meant to bring more minority-owned businesses to AVL-A citywide cost-of-living wage increase-Planning & Urban Design, which leads to affordable housing studies-Transit, which is underfunded against the 2018 Transit Master Plan-A community and economic development program focused on affordable housing/homelessness <p>It's time to defund the APD and reallocate those funds to places that would better serve black people and black communities. Black lives matter. Asheville needs to step up. There are no excuses.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Caitlin Doherty -- Caitlin Doherty UNC Asheville Mass Communications Major '21 Director of UNCA Live, Asheville Campus Entertainment</p>



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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/4/2020 8:12:00 PM	Reduce Funding for the Asheville Police	<p>Hi Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I hope this message finds you all healthy and well.</p> <p>I am a friend of one of your constituents, and he has asked for support in opposing a budget measure you are considering soon. I was very angry to see video <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/nation/2020/06/03/asheville-north-carolina-police-seen-destroying-protesters-supplies/3135539001/?fbclid=IwAR2YxOtiPT3rY-8X2sWGkZRNscwKomeUgMT4XSk80VHy59xZrwQ764wKxho> of your police officers destroying water bottles at a medical station this week. After such violence, I think it is most appropriate to reduce the police's budget rather than increase it. Studies <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/31/the-answer-to-police-violence-is-not-reform-its-defunding-heres-why?fbclid=IwAR2nNWvznpGKYgFLQEvfQW-cmN4uw1ApzCvEp9P756d9VwYvgJC4NrQPEws> have shown that moving funding from police to mental health and social programs result in less deaths.</p> <p>Please reject the APD's rejected budget increase, and reduce their budget instead.</p> <p>Thank you, Jennifer Seely</p> <p>-- Jennifer J. Seely, *she/her* J.D. Candidate, Class of 2021 University of Washington School of Law</p>
6/4/2020 8:39:00 PM	CUT APD BUDGET INCREASE	<p>To the Asheville City Council, City Manager, and Mayor of Asheville,</p> <p>Hello, my name is Lane Snipes and I am an Asheville citizen. I am writing this email to you to demand the stop of a \$400,000 budget increase to the Asheville Police Department in the City of Asheville's FY21 budget. With some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in North Carolina, and ongoing outright discrimination and violence towards Black residents, that department has not even remotely earned a budget increase.</p> <p>Those funds should go to meet community needs such as affordable housing, public transportation, and other programs to address systematic racism. I would also encourage you to consider using those funds for COVID-19 in Asheville's Black and Latinx communities, which have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic.</p> <p>Lane Snipes Asheville Citizen</p>



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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/4/2020 8:46:00 PM	City of Asheville 2020 Budget Process - Reject APD Funding Request	<p>> Hello,</p> <p>> My name is Mackenzie Faber. I am a resident at 8 Oakcrest Drive, and I am writing today to demand that the Asheville Police Department's requested budget increase for 2021 be rejected, and that allocations be shifted from APD's existing budget to other programs that will address the systemic racism that continues to affect our community.</p> <p>></p> <p>> The department's disturbing use of force, both during recent protests and in the past (particularly the 2017 excessive use of force incident involving Johnnie Jermaine Rush), are grounds for the council to seriously reconsider funding for a department that has proven itself unable to ensure public safety for all.</p> <p>></p> <p>> In particular, city council can redirect crucial resources towards significantly expanding next year's budget for Equity & Inclusion, which will bring more minority-owned businesses to Asheville; Planning & Urban Design, which will lead to more affordable housing studies; and Transit. Additionally, a city-wide cost of living wage increase and a community and economic development program focused on affordable housing and homelessness would ensure that our community's most vulnerable members are safe in Asheville.</p> <p>></p> <p>> I urge you to do your part in making sure that the city of Asheville is safe for people of color, and to redirect additional APD funding to programs that will protect our community.</p> <p>></p> <p>> Thank you,</p> <p>></p> <p>> Mackenzie</p>



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		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sera Deva and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>I ALSO REQUEST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">---------- <p>That the \$400,000 increase to the Police Department Budget be blocked and the police be additionally defunded.</p> <p>The money being diverted away from the Police Department should be given to the Equity and Inclusion department, public transit, and affordable housing.</p> <p>Ask that the council protect and expand current investment in community-led health and safety strategies, instead of investing in police.</p> <p>Require that the Police department cannot use city funds to pay for military gear.</p> <p>Protection and expansion of current investment in community-led health and safety strategies, instead of investing in police.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-- Sera Deva --</p> <p>*Pronouns: She/Her (What's this? <https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why>)*</p> <p>Conference & Farmer Programs Coordinator www.ashevillepublicschool.org</p>



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6/4/2020 8:54:00 PM	Asheville budget process	<p>City Council,</p> <p>After the recent Asheville Police Department response to protests in Asheville, and especially the Police Chief's initial response to damage to medical area and his subsequent non apology, I am strongly opposed to any budget increase for the police. In fact, I recommend the Police Department budget be drastically reduced and a significant portion of funds be allocated to training. Asheville could use budget funds to promote public safety in other ways than to fund a militaristic organization that tear gases citizens protesting.</p> <p>Woody Thompson 13 North St, Asheville, NC 28801</p>
6/4/2020 9:38:00 PM	Budgeting for Sidewalks in Colored Neighborhoods	<p>City council, In light of current situation and the state of Asheville, I wish to propose to Defund the City APD and use the intended budget of \$400,000 to *add sidewalks to neighborhoods of color, especially Deaverview in west Asheville. *</p> <p>Day in and out I see colored families with strollers walking along the narrow road of North Bear Creek to access West Asheville and Patton Ave. Adding a sidewalk to one side of the road ensure safety to pedestrians to a dense residential area.</p> <p>I hope you chose to use more *funding on Locals instead of tourism, people of color instead of wealthy whites, and for education instead of police force. *</p> <p>Michelle Paredes -Resident of North Bear Creek Area--</p> <p>Michelle</p>
6/4/2020 9:41:00 PM	Budget Sidewalks for colored neighborhoods	<p>City council, In light of current situation and the state of Asheville, I wish to propose to Defund the City APD and use the intended budget of \$400,000 to *add sidewalks to neighborhoods of color, especially Deaverview in west Asheville. *</p> <p>Day in and out I see colored families with strollers walking along the narrow road of North Bear Creek to access West Asheville and Patton Ave. Adding a sidewalk to one side of the road ensure safety to pedestrians to a dense residential area.</p> <p>I hope you chose to use more *funding on Locals instead of tourism, people of color instead of wealthy whites, and for education instead of police force. *</p> <p>Michelle Paredes Resident of North Bear Creek Leader of Girls Gone Wild Asheville *"Empowering Wild Women"*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/4/2020 11:45:00 PM	Do Not Further Fund the APD	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>My name is Lilly Murillo, I am 19 years old, and I am a student UNC Asheville. The past two years that I have lived in Asheville have been some of the best, and I love this city with all of my heart. That is why I refuse to sit by when injustices are being rewarded and the citizens of Asheville are at risk.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of the use of forceful policies.</p> <p>This does NOT ensure public trust, and, in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We CANNOT continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>One way to fight police brutality and reimagine public safety is to move more money away from the police force and into other programs that focus on education, affordable housing, economic security, and mental health. Many social service agencies and community organizations can serve as alternatives to violence. I demand that the \$30,057,325 that is allocated for the police department instead goes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equity & Inclusion, which is meant to bring more minority-owned businesses to AVL -A citywide cost-of-living wage increase -Planning & Urban Design, which leads to affordable housing studies -Transit, which is underfunded against the 2018 Transit Master Plan -A community and economic development program focused on affordable housing/homelessness <p>It's time to defund the APD and reallocate those funds to places that would better serve black people and black communities. Black lives matter. Asheville needs to step up. There are no excuses.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lilly Murillo</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 9:02:00 AM	Commitment to Racial Justice Please	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lee Warren and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, --</p> <p>Lee Warren Reclaiming Wisdom <http://www.reclaimingwisdom.com/> Imani Farm <http://www.earthaven.org/farms-and-gardens/imani-farm/> at Earthaven Ecovillage <http://www.earthaven.org/> SOIL-School of Integrated Living <http://www.schoolofintegratedliving.org/> Organic Growers School <http://organicgrowersschool.org/></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 9:56:00 AM	Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Corey Parlamento and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Corey Parlamento</p>
6/5/2020 11:17:00 AM	Asheville Budget	<p>Hello City Council,</p> <p>Thank you for stepping into an important leadership role. I know your positions are often thankless and tiring.</p> <p>I'm writing to weigh in on budget issues in advance of your budget meeting June 9th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not approve the proposed increase in Asheville Police Department budget. - Pay Asheville Firefighters a living wage. - Provide increased transparency in the budget process generally. <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Erin Singer McCombs West Asheville resident</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 12:40:00 PM	We Demand APD Budget Increases Are Cut	<p>To the Asheville City Council, City Manager, and Mayor of Asheville,</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Lauren, and I am an Asheville citizen. I am writing this email to you to demand the stop of a \$400,000 budget increase to the Asheville Police Department in the City of Asheville's FY21 budget. With some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in North Carolina, and ongoing outright discrimination and violence towards Black residents, that department has not even remotely earned a budget increase.</p> <p>Those funds should go to meet community needs such as affordable housing, public transportation, and other programs to address systematic racism. I would also encourage you to consider using those funds for COVID-19 in Asheville's Black and Latinx communities, which have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic.</p> <p>Lauren Roquemore</p>
6/5/2020 12:46:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Althea Mason and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Althea Mason</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Dani Giannone -- I have been a resident of Asheville for over 10 years now.</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line.2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources4. Free higher education5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools7. Free health clinics8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dani Giannone Ph: 704.255.7434</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 1:22:00 PM	Redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ariana Gonzalez and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ariana Gonzalez</p>
6/5/2020 1:24:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Aaron Hill and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>*Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.* Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Aaron Hill</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 1:37:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ayelet Even-Nur and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ayelet Even-Nur</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 1:38:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Corinna Waslin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Corinna Waslin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 1:40:00 PM	2021 City Budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Briana Essick -- I have been a resident of Asheville for over 15 years now. I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line. 2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules 3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources 4. Free higher education 5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods 6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools 7. Free health clinics 8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Briana Essick ilovetoshine@gmail.com 828.279.6371</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 1:41:00 PM	Defunding of APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Emma Sarver and I was born and raised in Asheville . I'm emailing you today to demand that the Asheville city council dedicates the time and energy they spend on everything else, towards a visible and concrete commitment towards racial justice. I demand that the city council delays the budget vote to allow time for the council members to reallocate the money from the APD's already overinflated budget towards sectors that initiate the dismantling of the racial oppression within the APD. This money should go towards anti-racism training facilitated and led by paid black professionals for the entire APD. And as for the officers who have obvious blocks about receiving these trainings, they should be fired immediately.</p> <p>Let me remind you of Christopher Hick's, the APD officer who, on August 25th, 2017 beat, strangled, and used a taser on Johnnie J. Rush, a black man walking home from his night shift at cracker barrel whom he accused of J-Walking. Officer Hick's had a history of multiple complaints and suspensions already, yet here he was, at work for the APD. Why do white people need to view black bodies being harmed and killed on video in order for something to be done? I want you to know that this makes me sick.</p> <p>We live in a country whose framework is racism. The killings of innocent black people everyday at the hands of police are proof of this. We don't need better force policy's for officers, we need anti-racism training. Training that begins to dismantle the systemic racism and white supremacy that lies within police departments and our country</p> <p>Thank you for listening, my phone number is (828) 318-7952</p> <p>Emma</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 2:01:00 PM	City Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>As an Asheville resident, I write with several questions and concerns regarding the upcoming City Budget Meeting. Thank you for your attention to my questions and for your service to our City.</p> <p>First, I request that the City Council make public the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A detailed breakdown of the expenses by department, similar to the level of detail provided in past years; 2. A detailed description and justification for the \$400K increase in the police budget, particularly given the growth in recent years and the need for social programs over policing; 3. The extent to which transit expenses will be offset by the CARES Act funds that the City will receive; and 4. The specific changes to department-level budgets due to the COVID-19 impact, i.e., which departments are spending more and which are spending less (and on what) <p>Second, I request full funding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay for Asheville firefighters a living wage, to ensure that the City is in compliance with your own living wage policy; and 2. \$100K in operational support for the Asheville Buncombe Community Land Trust to move forward efforts to increase community ownership of affordable housing opportunities and more. <p>At UNC Asheville last fall, students conducted a survey of over 380 Buncombe County workers, most of whom worked in Asheville City, and found that over half of respondents (56.1%) reported that they could not afford a \$400 expense if it were to come up suddenly. Working people in our city live precariously and we can address this economic instability and other social determinants of health through these measures to provide more transparency and support to programs and systems that we know make a difference in people's lives. Such measures also will reduce racial and other disparities because people of color and other underserved populations are disproportionately affected by low wages, lack of housing options, ineffective transit, etc.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention to these matters. For more information about creating sustainable livelihoods, I encourage you to continue to listen to the Voices for Transportation and other community members at Just Economics of Western North Carolina.</p> <p>Jessi O'Neill Asheville resident</p>
6/5/2020 2:13:00 PM	No Budget Increase for Militarized Police Force	<p>My name is Phillip Chudoba, I'm an Asheville Resident. The Asheville Police department has clearly demonstrated to us the unnecessary behavior they exhibit when they possess the funds to be able to run through our town in military gear, shooting our citizens with rubber bullets, knock-off tear gas, and pepper balls, and raiding a peaceful medic station. The wanton waste they demonstrated tells us they are wildly irresponsible with valuable resources. They deserve none of the almost thirty million dollars you are planning on giving them this year. I demand the Asheville Police department to run on as little funding as humanly possible, for they clearly have more money than they know what to do with responsibly. That thirty million dollars will be far more valuable in nearly any other section of our budget you wish to assign it to.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 2:17:00 PM	No Budget Increase for Militarized Police	<p>My name is Phillip Chudoba, I'm an Asheville resident. The Asheville Police department has clearly demonstrated to us the unnecessary behavior they exhibit when they possess the funds to be able to run through our town in military gear, shooting our citizens with rubber bullets, knock-off tear gas, and pepper balls, and raiding a peaceful medic station. The wanton waste they demonstrated tells us they are wildly irresponsible with valuable resources. They deserve none of the almost thirty million dollars you are planning on giving them this year. I demand the Asheville Police department to run on as little funding as humanly possible, for they clearly have more money than they know what to do with responsibly. That thirty million dollars will be far more valuable in nearly any other section of our budget you wish to assign it to.</p>
6/5/2020 2:23:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is William and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, William</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 2:31:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maria, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Maria Schwabland</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 2:32:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cherry locovozzi and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cherry locovozzi</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 2:44:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Leah Spicer and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591385885841000&sa=D&ust=1591385885863000&usg=AFQjCNFeR0KZlc6A760FvDFNuiYLGhv3qg>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Leah Spicer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 2:47:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michelle Troszak and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Michelle Troszak</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 2:57:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is William Drew and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William Drew</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 3:00:00 PM	6/9/20 Budget Hearing-Decrease and Reallocate APD budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at or below the poverty line. 2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules 3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources 4. Free higher education 5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods 6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools 7. Free health clinics 8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amanda Cook</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 3:12:00 PM	Why Police Defunding needs to happen now	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a new elementary teacher in the Buncombe County Schools, and I want to tell you why I think we need to allot more money toward building community networks, including food security, arts, and education, and less toward the police force.</p> <p>In my training to be a teacher, I learned a lot about how to make children want to learn. Believe it or not, it's not through fear tactics and drills that students develop into life-long learners. In fact, when the sympathetic nervous system is activated with power-over situations (such as policing), learning isn't even possible. Students learn best when they are taught to respect their own voice and the voices of others. When they are engaged with their community, and recognized for their efforts, bad habits naturally fall aside, and curiosity, creativity, and citizenship improves dramatically.. It falls upon teachers, not cops, to teach people how to socialize and care about the world around them.</p> <p>Admit it, you only want to increase cop presence to protect the piggy-banks of the rich investors that have infiltrated this town. It is not to protect the people who live here.</p> <p>I have both personally seen and heard stories from other teachers about the shifts that are happening when we dare to bring the real world into the classroom. The interesting thing is that research shows that social, and project-based learning is actually in line with the latest studies in neuroscience and economics. So, by decreasing the fear tactics, and nurturing the connections, respect and kindness between individuals and the world, we evolve as human beings. Teachers and community leaders need more support to make this magic happen. Just like in nature DIVERSITY is where it's at. Not fear. Not control. Diversity. And love.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Best regards, Jessica Thistlegrove</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 3:25:00 PM	6/9/20 Budget Hearing- Decrease and Reallocate APD Budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at or below the poverty line. 2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules 3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources 4. Free higher education 5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods 6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools 7. Free health clinics 8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you, Thomas Cook</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 3:42:00 PM	<p>Fwd: Community Demands in Redirecting Money from Asheville Police Department's Budget and CESF grant</p>	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lex and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about fiscal year 2021 budget proposal:</p> <p>*DEMANDS:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - *NO to the \$400,000 increase in the APD budget. * - *SIGNIFICANT DECREASE to the proposed \$30 million to the APD and* - *REALLOCATION to mental health services, youth programming, and infrastructure such as transit access and affordable housing.* - *TRANSPARENCY and ACCOUNTABILITY with the \$153,000 CESF funding to the APD to be used for the prevention, protection and response to the coronavirus. NO MORE TEAR GAS and ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE DESTROYED MEDICAL SUPPLIES. Transparency on how the police department will use these funds to actually support public health and safety. * <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more *overt and visible commitment to racial justice*. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards *an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD*, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a *living wage*, access to *community holistic health services and treatment*, *educational opportunity*, and *stable and affordable housing* are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we *DEFUND* them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>-Lex</p> <p>Sent from Mail <https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986> for Windows 10</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 3:45:00 PM	Asheville Budget vote - delay and redirect funds to social programs	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is William Jones and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, *I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.*</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Increasing the budget of a police force that has a history of misconduct is not the answer.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, William Jones</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 3:48:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rebecca Boyce and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rebecca Boyce</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 3:48:00 PM	upcoming budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kelcey Loomer and I'm a resident of East Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kelcey Loomer Haw Creek</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 3:51:00 PM	Our city budget in regards to racial justice in our community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alex Loomer and I am local business owner and resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alex Loomer</p> <p>-- seedandsky.com 828-808-4227</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 4:02:00 PM	Reallocate Police Department Funds, and Support a Strategic Plan for Community-Centered Care	<p>My name is Chehala Andriananajason, and I am a resident of Asheville. Our city needs to take an overt and visible commitment to racial justice, and reflect that with the FY2021 Budget Proposal, and with clear actionable strategic plans.</p> <p>Our budget vote must be delayed and police funds reallocated. The Asheville Police Department's budget is the largest single item in the City of Asheville General Fund. For many years, the community has called for City leaders to move funds from the police budget to address racial inequities, the racial wealth and opportunity gaps, police brutality, affordable housing and transportation.</p> <p>Our City Council needs to act now.</p> <p>We must allocate these funds towards community-centered efforts. A living wage, access to health and mental services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are all far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. Cities around the nation are taking note and Asheville must not be left behind. Let our city truly listen to our communities by reducing funds to police, and funding the programs that lift up and support those disproportionately targeted by state-sanctioned violence.</p> <p>We've been listening to the statements and press releases by the city and the police, and we know you've been watching and hearing us in the streets. But public statements are not enough. Our city needs real change. And while you must reallocate funds, that is not enough. Our city needs an actionable plan.</p> <p>A serious strategic plan could look like taking those reallocated funds to create a new City department of peace and well-being. This department would be tasked with the care and safety of our communities. Under this new department, there could be new roles to support the peace of the City and the true well-being of its residents; *unarmed support teams* could be dispatched as first responders. This has been done in other cities-- it can be done here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A team of social workers, counselors, mediators/negotiators * A team trained in domestic violence * Neighborhood leaders as peer support mediators * Unarmed citizens to handle the flow and safety of traffic * More advocates to uphold equity & civil liberties in housing, employment, etc... * Services for healing stress and trauma <p>And again, we must allocate funds towards investment in current and incubation of African American and Latinx owned businesses, equitable economic and educational opportunities, living wage jobs, affordable housing, transportation. These actions will move Asheville towards truly supporting, protecting & serving our communities.</p> <p>We know you care-- prove it to yourself, and all of us here in Asheville.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/5/2020 4:20:00 PM

Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,

I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.

Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <<https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.

Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.

Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?

Thank you,

Kelli Matheny



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 4:31:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cameron Saunders and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Cameron Saunders</p>
6/5/2020 4:33:00 PM	From a resident	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Bryan Matheny</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 4:39:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Porter Watson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Porter</p>
6/5/2020 4:40:00 PM	Advocating for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million dollar budget!	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million dollar budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>My name is Susan Kitson and my family moved here 15yrs ago and we love living in Asheville! I own my own business that I run out of my house. We actually moved here because of art, music, food, and the cool vibe that Asheville has.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive deescalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protester's with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of use of force policies.</p> <p>APD also destroyed a medical triage tent and medical supplies which was so unnecessary! You all should be thankful they were there to help people who were hurt or needed medical attention.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, and in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>This funding should be reallocated to helping youth find jobs, health initiatives and "peace centers" to heal trauma, and will allow those who have suffered from discrimination to collect damages.</p> <p>It's time to make a change in a system that no longer works!</p> <p>Sincerely, Susan Kitson 828-329-1184</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 4:46:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Benjamin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Benjamin Chappelow</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 5:50:00 PM	2021 Budget Request	<p>Council members:</p> <p>With everything that is going on in our city and country this is an incredibly tense time and I understand the stress you're currently under. Thank you for taking the time to read this email and please hear what I'm saying as genuine concern from a citizen, tax payer, voter, homeowner, local business owner, and human being.</p> <p>What I have witnessed this week in Asheville has been beyond disturbing and shows a lack of commitment to racial justice, free speech, or decency. Our black community members and allies that show up to protest the wrongful death of George Floyd are not punching bags for politically angry, fearful, officers to terrorize. If the environmental activists that occupy City Hall were treated the same way as the black citizens and allies currently protesting in our city, riots would be erupting weekly in Asheville. The double-standard evident in policing tactics at this moment have not gone unnoticed.</p> <p>From the decisions of the City of Asheville over the past week it seems like there may be a lack of awareness of the minute-by-minute reality of these protests from any source other than the Asheville police department. I would strongly encourage you to watch one of the live streams in community groups that pop up each evening- They're incredibly informative and helpful in understanding the perspective of protesters and the anger at the decisions of the Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>My wife and I have watched every live stream of every protest since Sunday and participated in Thursday's vigil. What I have seen is the Asheville Police Department's failure to correctly arrest opportunistic white individuals throwing fireworks who were obviously participating for the sole purpose of instigating violence. Instead of arresting these people with bad intentions (that were also being policed by the crowd of honest protesters) the police threw tear gas at hundreds of people. I have seen the Asheville Police Department chase citizens down in the street during a peaceful march after tear gas was used to break up a protest post-curfew. I have seen the water, gatorade, and sterile saline that I donated to city-approved medics slashed and drained by police officers while I watched on a protester's live stream. I kneeled in a crowd of peaceful hundreds, listening to the experiences of black community members, while armed service members of the Asheville Police Department and National Guard stood near the police station waiting for violence to erupt.</p> <p>This is bad policing, poor leadership, and I absolutely, completely, believe that we can do better. Curfews only silence free speech. Blanketing crowds with tear gas because of a curfew and a blatant unwillingness to make correct arrests of opportunistic agitators only proves protesters right. Destroying medical supplies at the behest of city officials who think that riot gear can't stand up to water bottles thrown by bad actors is inhumane and shows poor judgement. If you want people to believe you have good intentions in your work, prove it with your actions.</p> <p>As a gay person I know that the movement to ensure my right to marry my wife was started with a riot against police brutality after decades of police targeting and brutalizing people like me. This is not the first time people in our country have been put in a position where leaders won't listen to anything other than constant, tense, protests. The curfew that the city has enacted serves the same purpose as it did after Stonewall; silencing the free speech that makes officials uncomfortable. It should more uncomfortable to us to sit quietly and indifferently while black people are being brutalized and murdered at the hands of police. Who am I to say that someone else shouldn't push back against police in the same way that my queer elders did in order to gain some sense of security while walking across a street in my city? These actions and movements are not new. The police are just newly afraid.</p> <p>I ask the City of Asheville City Council to immediately remove the Chief of Police, David Zack for escalating violence against citizens exercising their right to free speech and encouraging a culture of police aggression and racism towards black citizens. I call on the City of Asheville City Council to adopt meaningful, accountable, transparent, and rigorous police reforms that result in the termination of officers not committed to ending police brutality and racial discrimination. I ask that the Asheville Police Department terminate every officer with three or more documented complaints of excessive violence and for officers who turned off their body cameras during protests to be placed on leave until investigations can be made into their actions. Lastly, I call on the City of Asheville City Council to defund the Asheville Police Department and direct those monies toward strengthening black communities.</p> <p>I also ask the City of Asheville to release the body cam footage of every officer at each protest over the past week and for all communications between police, the National Guard, and city officials since protests began to be made public.</p> <p>I believe in what the future of our city and nation can be if we do the right thing, listen to the people who are most impacted, and hold one another accountable.</p> <p>Thanks for your time,</p> <p>Micah Nielsen</p> <p>-- Micah L. Nielsen Cell: (406) 690-1328</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 6:12:00 PM	City Budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Carrie Donaldson -- I have been a resident of Asheville for over 10 years now.</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line.2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources4. Free higher education5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools7. Free health clinics8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Carrie Donaldson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 6:24:00 PM	Stop the use of tear gas on protestors!	<p>Police should not be using chemical weapons against protestors in Asheville or anywhere! Tear gas also puts protestors at a much higher risk of Covid-19 transmission by attacking peoples respiratory systems causing people to cough. The destruction of medical supplies by APD was disgusting and all officers involved and the police chief need to be held accountable. NO more funds should be given the police department.</p>
6/5/2020 6:53:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nate Tadlock and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>It is despicable that the police, a group we charge with keeping the community safe, would destroy supplies meant to help people, and that they would put lives in danger by preventing injured people from getting medical care. I do not approve of a terrorist organization with badges and guns putting my community at risk and maliciously inflicting damage.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Nate Tadlock</p>
6/5/2020 7:01:00 PM	Defund the Asheville Police Department Citizen Request	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Camille and I'm a rising senior at UNC Asheville. With recent events including excessive force used by the Asheville Police Department in handling medics and protestors (tear gas, destroying medical supplies, pushing/hitting peaceful protestors), I write to you to DEMAND that financial cuts be made to the Asheville Police Department's \$29.6 million budget. I am strongly AGAINST the \$400,000 increase to their department that the city has in the 2020-2021 budget draft. We have some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in North Carolina and outright discrimination, hostility, and violence toward Black residents. The Asheville Police Department in NO WAY has proven willingness to change these unacceptable behaviors, and thus they do not deserve the budget that they have nor an increase of any kind. This funding should instead go to community needs like affordable housing and transit as urban renewal has PUSHED OUT our Black community and left them with little to no support. To reiterate, I demand that funding toward the Asheville Police Department be ENORMOUSLY cut and redirected to the Black community's needs.</p> <p>Sincerely, Camille</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 7:30:00 PM	REDUCE FUNDING FOR ASHEVILLE PD	<p>Hi Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I hope this message finds you all healthy and well.</p> <p>I am an Asheville native, graduate of Asheville High School, and a former social work in Asheville. I strongly oppose a budget measure you are considering soon. I was very angry to see video https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/nation/2020/06/03/asheville-north-carolina-police-seen-destroying-protesters-supplies/3135539001/?fbclid=IwAR2YxOtiPT3rY-8X2sWGkZRNscwKomeUgMT4XS80VHy59xZrwQ764wKkho of your police officers destroying water bottles at a medical station this week. After such violence, I think it is most appropriate to reduce the police's budget rather than increase it. Studies https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/31/the-answer-to-police-violence-is-not-reform-its-defunding-heres-why?fbclid=IwAR2nNWvznpGKYgFLQEvfQW-cmN4uw1ApzCvEp9P756d9VwYvgJC4NrQPEws have shown that moving funding from police to mental health and social programs result in less deaths.</p> <p>Please reject the APD's rejected budget increase, and reduce their budget instead.</p> <p>Thank you, Oliana Luke</p> <p>-- *Oliana Luke* Pronouns: she/her/hers 828.337.3849 oliana.luke@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 8:20:00 PM	City of Asheville 2020 Budget Process - Reject APD Funding Request	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Hunter Long and I am writing today to demand that the *Asheville Police Department's requested budget increase for 2021 be* *rejected*, and that allocations be shifted from APD's existing budget to other programs that will address the systemic racism that continues to affect our community.</p> <p>The department's disturbing use of force, both during recent protests and in the past (particularly the 2017 excessive use of force incident involving Johnnie Jermaine Rush), are grounds for the council to seriously reconsider funding for a department that has proven itself unable to ensure public safety for all.</p> <p>In particular, city council can redirect crucial resources towards significantly expanding next year's budget for *Equity & Inclusion*, which will bring more minority-owned businesses to Asheville; *Planning & Urban Design*, which will lead to more affordable housing studies; and *Transit*. Additionally, a city-wide cost of living wage increase and a community and economic development program focused on affordable housing and homelessness would ensure that our community's most vulnerable members are safe in Asheville.</p> <p>I urge you to do your part in making sure that the city of Asheville is safe for people of color, and to redirect additional APD funding to programs that will protect our community.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hunter</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 8:47:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Denise Davies and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Denise Davies</p>
6/5/2020 9:04:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Marie Dobbins and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah Marie Dobbins</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/5/2020 9:05:00 PM

Police Budget

Hello,

My name is Quincy Kitson and I am a resident of Asheville NC. I am writing now to call for major cuts to the Asheville Police department's budget in the forthcoming review on June 9th. With some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in the state, a history of outright discrimination and violence towards Black residents, and recent record of officers destroying essential protester supplies like water and medical materials, the APD has not earned an increased budget, especially when other services like public housing and transit are so underfunded. I am calling for city council to significantly cut the APD's Budget immediately.

Defund the APD now,

Quincy Kitson



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Shonie Kuykendall. I moved to Asheville in 2009 to start my college career and have lived here since then. I love my city.</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. Even the Water Resources Department, Community & Economic Dev. Dept, and Planning & Urban Design budgets have decreased within the last few years. Why? For that additional funding to be outright wasted on the police department?</p> <p>These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line.2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources4. Free higher education5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools7. Free health clinics8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most -- on things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Say it with me - black lives matter. It will be even more blatantly obvious how disposable you find black bodies to be if you decide not to listen to the people of your city to reallocate these funds to better our collective livelihoods.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 9:28:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget. I am a social worker, educator, and community member who has lived here for nearly a decade.</p> <p>I've been closely following the behavior of the APD and the ways they've been allowed to antagonize black communities. Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on black communities, APD chose to meet protesters with tear gas. This approach comes even after a public overhaul of the use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, and in fact, demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department. Police funding should be reallocated to meet community needs such as affordable housing, public transportation, and other programs to address systemic racism. We can and must do better.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kortney Conner</p>
6/5/2020 9:34:00 PM	APD Funding	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget. I am a financial professional and community member who has lived here for nearly a decade.</p> <p>I've been closely following the behavior of the APD and the ways they've been allowed to antagonize black communities. Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on black communities, APD chose to meet protesters with tear gas. This approach comes even after a public overhaul of the use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, and in fact, demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department. Police funding should be reallocated to meet community needs such as affordable housing, public transportation, and other programs to address systemic racism. We can and must do better.</p> <p>Sincerely, Daniel T. Hughes</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 9:35:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chris Bosserman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chris Bosserman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 9:39:00 PM	2021 Budget Meeting	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Alexis Decosimo -- I have been a resident of Asheville for over 15 years now. I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line. 2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules 3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources 4. Free higher education 5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods 6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools 7. Free health clinics 8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alexis Decosimo</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 10:00:00 PM	Do not increase police funding	<p>Dear Mayor Manheimer and AVL Council,</p> <p>My name is Nicole Soper Gorden. I've lived in western NC for several years now, and work at Mars Hill University. I'm contacting you regarding the fiscal year 2021 budget proposal, and the urgent need to reassess increased funding for the AVL police. The world has watched the Asheville Police Department destroy medical supplies and deploy tear gas with children present. Your police officers have assaulted medics, and harmed your constituents. Their actions track with their legacy of racist violence in our mountain town. Increasing the police budget at a time when there are so many greater needs and concerns in the community is irresponsible and tone-deaf.</p> <p>I demand Asheville City Council make an overt and visible commitment to racial justice. In immediate terms, that means either cutting any proposed budget cuts for the AVL police or (preferably) delaying the budget vote to allow time to redirect money to more worthy community needs that directly address racial inequality in our city. If anything, there should be an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures away from AVL police, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to health services, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). I demand more aggressive financial support for those areas, as well as for other important and timely issues, such as COVID-19 response and issues of food security in underserved communities. Our poor communities and communities of color are disproportionate targets of police violence and it is beyond time to begin repairing the damage done.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed. Will there be consequences for giving the order for AVL police to destroy medical supplies at protests? Will there be protection for cops who speak out about violence? Will there be a focus on de-escalation, racial sensitivity, and other training? What other ways can we hold our police force accountable for their actions?</p> <p>Please, for the sake of our community, consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nicole Soper Gorden</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 10:15:00 PM	Redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alena Klimas and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Alena resident of West Asheville --</p> <p>*Alena Klimas* Writer & Co-founder expatalachians Asheville, NC</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/5/2020 10:47:00 PM	FY2020 budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I would like to request a line item budget be made publicly available for residents to review. Specifically, the budget for the APD. I feel strongly, and I believe it's obvious that other residents do as well, that the APD is irresponsibly using funds to pay for items such as tear gas and less-than-lethal munitions rather than training and technology that would aid in nonviolent resolutions. Overall I feel the APD should be defunded drastically. What little money does come through the APD's budget, I feel should be spent on de-escalation training, staff mental evaluations, and items that would aid the public they serve.</p> <p>The APD has lost the trust of Asheville's residents and they have also stained our city's reputation nationally across the media. Those that support a budget increase for the APD condone the APD's actions over the last week, and should be ashamed. Please consider redirecting funds towards education or parks instead. It is time for change.</p> <p>Thank you, A concerned citizen</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Madame Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Members of the Council,</p> <p>I am writing to request that at the 9 June City Council meeting, the council take steps to address the accountability and reform of the Asheville police department. The agenda doesn't include this topic, and therefore I am copying the comment box, but wanted to send this directly to y'all. Watching the video of militarized police destroying the medic/water tent was appalling.</p> <p>There are clearly immediate actions the Council could take. I'll recommend a couple I hope the council would consider taking in the short-term. I would like to know whether the Council would support these recommendations.</p> <p>The current moment and public attention on police brutality has created a real political opportunity for the council to take action that previously would have been politically difficult, and this is why I urge the Council to seize the moment and to address this next week.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an independent oversight body with subpoena authority, and make it a prohibited act to interfere in this body's police oversight efforts. I myself work for a federal public health agency, and we are subject to oversight by both the HHS Inspector General and the Comptroller General of the Legislative Branch (who leads the Government Accountability). Part of my job involves dealing with oversight requests, and oversight audits make my agency better. They can also be a part of making Asheville PD more accountable. This is a proven, effective approach to good governance. If the council would like to consult on how to do this, I suggest this Congressional Research Primer on the Inspector General Act of 1978 and related history of the creation and operation of federal inspectors general: https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43814.pdf. This could be a city government wide or Asheville PD focused body (some cities, such as New Orleans, have a city-wide Inspector General office). I would be happy to provide more information given my experience in federal oversight mechanisms. 2. Use the power of the purse to reduce the ability of the police to abuse its power against Asheville residents. I previously worked for an Appropriator in the US Senate, and am very aware that a legislative body can use funding measures to compel action to prevent action via defunding it. A small first step could be prohibiting the use of city funds for Asheville PD to obtain militarized gear, equipment, and chemical crowd control agents. I understand police officers need weapons and bullet proof vests. I do not understand why our police needed riot gear to destroy a medic tent and bottled water. And such savings can be redirected to help fund an oversight body. <p>Addressing police brutality and institutionalized racism will be a marathon. Longer term suggestions I have include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider hiring and recruiting requirements that ensure the Asheville PD represents Asheville. In my experience as a hiring manager in a federal agency, staffing shapes policy and culture. So, if there are ways Asheville can target hiring and recruitment, this can pay dividends in reforming the Agency's culture from the ground up. Diversity requirements (race, gender, etc) and residency requirements/thresholds/recruitment can help this. I think there's a real trend of a problem of police officers who live outside cities that they police, sometimes abusively. There's evidence that hiring more residents, women, minority, and LGBT officers reduces abusive policing practices. Many of these recommendations and basis for them can be found in this EEOC report: https://www.eeoc.gov/advancing-diversity-law-enforcement



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 12:19:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Amanda Citro. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Amanda Citro</p>
6/6/2020 1:45:00 AM	Defund the police	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of the use of forceful policies.</p> <p>This does NOT ensure public trust, and, in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We CANNOT continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>One way to fight police brutality and reimagine public safety is to move more money away from the police force and into other programs that focus on education, affordable housing, economic security, and mental health. Many social service agencies and community organizations can serve as alternatives to violence. I demand that the \$30,057,325 that is allocated for the police department instead goes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equity & Inclusion, which is meant to bring more minority-owned businesses to AVL -A citywide cost-of-living wage increase -Planning & Urban Design, which leads to affordable housing studies -Transit, which is underfunded against the 2018 Transit Master Plan -A community and economic development program focused on affordable housing/homelessness <p>It's time to defund the APD and reallocate those funds to places that would better serve black people and black communities. Black lives matter. Asheville needs to step up. There are no excuses.</p> <p>Sincerely, Leah Atkinson</p>
6/6/2020 2:00:00 AM	Law Enforcement	<p>Howdy!</p> <p>Just wanted to drop in and voice my belief that we need to absolutely de-militarize our local law enforcement. As well as reduce funding. It's a travesty that public education receives less funding than APD!</p> <p>Respectfully, Lon Springer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 9:00:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rosa Friedrichs and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591451445280000&sa=D&ust=1591451445290000&usg=AFQjCNHsw42QB63aodU1FYQhmEdHme5lrA>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rosa Friedrichs</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 9:15:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nina and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591452333851000&sa=D&ust=1591452333876000&usg=AFQjCNGyKmod8V6nlbYKka0XzD45K_sVjg>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nina Hendrickson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 9:59:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Gina Angel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Gina Angel</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 10:14:00 AM	June 9 Council Meeting	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Andrew Hayes -- I have been a resident of Asheville for over 10 years now. I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at or below the poverty line. 2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules 3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources 4. Free higher education 5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods 6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools 7. Free health clinics 8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andrew Hayes 75 Houston st Asheville NC 28801</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 10:27:00 AM	City of Asheville 2020 Budget Process - Reject APD Funding Request	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Colbert. As a frequent visitor to Asheville, I've been following local news, and I was disgusted to see the Asheville police department's destruction of medical supplies at a recent protest. APD needs to do far more than verbally apologize for such an egregious attack on peaceful medical providers.</p> <p>I am writing today to demand that the *Asheville Police Department's requested budget increase for 2021 be* *rejected*, and that allocations be shifted from APD's existing budget to other programs that will address the systemic racism that continues to affect our community.</p> <p>The department's disturbing use of force, both during recent protests and in the past (particularly the 2017 excessive use of force incident involving Johnnie Jermaine Rush), are grounds for the council to seriously reconsider funding for a department that has proven itself unable to ensure public safety for all.</p> <p>In particular, city council can redirect crucial resources towards significantly expanding next year's budget for *Equity & Inclusion*, which will bring more minority-owned businesses to Asheville; *Planning & Urban Design*, which will lead to more affordable housing studies; and *Transit*. Additionally, a city-wide cost of living wage increase and a community and economic development program focused on affordable housing and homelessness would ensure that our community's most vulnerable members are safe in Asheville.</p> <p>I urge you to do your part in making sure that the city of Asheville is safe for people of color, and to redirect additional APD funding to programs that will protect our community.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hannah Colbert Portland, ME</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 11:31:00 AM	2020-2021 BUDGET PROPOSAL	<p>To whom it may concern, My name is Marlea Kunst and I am calling for our city leaders to make policy and budgetary commitments to help our city with the equity and racial healing that is needed.</p> <p>The Asheville Police Department's budget for \$29.6 million is the largest single item in the City of Asheville's General Fund. For many years, the community has called for City leaders to move funds from the police budget to address racial inequities, the racial wealth and opportunity gaps, police brutality, affordable housing and transportation.</p> <p>As a citizen of Asheville, I do not want the APD to receive a \$400,000 budget increase, and instead want it put into something that can help my community. A serious strategic plan could look like creating a new City department of peace and well-being tasked with the care and safety of people and communities. Under this new department, there could be new roles to support the peace of the City and the well-being of its residents; unarmed support teams could be dispatched at a moments notice.</p> <p>The Black citizens of your City should not have to fear for their lives when they cross the street or drive on the highway. Medical stations cannot be destroyed in the future again. We want our children to grow up safe. We call for our city leaders to make policy and budgetary commitments to back up their words in this hour. This is true equity and racial healing, this is the first step.</p> <p>Sincerely, Marlea Kunst</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 11:44:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget:	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Megan Piscitelle and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>As a Master's of Social Work Student and longtime non-profit worker, I have witnessed how our poor communities and communities of color are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Megan Piscitelle</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 11:46:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Casey Ellis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Casey Ellis</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 12:00:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Agnes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department and their continued negligence, nestruction of public trust, and overinflated budget. While I understand that federal DHS funds received must be spent, I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures. Funds are currently being taken away from the community are going towards a militarized police force rather back into the community that supports them, as well as the city of Asheville. Please allocate funds towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Agnes</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 12:19:00 PM	Asheville Budget	<p>Hello City Council,</p> <p>Thank you for stepping into an important leadership role. I know your positions are often thankless and tiring.</p> <p>I'm writing to weigh in on budget issues in advance of your budget meeting June 9th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Do not approve the proposed increase in Asheville Police Department budget.- Pay Asheville Firefighters a living wage.- Provide increased transparency in the budget process generally. <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Joel McCombs Asheville resident -- Joel McCombs 336.480.1686</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 12:23:00 PM	budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Elizabeth Rose Leonhart-Shipman, I have lived in Asheville since 2014.</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by drastically decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, studies across the globe have shown that in cities where money has been put towards social programs rather than the criminal system crime is decreased and the health and wellness of the community is improved.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>The service industry, which largely supports our tourist based economy does not pay enough for people to live in this city, and during a crisis like this, shows the cracks in our economic reliance on tourism. Our homeless population is only left in more dire straits when we set curfews and limit our spending on programs that would help them, amidst rents rising, and wages staying stagnant. On a personal note, I would urge you to focus more on transportation with the view of it as a public service to help people access services and work. I commute to Hendersonville, I know it's a long way off, but why isn't there a train? It would not only reduce traffic, help workers and employers, but it would allow for tourists to transit between the two cities more readily once we open back up. And when they do come back, don't we want a strong and resilient community that is supported in their health and welfare by programs that support them rather than kill and criminalize them?</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards the reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote the physical and emotional well-being of all people in Asheville. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training for mental health professionals/social workers to respond to 311 calls: to intervene, de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources- rather than police intervention which often exacerbates and escalates people in the middle of a mental health crisis 2. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities (accessible, within reach of food and jobs) for low income people. 3. Transportation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improved low-cost public transit and increased hours for bus schedules b) Invest in a Rail system c) Bike Ways for commuters - the latter two would lessen the need for parking and decrease traffic and thereby emissions. 4. Free/low-cost health and food assistance programs. -- a former co-worker of mine lived in a trailer with his girlfriend, also employed, with no electricity or running water (not by choice but lack of affordability elsewhere). They were underinsured and only able to get \$13/month in food assistance. Because of the disparities my co-worker faced and the lack of services he turned to drugs, and the system that was supposedly meant to help him, failed him once again. 5. Invest in green energy jobs training and infrastructure --we cannot continue to rely on the tourist economy so much, and the future need for alternative energy sources only proves that we would do better to improve the quality of life in this city and our future stability by investing in new and more sustainable sectors. <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Elizabeth R Leonhart-Shipman aka Rosie Ship she/her Production Associate, Western Carolina Sewing Company</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 12:26:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Martin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591463828339000&sa=D&ust=1591463828350000&usg=AFQjCNG33YoSU1pML3pEDCAAyU_kaKe80Q>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Martin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 12:59:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is McKenzie Toma and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591466059825000&sa=D&ust=1591466059837000&usg=AFQjCNEE4-deq8Dpx2FCauBh18kNDPuzOw>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>McKenzie Toma</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Skylar Elliott Casey and I live just outside of Asheville in Farivew, NC and spend a large percent of my disposable income in the Asheville city limits (generating revenue for the city budget). I am writing today about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>The black community has stood up and is demanding a reinvestment in their community and I stand with them. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. The budget shows where a community's priorities are focused.</p> <p>This is why I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget towards improving the lives of Asheville's black citizens. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591465764598000&sa=D&ust=1591465764619000&usg=AFQjCNFqHzj7q87nPf7xNFNJU5ZegtaFg>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Asheville Police have had their own controversial police killings and beatings. It would help restore the faith of the black community by making a commitment to support them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/6/2020 1:06:00 PM	2021 Budget - Less \$ for Police, More \$ for Community	Skylar Elliott Casey
6/6/2020 1:10:00 PM	Govco MUST continue B I G APD budget increases yearly to offset the rising crime in AVL, especially in the poorly policed public housing communities, from where much of the crime emanates!	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 1:51:00 PM	City Council June 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Carrie Moran. I am an Asheville resident. I'm contacting you urgently about Mayor Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. The world has watched the Asheville Police Department destroy medical supplies and deploy tear gas with children present. Your police officers have assaulted medics, and harmed your constituents. Their actions track with their legacy of racist violence in our mountain town.</p> <p>It's time to defund the police.</p> <p>I demand Asheville City Council make an overt and visible commitment to racial justice. You must delay the budget vote so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from the dangerous Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>It's time to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to health services, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>I demand more aggressive financial support for those areas. Our poor communities and communities of color are disproportionate targets of police violence and it is beyond time to begin repairing the damage done.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Carrie Moran</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 2:30:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Galen Marshall-Clark and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Galen Marshall-Clark</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 2:59:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mairead Kealy and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy<https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Mairead Kealy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 3:04:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>My name is Mary Bolch and I am a resident of Asheville, writing about Mayor Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I demand the budget vote be delayed so that the council can find ways to redirect money away from the APD's overinflated budget. I urge the council to pressure the city manager's office toward an ethical reallocation of the city's expenditures away from APD and toward sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. It is your job as council representatives to speak for every member of our community--especially those of us who are marginalized, whether by race or class or both, and especially because those folks are the disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>I do not believe the police can simply be reformed, because our modern policing system is built upon racism and classism. As such, I believe the only way to combat the issue of police brutality is to defund the police and direct those monies to social programs that better serve our community. I urge you all to consider an alternative budget, or else our city will vote you out of office and we will keep protesting.</p> <p>Thank you, Mary Bolch</p>
6/6/2020 3:38:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Madison Fiedler and I was raised in Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Madison Fiedler</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 3:42:00 PM	8958 - APD Budget	<p>Hi Council,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Conrad, I live in West Asheville, and I'm writing today about the APD Budget.</p> <p>I'm asking you to stop the proposed increased funding to the APD. They do not need it. Our community, and specifically the black community NEEDS that funding in other areas.</p> <p>We NEED it for affordable housing, we NEED it for education, we NEED it for public public programs that actually support the black community like mental health care and transit. We NEED it for programs that support economic stability and support. We need it for change and to fight back against the structural racism that is in our city.</p> <p>If you care about the black community, please do not approve the funding for the APD.</p> <p>Lauren</p>
6/6/2020 5:47:00 PM	Redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Alexandra Sindaco and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Alex.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 5:54:00 PM	Redirect money away from APD budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Gabe Norman and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Gabe</p>
6/6/2020 6:39:00 PM	Asheville 2021 Budget	<p>Hello, my name is Kaitlyn Hobbs. I'm a Buncombe county resident . I am writing about the Asheville 2021 Budget that will be voted on June 23rd. I am asking that the Asheville City Council and Mayor Esther Manheimer make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. The budget vote needs to be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from APD's overinflated budget of \$30,057,325, towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racism and class inequality.</p> <p>Living wages, access to health services and treatment and educational opportunity are FAR more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons- in a community that is supposed to be more progressive and accepting of all, I don't see how these areas are not receiving more financial support already.</p> <p>Due to a deep rooted history of systemic racism, not only here but the whole country and world, our poor communities and communities of color are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. The APD must be defunded now.</p> <p>Thank you, Kaitlyn Hobbs</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 7:36:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>Asheville City Police are a dangerous force running amok in our streets. They are using horrible weapons - weapons condemned by our own lawmakers - against peaceful citizens exercising their legal rights to assembly and freedom of speech. They are attacking the homeless, they are attacking people of color, and they are attacking your rights. Asheville Police must be defunded for the safety of our citizens. This is an urgent matter.</p> <p>Asheville City Police are a dangerous force with dangerous amounts of money. They are misusing this money not to protect but to petrify, not to serve but to scare. They receive funds for homeless outreach but instead terrorize the homeless community. They receive money for body cameras that are mysteriously missing or terribly turned off. They benefit directly from white supremacy and are given untold amounts to spread their mis-message in our city. Asheville Police must be defunded for the safety of our citizens. This is an urgent matter.</p> <p>Asheville City Police are a dangerous force; there are so many others working to improve the world. Teachers and administrators run schools with less than half of the budget of the police, shaping minds and shaping the future with care instead of bullets. Libraries also provide free education, and their budget is 20% of the police budget. Is it not more important to support these two endeavors? Asheville Police must be defunded for the future of our citizens. This is an urgent matter.</p> <p>Asheville City Police are a dangerous force playing games with Black lives. Police are terrorizing Black people of all ages, in public and in their homes, and it must stop. Police are torturing and murdering Black people for their Blackness, and it MUST stop. Asheville Police must be defunded for the very lives of our citizens. This is an urgent matter.</p> <p>Vote no on all increases to police budgets. Vote yes to decrease police spending and budgets. Vote yes to increase spending on Health care, Education, and Community programs that keep us safe.</p> <p>This is an urgent matter. Please listen to the people in need of your help. Don't leave innocent lives for police brutality. Act now.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Adrian Schaefer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 7:37:00 PM	Public Hearing, Item D	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the death of so many black Americans. This behavior (police brutality, violence, and murder by officers of the law) which has been perpetuated locally and nationally by leaders in the law enforcement community, cannot ever happen in Asheville again. Our black community members are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is Asheville.</p> <p>At protests on 5/31 and 6/1, the Asheville Police Force used tear gas on protesters. The use of tear gas on protesters is a violation of human rights as recognized by the United Nations. According to the Washington Post, the United Nations' mandates that "to be lawful under international norms, the use of less-lethal weapons - as for conventional firearms - must be restricted to situations of necessity and in proportion to the associated risks. In other words, the force used must be the very minimum required under the circumstances at hand"(https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/06/01/police-us-are-abusing-tear-gas-rubber-bullets-possible-violations-international-law/).</p> <p>The use of tear gas in response to water bottles and fireworks is not proportional considering that the police were in riot gear. Additionally, tear gas does not discriminate and has the potential to harm the vast majority of protestors who were peacefully protesting. I demand that you ban the use of tear gas on civilians by the Asheville Police.</p> <p>I also demand the defunding of the Asheville City Police. The APD currently has the highest budget out of any public organization in Asheville. This funding only furthers their militarization. The proposed expenditures for Asheville Police in the 2020-21 fiscal year equal 30,057,325 (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nzuBlu-9zwy75fGMMi10Rm_R_L8j57bG/view). This needs to be cut by 50-75%, and funds must be reallocated toward education, equity and inclusion, and sustainability.</p> <p>This is a moment in history when everyone must make a choice - we can either choose to stand with those advocating for progress or choose to be part of the problem. I hope you choose to be on the right side of history.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Sam Bible-Sullivan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 9:43:00 PM	June 9 Meeting: Redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Selma Neel and I'm a resident of Asheville, a native of WNC, and a dedicated teacher in our local schools. I am writing about my concerns regarding Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal to be discussed in the June 9th meeting.</p> <p>I love our city and believe that it is our duty to ensure the fair protection of all Asheville residents. Because of this, I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by reallocating the funds intended to increase the budget of the Asheville Police Department. I ask that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from the Asheville Police Department and into areas that will support our city's progress in racial justice.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Our poor communities and communities of color are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we place our financial support in the other areas named above.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Selma Neel</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/6/2020 10:46:00 PM	Regarding FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Karie Reinertson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>*I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.*</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591501354226000&sa=D&ust=1591501354238000&usg=AFQjCNEfckdGR8Ahkk3ff55hGEbbvIIWdg>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Karie Reinertson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Jared Hernandez -- a fairly new resident of Asheville but one who loves this community so much I decided to make this city my home. I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line.2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources4. Free higher education5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools7. Free health clinics8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-Jared Hernandez jared.claims@gmail.com (305) 878-7681</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Riley West -- I have been a resident of Asheville since 2008.</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at or below the poverty line.2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources4. Free higher education5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower-income neighborhoods6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools7. Free health clinics8. Support the city's 100% renewable goal9. Bike lane infrastructure <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Riley West</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 9:37:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I'm an Asheville resident, and I'm writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ela Twigg</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 10:21:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Casey Hughes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591542624347000&sa=D&ust=1591542624359000&usg=AFQjCNHwFibGKphzLuZdfLgZMLvSYw9Bdg). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Casey Hughes</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 11:04:00 AM	Defund the APD	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a significant reduction in the 2.5 million dollar budget increase slated for the APD in 2020. Additionally to petition *NO* for the requested \$400,000 increase in budget for APD in the 2020-2021.</p> <p>My name is Kayla Zuskin, I have lived and worked in Asheville for 5 years. I am a musician, music educator, and music engineer. I have also spent time in the Asheville service industry and on the streets of Asheville busking.</p> <p>During my third year of living in Asheville I lived on Hanover Street next to the Pisgah View Apartments and was constantly privy to the unjust policing of this area. My neighbors in Pisgah View were and are just like you and I. Working hard to support their families, build opportunities for their children and care for the elderly and disabled in their midst. All the while, Asheville Police would patrol the area with no clear, or obvious reason for their presence.</p> <p>Despite years of advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de escalation training and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing continue to exist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust and in fact it demonstrates a blatant disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>Instead of sowing the seeds of fear and allowing hate to prevail investing in further community programming for all ages, a housing credit system that would allow these communities to move beyond their segregated areas (yes asheville is still segregated), mental health and physical health services, and school funding, and in turn you will create a vibrant community. A community that acts as a true community.</p> <p>A community is defined as "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals."</p> <p>Sincerely, Kayla Zuskin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Madeleine Richardson -- I have been a resident of Asheville for over 8 years now.</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line.2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources4. Free higher education5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools7. Free health clinics8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madeleine Richardson Videographer Wicked Weed Brewing c: *336.407.4029* *: www.wickedweedbrewing.com <http://www.wickedweedbrewing.com/> *</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 11:11:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Martine Jones and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, *I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.*</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Increasing the budget of a police force that has a history of misconduct is not the answer.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Martine Jones</p> <p>-- Dr. Martine Jones, Psy.D. Owner and Psychologist at Hazel Tree Counseling Services <https://www.hazeltreecounseling.com/>- Asheville Now offering online counseling services <http://www.hazeltreeonlinecounseling.com/> (919) 907-1392</p> <p>-----</p>
6/7/2020 11:48:00 AM	Asheville Budget vote - delay and redirect funds to social programs	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 11:52:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andrew Boylan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Andrew Boylan</p>
6/7/2020 12:23:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Melody Myers and I am a nearby resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Melody Myers</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 1:40:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD and Fund Redistributive Services for Communities Instead	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dr. Andrew Paul and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Andrew Paul</p> <p>--</p> <p>Andrew Paul</p> <p>Adjunct Assistant Professor Humanities and History Departments University of North Carolina Asheville</p> <p>Adjunct Instructor History Department Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 2:43:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Reallocate funds of the APD - Alexis Schultz	<p>My name is Alexis Schultz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alexis Schultz</p>
6/7/2020 2:48:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Caroline Petty and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Caroline Petty</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 2:55:00 PM	Do NOT expand the police budget	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is Erin Schaberg and I live in West Asheville. I am writing to you to express my concern over the expansion of the city budget.</p> <p>In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, it is time for a reckoning in how we as a society invest in our communities. I am convinced that the money that would go to policing could be better spent on community development. I want my tax dollars dedicated to education, affordable housing, and services that could benefit marginalized communities and thereby Asheville as a whole.</p> <p>Again, I urge you to vote NOT to expand the police budget this week.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Erin Schaberg</p>
6/7/2020 3:01:00 PM	Defund the APD in the 2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I'm Zax, I'm a recent graduate of UNCA. I am writing about Asheville's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I ask that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591559419214000&sa=D&ust=1591559419229000&usg=AFQjCNEEHQXaq5rOlxPfnSLp0DbE6_BuqA>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Will you consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zax</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Lex Hooper. I am a white resident of Asheville.</p> <p>The city of Asheville needs to DIVEST funds from the police and INVEST in the black communities and all communities of color in Asheville.</p> <p>You need to listen to local black leaders:</p> <p>NO to the \$400,000 increase to the police department budget</p> <p>Hiring freeze for the APD: no more police!</p> <p>50% of the APD budget should be under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process, and should be invested in long term safety strategies:</p> <p>To quote local black leaders:</p> <p>"A serious strategic plan could look like creating a new City department of peace and well-being tasked with the care and safety of people and communities. Under this new department, there could be new roles to support the peace of the City and the well-being of its residents; unarmed support teams could be dispatched at a moments notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-* A team of social workers, counselors, mediators/negotiators could be hired to be dispatched where needed to support individuals and families-* A team trained in domestic violence could be dispatched to homes as needed-* Neighborhood leaders could be hired and trained to be peer support mediators-* People assigned to handle the flow and safety of traffic-* People to uphold human and civil rights in housing, employment, etc.-* Services for healing stress and trauma-* Allocating funds toward investment in current and incubation of African American and Latinx owned businesses, equitable economic and educational opportunities, living wage jobs, affordable housing, transportation, poverty remediation alleviate the root causes of crime" <p>"Communities that are the safest do not have the most police, they have the most resources!"</p> <p>https://populardemocracy.org/sites/default/files/Freedom%20To%20Thrive,%20Higher%20Res%20Version.pdf?utm_source=The+Appeal&utm_campaign=fd9386c2b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_08_09_04_14_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_72df992d84-fd9386c2b-58398463</p> <p>Other ideas:</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 3:42:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Zachary Briggs and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zachary Briggs</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 3:42:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: De-fund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Tierney Cody and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we de-fund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Tierney Cody</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am a physician who recently moved to Asheville to serve patients at Mission Hospital and train at MAHEC, and I am expressing concern on the alarming use of tear gas against protesters by the Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>Chemical irritants like tear gas are banned from use in warfare, yet we allow them to be used to cause harm on our own citizens. The use of tear gas causes injuries indiscriminately, which according to the organization Physicians for Human Rights, could be a violation of International Human Rights principles.</p> <p>Those in our community who have been gathering to protest are doing so in the wake of the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Modesto Reyes and so many other Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement. I stand with those rising up to demand change in the policies and practices that have disproportionately targeted Black communities across the US. These demands include demilitarizing the police and reducing their funding, an issue that the Council is discussing today.</p> <p>As a healthcare professional, I see the consequences of discriminatory policing on the physical and emotional health of my Black patients on a daily basis. The evidence supporting this is strong enough that researchers have deemed racism as a public health crisis, linking it to the increased burden of many medical conditions in Black communities. One recent example is the impact that COVID-19 has had in terms of the number of infections and deaths seen in the Black community. As a health professional, I acknowledge the increased risk of COVID-19 transmission during protests, which have been mitigated by practices such as widespread use of masks and hand sanitizing.</p> <p>However, the use of tear gas is in direct conflict with appropriate infection control measures in times of a pandemic . Its use can increase the risk of infection with COVID-19 by irritating the respiratory tract, increasing inflammation and inducing cough, thus dispersing droplets throughout the surrounding environment. To use a chemical that increases the risk of these symptoms in the midst of one of the deadliest infectious disease outbreaks in modern day history is irresponsible and could contribute to overwhelming an already overburdened healthcare system.</p> <p>Given that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, it is critical for us to continue to work towards flattening the curve. With that being said, I unequivocally support protesters who gather to exercise their right to call for change. An open letter by health care professionals across the nation provides other recommendations for harm reduction for those gathering for protests. https://bit.ly/PublicHealthOpenLetterSigned</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the city and the APD to prioritize the safety of our community members who are protesting for justice and reform. The use of aggressive techniques such as what has been seen in Asheville as a means of crowd control on individuals exercising their constitutional right to assemble is unconscionable. Escalation of aggression by law enforcement has led to deaths in other cities and could likely happen in Asheville if these tactics continue to be used. I implore that the APD avoid the use of tear gas and other aggressive crowd control techniques on protesters as they struggle towards a more equitable future for Black Americans. And I implore the Asheville City Council to send a strong message to APD that such crowd control techniques will not be tolerated. Finally, I strongly believe that additional funding should not be provided to a police department that has shown it's willingness to harm its own citizens, rather than serving and protecting.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 5:18:00 PM	Asheville 2021 Budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Alicia Pickett and I have been a resident of Asheville for over 20 years now. I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself disheartened and horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at or below the poverty line. 2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules 3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources 4. Free higher education 5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods 6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools 7. Free health clinics 8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you, Alicia Pickett</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 5:24:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is James Hightower and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>James Hightower</p>
6/7/2020 5:26:00 PM	June 9 Meeting: Defund APD and Invest in Our Community	<p>My name is Abigail. I live, work, invest, and pay taxes in Asheville. I'm contacting you urgently about Mayor Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. The world has watched the Asheville Police Department destroy medical supplies and deploy tear gas with children present. Your police officers have assaulted medics, and harmed your constituents. Their actions track with their legacy of racist violence in our mountain town.</p> <p>*It's time to defund the police.*</p> <p>I demand Asheville City Council make an overt and visible commitment to racial justice. You must delay the budget vote so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from the dangerous Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>It's time to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to health services, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. I demand more aggressive financial support for those areas. Our poor communities and communities of color are disproportionate targets of police violence, and it is beyond time to begin repairing the damage done.</p> <p>*Justice will only be served when the police are ABOLISHED, and this will not be possible until we defund them. The U.S.'s police force morphed from slave patrols post-emancipation. Those police forces are now the gatekeepers of the prison industrial complex, otherwise known as modern-day slavery.*</p> <p>Can I count on you to put an alternative budget in place that puts a focus on social service programs and doesn't further militarize the police force?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Abigail King</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 5:55:00 PM	Funding priorities for new budget year	<p>Dear Members of Asheville City Council,</p> <p>At the protest downtown on Saturday, June 6, I heard many leaders from our city's Black community stand up and make demands of our city government and police. I would like to echo their demands. I hope that you take these to heart and investigate ways that we as a community can make real, meaningful change.</p> <p>The three demands, which are also expressed at https://www.blackavldemands.org/ and will be further explained in the coming weeks, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest-Divest: We Demand a Divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable 2. Reparations: We Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community We demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders. 3. End the War on Black People: We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people). <p>In any efforts to make meaningful change, it is important that Black voices be at the table. Reducing barriers to participation like meeting times and locations is just one way to help make community meetings more inclusive.</p> <p>I love Asheville and have been a proud resident since 2007, but the reality is that despite the progressive image we market for our city, we have a lot of work to do to create equity and equality for all Ashevilleians. As you consider the funding priorities for the year ahead, and plan for Asheville's future, please place these demands at the forefront.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mary Ellen Dendy 80 Crayton Rd. Asheville, NC 28803 910-280-1245</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Hello all,</p> <p>Hoping to have my input received for this upcoming budget meeting. Based off of recent as well as past acts displayed by Asheville Police Department, I urge city council to begin to defund the APD. It is clear that we need serious safety reform to help create a city that actually works for all of its residents, and more police action is without question a grave misunderstanding of how violence dynamics takes place in the real world. I think much of our population is taking the time to learn about racial injustice, the history of the police system, as well as the prison-industrial complex and how all three things are closely linked - with the police being the arm in which sets the system in motion. If any of this is not abundantly clear at the moment to the council, I'm sure next election will make the publics opinion well known. Heres to hoping that the council can act in everyone's favor, and begin to transfer money away from the APD to our many other programs in need - such as affordable housing and public transit. Thanks for receiving this input!</p> <p>Mike Johnson Asheville resident of 5 years</p>
6/7/2020 7:48:00 PM	June 9 meeting input	
6/7/2020 7:52:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 8:26:00 PM	APD Budget Concerns	<p>City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Sophie Ferguson and I have been a resident of Asheville, NC for 10 years. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding.</p> <p>With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police.</p> <p>Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies.</p> <p>This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees.</p> <p>This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community.</p> <p>Sincerely signed, Sophie Ferguson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 8:56:00 PM	Firefighter Pay	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Tina Slagel and I am a resident of Asheville, NC. I am emailing to have my voice heard for increasing the minimum wage of Asheville firefighters to 15\$ an hour. I believe they work hard saving lives in our city and they deserve to be financially compensated for their work.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tina Slagel</p>
6/7/2020 9:02:00 PM	Divest in Police, Invest in Black Community.	<p>My name is Nicole and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Black Asheville IS Asheville. Our city has done so many systematic things to discriminate against black people historically and we seemingly continue to do so. Defunding the APD is just the beginning. Lets address who is affected by gentrification, lets address if tourists are prioritized over residents. It's becoming so clear that Asheville is just a front of a "liberal city" with no substance that actually works to support the most vulnerable. Every day I hear people talking about leaving Asheville out of their frustration of this facade, and I too am so frustrated and angry.</p> <p>How are we holding ourselves accountable to make this change? I am a firm believer in the importance of local government as long as it represents true democracy and the taxpayers voices are heard. We are watching, we are demanding- what side of history will you be on? Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nicole</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 9:12:00 PM	Asheville 2021 Budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Dietz. I have been a resident of Asheville for many years. I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at or below the poverty line. 2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules 3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources 4. Free higher education 5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods 6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools 7. Free health clinics 8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you, Hannah</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 9:14:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chloe Lieberman and I am a farmer, mother, writer, and community member who works for a local business. I live in Asheville. I'm writing in regards to Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by divesting from the police department and investing in the Black community. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality, like community and job development, education, and infrastructure in our Black neighborhoods.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). Given this, it seem like it would make much more sense to invest in these non-controversial, positive, life serving areas of government, rather than the police department.</p> <p>I am not a cop hater per se. I realize that the police force is important and police have a role to play in our community.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on programs proven to reduce crime and uplift our community?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chloe</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 9:27:00 PM	For your consideration	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Kreh Mellick, I have been a resident of Asheville for over 10 years now. I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line. 2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules 3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources 4. Free higher education 5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods 6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools 7. Free health clinics 8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Kreh Mellick</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 9:46:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Divert funds from APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Leah Havlicek and I am a concerned resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. Recently, I have been saddened and deeply concerned about the protests that have been happening in our country in the last few weeks. Our country has forgotten about the black folk in America and if Asheville chooses to do nothing, then this conflict will continue. I urge the Asheville City Council to not defund the APD, but instead divert some funds towards sectors that support and create racial equality. If funds were relocated to racial equality groups or new organizations were created, we can start to repair relationships between the APD and black folk. Additionally, the City of Asheville can show their commitment to the lives of black Asheville. Thank you for your time and I hope you strongly consider.</p> <p>Kindly,</p> <p>Leah Havlicek</p> <p>B.A. in Global Studies, Warren Wilson College</p> <p>651-724-7121 Asheville, NC </p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Polly Medicott and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank-you,</p> <p>Polly Medicott</p>
6/7/2020 9:59:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sonia Munjal and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sonia Munjal</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 10:08:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jennifer Pierson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jennifer Pierson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 10:09:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Max Adams and I'm a resident of North Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Max Adams</p>
6/7/2020 11:02:00 PM	Defund the APD	<p>Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, and human beings, we will no longer stay silent and complicit in the killing and policing of black folks. We will not allow this kind of police brutality to happen nationally or locally ever again. It is important to be transparent about our city budget, and it's ridiculous to add even more money to such a lethal institution. We demand transparency and control over how our money contributes to the city. Now is the time to invest in our future and our community and DEFUND THE ASHEVILLE POLICE. Let us foster community support and resistance and create a more humane system to care for our community. Our black community members are not targets or punching bags for inept, racist, and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is Asheville. Defund the police now or feel the wrath of the Asheville community.</p> <p>Sincerely, Isabel Symancyk</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 11:26:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rebecca Macary and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rebecca Macary</p>
6/7/2020 11:32:00 PM	AVL PD Demands	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Rachel Veale and I live in Asheville, NC. I urge the City of Asheville to cut the current \$29.6 million dollar budget for the police. Under no circumstances should the budget increase, and certainly not \$400,000 as the proposed 2020-2021 budget states. The funds should be allocated towards meeting community needs, such as affordable housing or public transit.</p> <p>Secondly, I demand that the APD's written consent policy applies to pedestrians, NOT only people in vehicles.</p> <p>Thirdly, I call for the City of Asheville to implement the proposal from the African American Heritage Commission calling for a moratorium on all future development projects involving properties acquired through urban renewal until a comprehensive cost analysis has been conducted. Systematic disenfranchisement is violence.</p> <p>If white Asheville does nothing to combat racism, reform cops, and defund the police then the city is being complicit to racism. If you allocate additional money towards the police, you are inherently allowing acts of violence against black people and POC in the community.</p> <p>With urgency, Rachel Veale</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/7/2020 11:34:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Leah Trivette and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Leah Trivette</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>City Council Website: https://www.ashevilenc.gov/government/ Our Budget! : https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nzuBlu-9zwy75fGMMi10Rm_R_L8j57bG/view</p> <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Jake Yochem -- I have been a resident of Buncombe county for 10 years, and a home-owning resident of the city of Asheville for 3.</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line.2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources4. Free higher education5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools7. Free health clinics8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:09:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dylan Nichols and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591596010233000&sa=D&ust=1591596010246000&usg=AFQjCNGucrwAJ0js8e103vZOdixvtKeBMA>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>I'd also like to throw in a video of the APD opening fire with tear gas and mace pellets into a peaceful crowd with women and children present.</p> <p>I am truly very disappointed on how the APD as well as other law enforcement agencies that were involved, along with our mayor. I can't stop hearing the screams of people in pain crying to milk or water to be washed out there eyes, being shot with rubber bullets and flash bangs. Why is the truth hiding?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dylan Nichols</p>
6/8/2020 2:06:00 AM	DEFUND ASHEVILLE POLICE	<p>Hello I am writing in concerning the upcoming Asheville bill to increase the police budget. After seeing the police caused violence around the country, but specifically in Asheville, it is imperative that Asheville takes the right step and starts to dismantle the system. Do not go forward with the police budget, it needs to be lowered.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:40:00 AM	Reallocating funding away from AVL PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Caleigh Bridgers and I'm a resident of Asheville in zip code 28804.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>I would like to see increased funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equity and Inclusion programs - Parks and Recreation -Affordable Housing - Buncombe County Schools and teacher Pay - Planning and Urban Design - Sustainability - Affordable Public health services <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will n</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:00:00 AM	Redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jessie Rienrth and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jessie Rienrth</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:13:00 AM	Physician letter re: tear gas	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am a physician at MAHEC who works at Mission Hospital, and I am expressing concern on the alarming use of tear gas against protesters by the Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>Chemical irritants like tear gas are banned from use in warfare, yet we allow them to be used to cause harm on our own citizens. The use of tear gas causes injuries indiscriminately, which according to the organization Physicians for Human Rights, could be a violation of International Human Rights principles.</p> <p>Those in our community who have been gathering to protest are doing so in the wake of the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Modesto Reyes and so many other black Americans at the hands of law enforcement. I stand with those rising up to demand change in the policies and practices that have disproportionately targeted black communities across the US. These demands include demilitarizing the police and reducing their funding, an issue that the Council is discussing today.</p> <p>As a healthcare professional, I see the consequences of discriminatory policing on the physical and emotional health of my Black patients on a daily basis. The evidence supporting this is strong enough that researchers have deemed racism as a public health crisis, linking it to the increased burden of many medical conditions in Black communities. One recent example is the impact that COVID-19 has had in terms of the number of infections and deaths seen in the black community.</p> <p>As a health professional, I acknowledge the increased risk of COVID-19 transmission during protests, which have been mitigated by practices such as widespread use of masks and hand sanitizing. However, the use of tear gas is in direct conflict with appropriate infection control measures in times of a pandemic. Its use can increase the risk of infection with COVID-19 by irritating the respiratory tract, increasing inflammation and inducing cough, thus dispersing droplets throughout the surrounding environment. To use a chemical that increases the spread of disease in the midst of the deadliest pandemic in modern day history is irresponsible and could contribute to overwhelming an already overburdened healthcare system.</p> <p>Given that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, it is critical for us to continue to work towards flattening the curve. With that being said, I unequivocally support protestors who gather to exercise their right to call for change. An open letter by health care professionals across the nation provides other recommendations for harm reduction for those gathering for protests. https://bit.ly/PublicHealthOpenLetterSigned <https://bit.ly/PublicHealthOpenLetterSigned></p> <p>It is the responsibility of the city and the APD to prioritize the safety of our community members who are protesting for justice and reform. The use of aggressive techniques such as what has been seen in Asheville as a means of crowd control on individuals exercising their constitutional right to assemble is unconscionable. Escalation of aggression by law enforcement has led to deaths in other cities and could likely happen in Asheville if these tactics continue to be used. I implore that the APD avoid the use of tear gas and other aggressive crowd control techniques on protestors as they struggle towards a more equitable future for black Americans. And I implore the Asheville City Council to send a strong message to APD that such crowd control techniques will not be tolerated. Finally, I strongly believe that additional funding should not be provided to a police department that has shown it's willingness to harm its own citizens, rather than serving and protecting them.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Sarah Lane, MD, MPH</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:27:00 AM	For the sake of justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Wm. Mason Greenewald and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Wm. Mason Greenewald</p>
6/8/2020 7:53:00 AM	Defund the Asheville PD Stat	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauren and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Lauren</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:55:00 AM	Budget for Law Enforcement	<p>To the Mayor and Those it May Concern,</p> <p>I echo the frustration, disappointment, and anger that our city is experiencing in light of the ways in which people of color are treated in our country and in our city. As the budget is being reevaluated and there is a significant projected increase in the law enforcement budget, I urge you all to consider the impacts that that will have on our community of color. Consider what it would mean if this money were reallocated to education so that our children can grow and learn to be thoughtful, contributing, compassionate citizens. This is an urgent matter. People in our community are feeling abandoned by their government. Show then that Asheville is different. Show them that Asheville cares about people of color more than it cares about militarizing officers in the police force. You have the power to spark change not only in our city, but in the global movement to address systemic racism. Do your part to protect your community.</p> <p>With hope, Sydney Keating</p>
6/8/2020 8:06:00 AM	Make Asheville Proud!	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Belinda Burdge and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Belinda Burdge</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:10:00 AM	Defund APD like Los Angeles just did	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jeff Mettee and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice and follow the lead of the LAPD. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jeff Mettee</p>
6/8/2020 8:10:00 AM	Defund Your Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Caroline and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Caroline Parnell</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:14:00 AM	Defund Asheville Police Department	<p>City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to urge the powers that be to defund the Asheville Police Department at the upcoming budget meeting June 9th 2020. As an Asheville citizen and tax payer I believe those funds would be better served in our schools, hospitals, housing, and social services for our marginalized communities.</p> <p>Thanks, James Donoghue Asheville, NC - Resident and Taxpayer</p>
6/8/2020 8:15:00 AM	More police does not make a city safer	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Keara Grohens and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Keara</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:15:00 AM	Don't Further Embarrass our City by Supporting People of Color	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Sydney and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sydney</p>
6/8/2020 8:19:00 AM	Reallocate egregious police budgets towards education, social services, and dismantling racial inequality	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Chris Fortna and I'm a resident of Buncombe County. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Chris Fortna</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elana Riback and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Elana Riback</p>
6/8/2020 8:25:00 AM	Budget reform- please defund APD	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ailsa Bennett, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p>
6/8/2020 8:27:00 AM	Feedback on budget proposal	<p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ailsa</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:34:00 AM	It's time to get creative, compassionate and focused!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashton and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. We need to call upon the guidance of local psychologists and social workers to help develop new programs to help our communities.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ashton</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:40:00 AM	PLEASE HEAR OUR VOICES!!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Destiny and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Destiny</p>
6/8/2020 8:46:00 AM	Defund Asheville Police	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lindsay Miller and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lindsay Miller</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:47:00 AM	It's time to defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lexy Durst and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lexy Durst</p>
6/8/2020 8:49:00 AM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Ian Griffin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ian Griffin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:50:00 AM	Defund APD in 2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Kirana Mamas and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kirana Mamas</p>
6/8/2020 8:50:00 AM	TIKKUN OLAM	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Norman Deeley and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Norman Deeley</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:53:00 AM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Miguel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Miguel Hernandez</p>
6/8/2020 8:54:00 AM	APD must be defunded	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michael and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:54:00 AM	Improving Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brigid Ashe-Moore and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Brigid Ashe-Moore</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:55:00 AM	2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. My daughter attended Asheville Primary School for the past two years. This is our city's public preschool in West Asheville. The building needs many repairs and a playground upgrade. My son attends Isaac Dickson Elementary School in Montford and each year parents have to pool their resources together to buy supplies for the teachers and the classroom. Please move funds from the APD to our schools here.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cynthia Kelly</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:56:00 AM	Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Molly Steigerwald and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Molly Steigerwald Asheville, NC</p>
6/8/2020 8:56:00 AM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Silver Cousler and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Silver Cousler</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:58:00 AM	We cannot police our way to safety	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Olivia Pantano and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? I will be calling in tot he budget meeting tomorrow 6/9 so reiterate my questions and concerns.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Olivia Pantano</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:58:00 AM	Priorities	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kathleen Boyd and I'm a near the city of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kathleen Boyd</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:02:00 AM	Reallocate Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashley Greever and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ashley Greever</p>
6/8/2020 9:03:00 AM	We are counting on your loving actions to speak louder than the words you are hearing.	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Christina Doellgast and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Christina Doellgast</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:07:00 AM	2021 Budget - Divest from APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ellen Maue and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing in regards to Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from the Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>While I realize that the police force plays an important role in keeping our community safe, I urge you to consider the following points (source-Justice Policy Institute):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More police does not necessarily mean safer communities: there is no clear correlation between spending more on police and reduction of violent crime rates. - Militaristic policing results in the disproportionate arrest of people of color and the needless deaths of innocent people. - People of color and lower income communities experience law enforcement in an unfair and concentrated manner. - The negative consequences of over-policing communities outweigh the social benefits. - More spending on policing means fewer resources available for other public safety strategies that exist to serve communities. <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence and incarceration. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we divest and redirect funding towards positive investments and social services to promote public safety and wellbeing. I believe that the best way to ensure our community is safe for all is to reallocate the overinflated APD budget towards education, employment, housing, and mental/physical health services.</p> <p>I have faith that Asheville's leadership can come together in this critical moment to create bold solutions that will take our city forward towards a more just, peaceful future. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Ellen Maue</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Dills and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah Dills</p>
6/8/2020 9:10:00 AM	Please read!!	
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emma Chester and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>The police are violent and create a community in which many people do not feel safe. We owe it to each other to invest in areas that will truly make our community a safer place.</p> <p>Thank you, Emma Chester</p>
6/8/2020 9:10:00 AM	No More Police Needed	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:10:00 AM	My experience with Social Justice and how I want my Tax Dollars Spent	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Yoko Morris and I'm a resident of Asheville. I have been involved in Social Justice work for the past couple of years, as I was tired of how segregated Asheville is. When I actually started going into black communities, I was truly horrified and recognized quickly exactly what systemic racism is. Our black communities don't need cops, they need access to free daily tutors, access to social workers to connect them with all resources white people have not just basic ones because their kids are in CPS, adult classes in their communities on things they care about and not what white people want them to learn, organized FUN events in their communities (open to all Ashevilleians) to showcase their talents and interests to see that white people in this town want them as a part of our community, JUST as they are and they don't have to change to fit our white values to be included. It is your time to do your part to make Asheville a better place to live for ALL, not just white people with white middle class values. Will it be hard? Yes. Will it mean white people feel uncomfortable and scared? Yes. Will it mean more violence for years in all Asheville and not just the House Authorities as systematic racism is bled out of our systems? Yes, but the goal is very, very long term and we can't keep putting off supporting our black communities just so white people don't have to deal with it. We need to come together as a whole community to invest in the future we want to see.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Yoko</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:12:00 AM	Fund Education and Affordable Housing!	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Daisy and I grew up my whole life in Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs and education?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Daisy</p>
6/8/2020 9:13:00 AM	Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jenna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jenna Atwood</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:14:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Max Mandler and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Max</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:15:00 AM	Budget Proposal *****	<p>Dear City Council Members, We are all very thankful for another night of peaceful protests, but we are very distraught and concerned citizens. Though the streets are calm once more, this does not change the problems at hand. This is the second time our city has made its way to national attention due to unlawful violent behavior from the Asheville Police Department. This is unacceptable. The people of this city believe that people of all colors, nationalities, and gender orientations should be able to walk the streets of Asheville without fear of violence or harassment from our city police. The actions of the Asheville Police Department have brought violence and unrest to our city. We all may not agree on what we have seen and who is at fault for this violence but this last week APD launched tear gas at unarmed peaceful protesters. That is not what this city represents. We know that there is injustice in our city police department and changes need to happen to allow Asheville residents to move forward in a relationship of trust with our protectors. The City of Asheville's justice system has a long history of corruption from the **District Attorney's office, the **Buncombe County Administrator's office, **Missing evidence from the police vaults, to the extortion in the **Sheriff's office. It is time for our city's justice system to stand for something stronger than their own greed. The Asheville Police Department needs to be reminded that they, too, are not above the law. This is not a request to fully "defund" the Asheville Police Department but to deny the request for increased funding as well as demand that funds be appropriated towards programs that will help to rebuild the divide between the Police and the City. As our city council, we ask you to appropriate the Asheville police budget to the following programs that will equip our police force with the knowledge and experience to handle sensitive cultural conflicts without force. New Policing Programs need funding: Cultural sensitivity training resulting in a license that should be reissued for all officers every 6 months based on cultural developments of the community served. Increase in Community Outreach programs to connect police with the communities they serve. Establish the "Police Accountability Unit" that will have the power to investigate police violence complaints, review police misconduct, and discipline officers for wrongdoing. As our city council, we ask you to assist in the motions to initiate these policy changes for the Asheville Police Department. Demands for the Reform of Law Enforcement Policies: Mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police officers and law enforcement to be completed every 6 months. De-escalation training and non-violent communication mandatory for all law enforcement officers annually. Dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Accountability and traceability; if an officer has been dismissed he/she is not allowed to move to another county or state to get a new law enforcement job. They will also be placed on an anti-policing registry that can be viewed online. Penalties for associated officers on the scene are also considered to be accomplices or legal purposes in the offense. Mandatory body cam footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if it is turned off manually. End no-knock raids. Ban police tactics that impair breathing including all chokeholds. *The "Demands for the Reform of Law Enforcement Policies" have been adopted from letters written by #MrBlack. Please find the original documents below. As our city council, we ask you to create and initiate a strategic plan to meet the following demands of Asheville's Black Community. Demand from the Asheville's Black Community: INVEST-DIVEST: We Demand a Divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. REPARATIONS We Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community. We demand that the Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders. End the War on Black People We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people). We ask you, the city council, to help reunite our city and demand reform. A message to Asheville Police Chief David Zack, Your statements of apology and regret are appreciated but this does not excuse the behavior of your department. You have mentioned that there will be changes in the police force. Please make note that this is not the time for shallow promises. We look forward to seeing those changes and we will be paying attention. We look to you to enact positive reform for your department and hope to see that change ripple throughout our community. Thank you for your service, but better decision-making is required moving forward. Fact Check links to Asheville & Buncombe County Corruption: District Attorney Ron Moore https://www.forbes.com/sites/seanlawson/2011/11/07/opcartel-focuses-on-north-carolina-district-attorney/#1cc012eb2759 https://mountainx.com/news/community-news/xpress_investigating_local_e-mails_with_allegations_about_ron_moore/Buncombe County Administrator, Wanda Greene https://wlos.com/news/local/sentencing-for-wanda-greene-former-buncombe-county-manager Buncombe County Sheriff https://mountainx.com/news/community-news/bobby_medford_indicted_on_federal_extortion_charges/Missing Evidence https://mountainx.com/news/community-news/apd_property_room_sealed_due_to_missing_drug_evidence Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:17:00 AM	Vote 'No!' to Increase APD budget by \$400,000	<p>To Asheville Mayor and City Council:</p> <p>I am writing to request that you do NOT increase the budget for the Asheville Police Department. I'm no radical; I'm not calling for a total defunding of the police. As a white resident of this city, my recent experience with the APD (to file a report when my purse was stolen from my vehicle) was positive and went smoothly, with nary a concern for my personal safety. ALL people should be able to feel that their local police departments are working FOR them, and I get that black people have a completely different experience of police forces--and rightly so.</p> <p>Given the budget shortfalls of city and state governments due to the economic shutdown, I don't see how APD's budget could be increased without negatively impacting other critical functions of government. Not only would it be an affront to black communities in the present moment to grant scarce resources to the very department with which they are most maligned and distrustful, but it would do nothing to alleviate the economic, environmental, and educational inequalities that exist between our white and black communities.</p> <p>If the City of Asheville wants to put its \$\$\$ where its mouth is, we should be increasing funds for our City Schools. ACS teachers and staff will have their plates full next fall educating students who will have been out of school for nearly half a year by then... and you know the at-home learning is only exacerbating the achievement gap between white and black students. THAT is where Asheville needs to spend this money.</p> <p>Thank You, Kelsey Wood (Home-owning, tax-paying Asheville resident)</p>
6/8/2020 9:19:00 AM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mark Capon and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mark Capon MINIMIZE/MAXIMIZE ARTIST MANAGEMENT (828) 337-1155</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:20:00 AM	Divest from the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Paul and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Paul Peffer</p>
6/8/2020 9:20:00 AM	City Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jessica and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jessica Brooks</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:21:00 AM	Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brooke Gaynor and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Brooke Gaynor</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:22:00 AM	annual budget discussion	<p>Dear Members of City Council:</p> <p>I am an Asheville resident, writing to make my voice heard regarding the upcoming discussion about the annual city budget allocations. Simply put, now is the time to make a change in our city. I was heartened to see many of our elected officials marching with our Black leaders and other concerned residents on Saturday's peaceful protest. We have to go farther than that and put our ideals into practice. You have the power to help make these changes in our city. We are in the midst of a nation-wide crisis, but there are local solutions that can help.</p> <p>I am appalled that there is a proposal to increase the budget for the police department. Do we need more riot gear, guns, or tear gas in our streets? No! Police do NOT make many of us feel safer. Too often they bring violence and escalate a situation rather than help people. Do we need more mental health services, after-school programs, initiatives to help Black-owned businesses? Yes!</p> <p>I want to see a 50% DECREASE in the police budget and instead invest those resources into helping our Black communities thrive in our city. We will all benefit from investing resources into the most marginalized communities among us. This is the time for radical thinking, NOT subtle tinkering of the budget.</p> <p>Please listen to your constituents and make a change! Start with decreasing the police budget, and let's move forward with creative thinking about how to make our city more equitable and safe for our people. Thank you for listening.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maia Surdam, a concerned Asheville citizen</p>
6/8/2020 9:24:00 AM	Need Reform and Change NOW	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Grace and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Grace</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:27:00 AM	Redirect APD funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Stuart and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hannah Stuart</p>
6/8/2020 9:28:00 AM	Request to not increase the police budget 2020-2021	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Kim, an Asheville resident for 9 years. Recent events have shed light on the over-abundance of power and resources available to the police and the need to invest in other forms of community protection and support. I am requesting that you vote to NOT increase the Asheville Police Department budget for 2020-2021. I recognize that restructuring a system that has existed for decades is difficult to imagine, but recent events show the worst case scenario of policing holding too much power and not enough accountability.</p> <p>A majority of police calls are for issues that could be handled by other entities ex. Mental illness, homelessness, rape crisis, etc. Over the next years, I would like to see Asheville shift focus away from police as the only form of community protection to a diverse network of specialized organizations.</p> <p>Examples of other areas to divert APD funds also include affordable housing, after school youth programs, reparations for the black community, and public education.</p> <p>This will not be an overnight process. It will take time to shift how we support the Asheville community, but this change has been a long time coming. Please take these ideas into consideration when voting on June 9th.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Kim Tierney</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:29:00 AM	Please Reconsider the FY 2020-2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Claire and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Claire</p>
6/8/2020 9:29:00 AM	PLEASE FOCUS BUDGET TOWARDS BLACK COMMUNITIES, NOT FUNDING POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Miranda Wildman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. A one time address from the chief of police to the crowd of the March for Memories Lost to Police Brutality is not enough. We must see real action. Black folks in our community are dying. Black folks in our community are suffering. Black folks in our community are sick in tired of weak statements for change. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sincerely in Solidarity with the Black People of Asheville,</p> <p>Miranda Wildman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:30:00 AM	Asheville Demands APD Budget Increases Are Cut	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget. My name is Lauren, and I am a WNC native and Gallery Coordinator for the Center for Craft in downtown Asheville. As someone who has seen the changes to Asheville first-hand(good and bad) over the last twenty years, I am reaching out to share my concerns. Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive deescalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes even after a public overhaul of use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, and in face, demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lauren Roquemore</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Mayor and Council Members,</p> <p>We need your leadership for racial justice in Asheville today. Mayor Manheimer and Councilmember Mayfield stood behind the Black Lives Matter sign this weekend, Councilmember Haynes attended the BLM protest, and Chief Zack promised “major restructuring changes to the Asheville Police Department” in his recent video. I ask you to move past photo opps and make your commitment to racial justice real as part of the 2020-2021 budget review.</p> <p>Specifically, I urge you to reallocate 50% of Asheville Police Department (APD) budget to long-term strategies that support Asheville’s black community and other low-income and communities of color. That includes funding to support minority-business startups/business, funding to help close the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools (i.e. programming, teachers, assistants and mental health services), funding for the Asheville Buncombe Land Trust and creation of an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. Former APB Chief Hooper spoke frequently about the challenges of police being asked to step into issues related to the lack of educational opportunities, affordable housing and mental health services without the proper training to deal with them. The described changes in public investments will do more to make Asheville a safe and thriving community than our current funding structure - if cities like Minneapolis and Los Angeles can do this, certainly we can.</p> <p>I am also lifting up the calls for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Removing the monuments to confederate officers and slave owners, including the Vance monument, Robert E Lee statue, and streets named after slave owners. Instead, let’s recognize and honor the many black leaders that helped build our city.2. Accountability for individual officers after use of force as well as accountability of the whole police department. You can take the pledge <https://www.obama.org/mayor-pledge/>from the Obama Foundation that commits to police reform. If not that, I would like to see another clear announcement of this commitment. In the funding that is provided to APD, the following are programs that should be supported: New Policing Programs:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cultural sensitivity training resulting in a license that should be reissued for all officers every 6 months based on cultural developments of the community served.2. Increase in Community Outreach programs to connect police with the communities they serve.3. Establish and fund a citizen-led “Police Accountability Unit” that will have the power to investigate police violence complaints, review police misconduct, and discipline officers for wrongdoing. <p>Reform of Law Enforcement Policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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		<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Emily Tynan McDaniel, and I am a proud Ashevillean. Asheville calls itself a progressive city, but in so many ways we do not live up to that reputation or ideal; I write to urge you to use the 2021 budget as an opportunity to enact policies that can help us move towards that ideal, and to be at the vanguard of change happening in cities of all sizes across our aching nation.</p> <p>Right now we as individuals and as a city have an opportunity to ask ourselves (as so many other cities are doing - see recent statements in San Francisco, LA, Minneapolis, and even NYC) specifically what role we want police officers in our city to play, <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2020/06/03/457251670/how-much-do-we-need-the-police> to reimagine the role of the police <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/05/us/defund-police-floyd-protests.html?action=click&algo=clicks_decay_6&block=more_in_recirc&fallback=false&imp_id=694013478&impression_id=38124349&index=3&pgtype=Article&region=footer>, and to redirect funds <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/06/07/protests-defund-police/>to other organizations that are better trained and suited build trust in our communities and dismantle systems of oppression and racial inequity. There can be no denying that despite many officer's good efforts, our poorer communities and communities of color are disproportionate targets of police violence; the offending officers *must* be held accountable if trust is to exist between the public and APD. I also know from speaking with police officers in our neighborhood that our police force is stretched far too thin for officers to feel that they can be effective.</p> <p>I urge you to consider a new solution: rather than add more police officers or more gear,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Narrow the scope of the police force's responsibility* and curb their relatively unchecked power while enforcing concrete and visible consequences for officers abusing their power;2. Use police funds to *train officers* thoroughly to succeed in the roles we assign to them (at a very minimum, see the 72% decrease in police brutality in cities enacting #8cantwait <https://8cantwait.org/> and the research into decreased police brutality at Campaign Zero <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/#vision>; see also the sad reality that in America, police require literally one half the hours of training that cosmetologists do, and a minuscule fraction of the training required in many other countries.)3. Institute transparency in policing and *create a separate and distinct entity of oversight of the police *force - *a DA who will not press charges negates the efficacy of any disciplinary action* against officers, and makes it feel like pandering when officers receive what are de facto slaps on the wrist.4. *Redirect funds* away from the APD's overinflated budget towards institutions that can have a real impact on racial equality but desperately need funds to more effectively dismantle systemic racial and economic inequality - especially public schools, social work, health care including PPE, conflict resolution counseling, child care, family leave, pandemic relief, stable housing for the homeless, public access to addiction counseling, public access to trauma therapy, to name just a few. <p>If you are strapped for time and feel pressured to make a decision on the budget, I urge you to delay your vote until you can find a way to redirect these funds and begin to rebuild the broken trust between our government and our community members, especially our our communities of color. All the Black Lives Matter signs in town mean nothing if our City Counsel Members will not uphold the values of the Black Lives Matter movement.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and service, Emily Tynan McDaniel 101 Vermont Avenue</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:38:00 AM	Redirect the budget!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Shawna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Shawna</p>
6/8/2020 9:39:00 AM	For Your Consideration	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kayla Dolloff and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice.</p> <p>I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kayla</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:40:00 AM	Defund the Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lola Borovyk and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lola Borovyk</p>
6/8/2020 9:41:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jared Boger and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons ([Source: Popular Democracy](https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities)). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jared Boger</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:42:00 AM	***DEFUND THE ASHEVILLE POLICE***	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, [x]</p>
6/8/2020 9:43:00 AM	My Comments on 2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Isabelle Heintz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Isabelle Heintz</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:45:00 AM	Please defund APD and give funds to Community health and education!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Gina Vitale and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Gina Vitale</p>
6/8/2020 9:46:00 AM	Defund police budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Isaiah and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Isaiah</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:47:00 AM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 9:47:00 AM	Asheville budget heading concerns	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Steve Zimovan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Steve Zimovan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:50:00 AM	You have the power to defund AVL PD. Let's do it.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michelle Grasty-Colont, and I've been a resident of Asheville for the past 9 years. I am an active community member, and love this city. However, the civil unrest we face in this mountain town is not reflective of the ideology of its citizens. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Transportation, housing, and providing mental health services are all excellent places to start.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-- Michelle Grasty (c) 828-508-2588 michellengrasty@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:51:00 AM	RE: police department spending increase in FY2021	<p>Thank you City Council members and staff of the City of Asheville for the opportunity to submit a comment remotely regarding the June 9, 2020, public budget hearing. My name is Andrew Lammers. I reside within the City of Asheville and am a homeowner.</p> <p>My comment is this:</p> <p>Please strike the \$457,621 increase in General Fund expenses slated to be spent by the City of Asheville Police Department from the City's 2021 financial year budget.</p> <p>While this figure reflects a token 1.5% increase in departmental funding with respect to estimated 2020 Financial Year spending, this money could make an actual impact if spent in service of fulfilling Asheville City Council's 2036 Vision Statement. Given nearly 30 million dollars, Asheville's police department, already the City's largest expense, should be tasked with providing continuity of service at Financial Year 2020 funding levels. In the absence of radical change- defunding the department and demanding its total reorganization in the service of anti-racism and demilitarization, zeroing out spending increases for the police in the 2021 city budget would be a symbolic nod in the direction of recent protests targeting violent policing practices and systemic racism.</p> <p>Instead of increasing police department funding, I suggest the city make a financial statement of its core values and spend \$457,621 dollars in support of Strategic Priority A3 (Review City programming, facilities, staffing, operations and partnerships to enhance racial equity, with an emphasis on Parks and Recreation) and/or Strategic Priority A6 (Develop and implement a strategy based on the NLC report to foster economic mobility).</p> <p>Specifically, I ask City Councilmembers to consider two alternative ways to spend the half-million dollars subtracted from the police budget:</p> <p>First, please consider earmarking these taxpayer dollars toward furthering the development of recreational opportunities on the City's south side. Spend the money on the Walton Street Park and Pool and/or the Grant Southside Center. The citizens of the southside residential area deserve this investment in parks and recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Second, please consider using these funds to support the Mountain Community Capital Fund so that the fund can increase its support of small mountain area businesses, especially those owned and/or operated by African American residents of the City of Asheville. Let's help finance business debt and help new and existing black-owned businesses to grow in the service of real economic mobility.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my input and for finding new ways to support the people of Asheville, especially my black neighbors. Taking this small but non-trivial action of zeroing out the police budget increase is nearly the least you can do in leading our City toward increased civic equity and shared prosperity.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Andrew Lammers</p> <p>Asheville City Resident</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:54:00 AM	#DEFUNDTHEAPD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to offer my opinion on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year in Asheville.</p> <p>It is clear that the police system in this country is outdated and ineffective. We need to defund the police department and reinvest those funds into the strength of our community.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Claire Bailey</p>
6/8/2020 9:54:00 AM	Request from and Asheville citizen and taxpayer re: the 2021 budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Melissa Myers and I'm a resident of Asheville, and a high school teacher entrusted with the education of dozens of Asheville's young minds. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Melissa Myers Melissa.L.Myers@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:55:00 AM	Budget Approval Delay- Raise Firefighters Pay	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Alex Sindaco and I am a resident of Asheville. I have already sent an email demanding that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget but it was recently brought to my attention the low pay of our city firefighters. The city recently raised the minimum wage for all city employees to \$15.00 but this did not include the newest and lowest-earning city fire fighters who currently make less than \$12.00. This is unacceptable. How are you able to exclude a whole department from this minimum wage increase? Quick research done by Just Economics showed that of 18 NC cities, starting firefighters in Asheville had the second-lowest pay. This has to change.</p> <p>How is it that amongst a viral and racial pandemic, in a time where the city is losing money and planning budget cuts to employee pay raises, capital projects, maintenance to infrastructure, and renewable energy projects that you can even consider increasing the APD budget which is the single largest expenditure. In the past 7 days our beautiful city of Asheville has made national news after the APD unconstitutionally destroyed a medic station just shortly after the first night of curfew. Asheville Police Chief David Zack was correct when he said "...accountability is what our community expects and deserves." How are we going to hold them accountable for these unjust and disappointing actions? Increasing their budget would only reward them.</p> <p>We are out here fighting, and demanding for change, and we hope you are listening. There is no reason that the APD can not work within their current budget. We need to make conscious efforts to defund the largest department and reallocate this money into programs and resources to improve not only our city but our marginalized community.</p> <p>When social programs are funded, when people have jobs, when people are paid a living wage, when communities are supported, then there's a decrease in crime and police presence is not needed. Can I rely on you to help transform our system?</p> <p>Thanks, Alex.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:55:00 AM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Neil Goss and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Neil Goss</p>
6/8/2020 9:55:00 AM	2021	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashley Riddle and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ashley Riddle</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:57:00 AM	Defund and Divest APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nadine Palacio and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nadine Palacio</p>
6/8/2020 9:58:00 AM	Comment for Meeting tomorrow	<p>Hello, my name is Mira Brown. I am a resident of Yancey County, and our family has a hospitality business in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing regarding two items on the city council agenda for tomorrow:</p> <p>1 - I am asking the city to put the full amount of the CARES Act towards rental assistance in Asheville during this time of pandemic and economic uncertainty and;</p> <p>2 - I am requesting that you start immediately adjusting the city budget to divest from the police and investing in Black communities. Do not increase the budget. Instead that money should be directed to making sure the schools within Asheville are funded equitably, oversight for the APD and officers therein, and supporting Black businesses and startups.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mira Brown Burnsville, NC 828-682-9263</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:59:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Bow Smith and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Bow Smith</p>
6/8/2020 10:00:00 AM	DEFUND THE APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Gibbons and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Hannah Gibbons</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:00:00 AM	Defund the Asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Sarah Herman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah Herman</p>
6/8/2020 10:03:00 AM	Delay Budget Vote and Reallocate Funds to Social Service Programs	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amy, and I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Amy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Olwyn and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Olwyn</p>
6/8/2020 10:04:00 AM	Reduce Funding for APD up to 100%	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 10:04:00 AM	From a concerned Asheville citizen	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mary Quasarano and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mary Quasarano</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:05:00 AM	Reallocate Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ben and I'm writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ben</p>
6/8/2020 10:05:00 AM	<p>*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***</p>	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jordan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>We Are Watching Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:06:00 AM	Police reform	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chris stinnett and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chris stinnett Usn veteran 98-06</p>
6/8/2020 10:07:00 AM	Delay Budget Vote	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>This is Rambling Roots Farms, a small business selling local organic produce in Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rambling Roots Farms</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:07:00 AM	Defund the AVL Police Department, Please	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Meghan Vance and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Meghan Vance</p>
6/8/2020 10:12:00 AM	Asheville Budget Meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is John and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>John Ribes</p> <p>John Ribes</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:12:00 AM	APD hasn't earned that money.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Marina Oshel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marina Oshel</p>
6/8/2020 10:14:00 AM	From a 32 year old white female Asheville native...	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Claire Mork and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice.</p> <p>I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Claire</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:16:00 AM	For Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kristina and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kristina Lundberg</p>
6/8/2020 10:16:00 AM	Concern for This Year's Budget Allocations and Asheville's Commitment to Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is AnnaCatherine Hill and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>AnnaCatherine Hill</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:16:00 AM	Racial Justice in Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Sarah Lewis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Asheville should do more to uphold its reputation of a safe, diverse, peaceful small city. Over policing disrupts this peace and should be corrected.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah Lewis</p>
6/8/2020 10:16:00 AM	Asheville Councilmembers	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Xin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Xin</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:19:00 AM	Investing in Our Black Community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lisa Vann and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lisa Vann</p>
6/8/2020 10:21:00 AM	Our police have gone to far	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Braden Russell and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Braden Russell</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:21:00 AM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Colleen Habif and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Colleen Habif</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:21:00 AM	Asheville 2021 Budget Proposal and Allocation	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauren and I'm a resident of East Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauren</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:22:00 AM	Reallocate some of APD's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Colron Dion and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we reallocate some of their budget</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Colton Dion.</p>
6/8/2020 10:22:00 AM	TIME TO LISTEN	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is tori and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tori</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:23:00 AM	Urgent call to uphold racial justice in Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ella Luebbe and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Ella Luebbe</p>
6/8/2020 10:23:00 AM	INVEST IN EDUCATION & SUSTAINABILITY	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emilia Ayala and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Emilia Ayala</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:23:00 AM	APD Budget Concern	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>My name is Derek Whisnant and I have been a resident of Asheville for 4 years. I am aware that the council is considering a budgetary increase for the Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>Truthfully, I think to do anything but cut the APD budget would fly in the face of Asheville's supposed values as a progressive mountain city, and would be a direct insult to the communities which are not protected, or served, by the APD.</p> <p>I hope that the council will consider making significant cuts to, or defunding entirely, the APD force. Instead, these funds ought to be reinvested into community building programs to reduce the incidence of antisocial criminal behavior before it begins. Such programs would include: affordable housing, homeless assistance, public health programs, decriminalized drug policy, education and child care programs, and others.</p> <p>The actions of the Asheville Police Department, historically and particularly in response to the protests, has been absolutely despicable, reprehensible, and shameful. It makes me absolutely sick to see such blatant disregard for the safety and dignity of our citizens and I hope that the city council will not ignore such misconduct.</p> <p>Be on the right side of this history.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:24:00 AM	Please, for the sake of our children and theirs to come...	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sydney Stoik, and I'm a resident of Weaverville and the 828 community as a whole. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sydney Stoik, Mother of 2 and loving community member</p> <p>--</p> <p>Syd Stoik Moody Mountain Herbals *MoodyMountainHerbals.com* <http://moodymountainherbals.com/> Carolina Hemp Company *Carolinahempcompany.com <http://Carolinahempcompany.com>*</p> <p>**Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens.** *J.R.R. Tolkien*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:27:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rebecca Odell and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rebecca Odell</p>
6/8/2020 10:28:00 AM	It's time to build a better Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Emma M. and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Emma</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:28:00 AM	stop approval of APD funding/freeze on all hiring	<p>Hello Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am a resident of West Asheville and business owner. Last week, the APD shamed our city in front of the entire world by destroying medical supplies and assaulting medical personnel. This act was representative of a much bigger problem in our police department and police departments across the nation.</p> <p>I would like to strongly voice my opposition to the approval of APD funding and any additional hiring. This is our chance to show the world that Asheville is a city that cares about black lives, opposes police brutality, and has a vision for an alternative, progressive future. Let's make our city proud and take this necessary action.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lea McLellan</p>
6/8/2020 10:28:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sara Joss and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sara Joss</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:29:00 AM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 10:29:00 AM	Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Betsy Black and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Betsy</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:31:00 AM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elisa Anne F. and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Elisa anne F.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 10:31:00 AM	DEFLATE APD's BUDGET!!	
6/8/2020 10:32:00 AM	Please Follow the Lead of the Other Progressive Cities Around the US	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Drew Moore and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Drew Moore</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Erika Mayer and I'm a local business owner and resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Erika Mayer</p>
6/8/2020 10:33:00 AM	Delay Budget Vote	Sent from my iPhone
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Leanna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Leanna</p>
6/8/2020 10:36:00 AM	Defund the APD.	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:36:00 AM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 10:38:00 AM	Defund the Asheville PD	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Carter James and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Carter James</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:38:00 AM	More Police Oversight + Community Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cole Radcliff and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cole</p>
6/8/2020 10:38:00 AM	Please do the right thing	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is kenny Clark and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kenny Clark</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:39:00 AM	Defund the Police!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Marika Straw and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marika Straw</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:39:00 AM	Police budget	<p>I am a citizen of Asheville with some concerns and questions about the proposed 2020/2021 General Fund budget. I will outline those below and expect to hear answers during the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the police department the largest line item in our city budget? Can a breakdown of their costs be provided and made public? 2. Why does the city contribute to police employee retirement funds at a greater rate than non-police employees? Police- 9.7%, proposed increase to 10.90% in FY20/21. Non-police employees- 8.95%, proposed increase to 10.15% in FY 20/21. 3. With so many line items in the budget not increasing due to economic concerns around COVID-19, why is the police department budget increasing by \$410,820.00? (FY proposed 19/20 budget was \$29,646,505.00, 20/21 proposed budget is \$30,057,325.00). This increase is nearly as much as the entire Equity and Inclusion line item-- can we redirect the APD funds there? 4. There is a \$712,000.00 proposed budget line item for FY20/21 for police radio replacements. That needs to be scrapped immediately-- their coordinated response to the recent protests have proven they are able to communicate strategically at the present moment. Reallocate those funds towards police deescalation training and other community-focused engagement. <p>Overall-- Can we decrease the presence of the police in our community while they undergo a thorough evaluation of their conduct, purpose, and day-to-day role in the Asheville community?</p> <p>The actions of the specifically two nights during peaceful protests* prove the APD is not serving and protecting the constitutional rights of their community. Do not reward them with more funds and more equipment.</p> <p>**June 2nd- broke Geneva Convention <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v2_cou_us_rule25>by destroying property and breaking up a volunteer medic site. ("deliberate attack upon ... medical personnel as a war crime"). Furthermore, medical personnel were exempt from the curfew and were given no warning before the attack from APD began. Reimbursing the cost of what was lost is less than a bandaid on the issue- medical providers were traumatized and the community was once again abused. Trust was broken, again. *</p> <p>***June 3rd- during peaceful protests the APD teargassed protests from behind- completely unprovoked. It was past curfew-- a curfew which is meant to protect citizens and property from violence. The only violence came from the Asheville Police Department.*</p> <p>Best, Danielle Burke</p> <p>West Asheville, 28806</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:39:00 AM	Reallocation of police budget request	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Simeon Gibson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Simeon Gibson</p>
6/8/2020 10:40:00 AM	In Support of Asheville Firefighters	<p>Dear members of Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing to you this morning to urge you to raise the base pay for firefighters in the city of Asheville.</p> <p>As you know, rookie firefighters are some of the lowest paid city employees. Their job also involves some of the greatest risk and requires extensive training and time away from family. The argument that they sleep at the firehouse and thus shouldn't be fairly compensated is uninformed and insulting. Asheville Firefighters work a 24-hour shift, ready to respond at a moments notice to the emergencies in our city, no matter the hour. Having highly qualified, dedicated firefighters working around the clock is a benefit to Asheville citizens, like you and me. Don't punish them because they work a 56-hour week. Pay them a living wage for ALL of the hours they work. Increase their hourly rate to \$15/hour just like all other city employees.</p> <p>Respectfully, Laura Beck, Asheville resident since 2010</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:40:00 AM	Thoughtful budgeting for our city, support the people!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Shannon Thompson, I am a public school teacher for Asheville City Schools, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice.</p> <p>I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Shannon Thompson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:41:00 AM	REDIRECT BUDGET INTO EDUCATION & SUSTAINABILITY	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emilia Ayala and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emilia Ayala</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:43:00 AM	FY 2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Rose Lejeune and I am a member of the Asheville community. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sarah Rose</p> <p>--</p> <p>pronouns: she, her, hers (what is this?) <https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:43:00 AM	DIVEST funds from ADP	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andrew and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andrew Snavelly (they/she/he)</p>
6/8/2020 10:44:00 AM	MAKE ASHEVILLE THE CITY WE WANT AND THE CITY IT CAN BE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Pearl Farley and I'm a resident of West Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Pearl Farley</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:45:00 AM	There comes a time when silence is betrayal	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Summer Randall and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Summer Randall</p>
6/8/2020 10:45:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rachael Hart and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rachael Hart</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:46:00 AM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Erika Swiger and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Erika</p>
6/8/2020 10:47:00 AM	Constituents in favor of defunding APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My husband and I live in West Asheville and have been in Asheville residents since 2013. We are extremely disappointed in Asheville Police Department's response to the Black Lives Matter protests. This has brought to our attention The unfavorable allocation of city money to the police versus public health/wellbeing and community lead programs. We would like to see a decrease in police funding and an increase in funding to public education and programs focused on repairing harm done to black communities designed by Black community leaders in WNC.</p> <p>Sincerely, Theresa Ruggiero and Tucker Waldron</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:48:00 AM	Defund APD/ FREEZE Hiring	<p>My name is Allison Jane Taylor and I am an Asheville resident writing to express my outrage at the proposed 2021 budget.</p> <p>Asheville is suffering and needs community investment more than ever. It is unacceptable to put most of the general fund budget into the Asheville Police Department while so many people don't have affordable housing, aren't making a living wage, and struggle to access transit options.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Allison jane Taylor</p>
6/8/2020 10:50:00 AM	Urgent demand to defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kara Barnes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kara Barnes</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:51:00 AM	Police budget	<p>Please consider reallocating some of the police budget into programs which will specifically benefit our minority citizens.</p> <p>Black and hispanic leaders have lots of great ideas as to how their communities could be better served. I really hope you take the time to listen to those voices, and can find the courage to put their ideas into action.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Melanie Stowell Asheville resident</p>
6/8/2020 10:51:00 AM	Budget for the People, not the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Olivia and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Olivia Jones</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:51:00 AM	Public Comment	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>Please strongly consider diverting funds from the police budget to invest in resources into community based programs such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. affordable housing 2. mental health treatment 3. public school education 4. drug/addiction treatment facilities 5. 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>#blacklivesmatter</p> <p>blessings, Ava</p>
6/8/2020 10:52:00 AM	Comments on Proposed Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jesse Stewart and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jesse</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:52:00 AM	Council Meeting - APD Budget Concerns	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Elizabeth Shirley and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. I am emailing you today to demand you not proceed with the proposed further funding of police while they continue to brutalize my fellow citizens. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights.</p> <p>Buncombe County has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities and abuses, as signalled by the protests surrounding the Vance obelisk, a memorial for a man whose family made their fortune off the backs of slave labor. As we call for action, it is imperative that you deny additional funding for Buncombe County police and begin providing more financial support towards community efforts in order to prevent police brutality and violence in our community.</p> <p>The reason for the outcry of police brutality in this nation is echoed here in Buncombe county. If you recall, officer Christopher Hickman's physical assault of Johnnie Rush for simply walking through a parking lot happened under police chief Tammy Hooper. Similar to countless other cases, the footage of Rush's assault was held by the police department for six months before being released to the public through a leaked source. Only after the leak of information was Officer Hickman fired and charged with felony assault, yet he never spent one day behind bars. Hooper resigned, taking with her a payout of over \$100,000.</p> <p>On June 9th there will be a remote city council meeting to discuss the budget for 2020-2021 with decisions from this meeting going into effect on July 1st and I would like to make my voice heard. Despite the devastating loss of public funds due to depleting tax revenue at the hands of COVID-19, there is still a potential \$779,253 budget increase for the sheriff's department. The proposed funding for the police department is in direct contrast to the \$773,137 that is to be cut from the behavioral health budget. If these proposals pass, it will be evident that our government cares more for the funding of police than for the health, stability and rehabilitation of their own citizens. In solidarity with Black Lives Matter's demands of defunding the police, I urge my elected officials to ensure that this proposed \$779,253 increase to the sheriff's department be unequivocally turned down.</p> <p>Rather than this allocation of funds, I suggest a reallocation of funds back into the community using the guidance of those affected—namely our POC community—to create a long term solution within our community.</p> <p>We demand that funds allocated for police forces be deferred to public health and rehabilitation efforts. We demand that officers who have abused their power by suppressing the constitutional rights of citizens be held accountable by a jury of their peers, without a plea bargain.</p> <p>Can I count on the City Council in this? Will you take action that supports the interests of your citizens? Please protect the livelihoods of residents so that we can all move towards a better Buncombe County and allow Asheville to lead the country in the call for policing reform.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:54:00 AM	Input on City of Asheville Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Shane Shields and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Shane Shields</p> <p>-- Shane Shields Phone 828-776-2200 E-mail *shields.shanesteven@gmail.com <shields.shanesteven@gmail.com>*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:54:00 AM	Comment for V. Public Hearing item D	<p>My name is Heidi Freeman; I am a resident of Asheville and a teacher in the Asheville City Schools system.</p> <p>Like many other citizens, I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. I feel that each of you were elected because we see you as a mixture of the passion and pragmatism that is necessary to make the changes that will allow Asheville to reconcile with its past and a real, equitable future. This requires real policy change. I trust in my heart that you all are feeling like many of us are -- that we are dealing with systems that have been in place for hundreds of years, systems with clear scars over the city of Asheville...but something is happening that feels different right now. Change feels more possible than it has seemed before in my lifetime -- we need your bravery and leadership to create real change.</p> <p>I feel you have an opportunity now to create a watershed moment that builds on the momentum the black leaders in our community have activated. It is a hard time to talk about budget -- with COVID-19, unemployment, the far reaching economic ripples -- but anything less than action at this point looks like complacency and Asheville citizens support change.</p> <p>Therefore, with the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I also ask that the City Council commit to removing the Vance and Robert E Lee Monuments and replace them with monuments honoring the Black Ashevilleians who built this city.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Heidi Freeman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:55:00 AM	This is what the people of Asheville want. Please hear us.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is KAYLYN BROOKS and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kaylyn Brooks</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:55:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Asia Suler and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591630779818000&sa=D&ust=1591630779832000&usg=AFQjCNEYUcGNnHKgRV_1QJlhfzpwadobJw>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Asia Suler</p> <p>Asia Suler Creator, Concoctress & Herbalist One Willow Apothecaries www.onewillowapothecaries.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:55:00 AM	Defund the Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Dylan Miller and I'm a resident of Asheville, NC.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Dylan Miller</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Dear Asheville City Council Members,

As a nearly lifelong resident of the city of Asheville, I have seen many cycles of growth and change here. Some of what I have seen has made me proud of my hometown – other things have made me deeply disappointed.

Part of what disappoints me about the leadership in this city (and I say that as someone who voted for many of you) is the dichotomy between the projected image of progressive values and lack of action and initiative to actually make this city a good place for all of the citizens who reside here.

As I am sure you are all aware, there is an opportunity before you right now to make lasting change for the better of this community. The 2021 fiscal year budget is an imperative place to start making some positive changes. Prioritizing people over institutions should be something on the forefront of your minds as you consider where you allocate our hard earned tax dollars.

I am of the opinion that the Asheville Police Department should not be the largest budget line item – not by a long shot. The department has proven time and again over the last several years that it cannot be trusted by a large faction of our community. From the outrageous 2018 brutality against the J-walker in South Slope to the egregious display of destruction to a peaceful, permitted medic station at the recent Black Lives Matter protests, it is clear to me that there is an insidious problem. It is likely clear to you as well, given the fact that there have been 4 police chiefs in the last 8 years.

It is time to radically reevaluate the priorities of this city and to follow the lead of the city of Minneapolis. I am asking that Asheville make an overt and visible commitment to racial justice. Consider diverting and allocating our valuable resources away from APD and toward projects aimed at supporting some of our most vulnerable citizens. We must work at all levels of government to dismantle racial and class inequality. If doing this means delaying the budget vote, then by all means – take the time and put in the work to find viable alternatives. We, as Ashevilleians, deserve this effort on your part. We deserve better.

We need more affordable housing. We need more affordable access to health care services. We need an actual fair living wage. We need better education opportunities. We need sidewalks. We need clean air and water. We don't need a militarized police force that clearly abuses power.

I hope that I can count on you to take the time to consider alternative budget allocations that work for the people of this city. We are all watching, and we will all be voting, too.



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:57:00 AM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members, My name is Isaiah McGimsey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Isaiah McGimsey</p>
6/8/2020 10:58:00 AM	2021 budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lindsay and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our black communities who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Lindsay Wilson</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:58:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Dietrich and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah Dietrich</p>
6/8/2020 10:59:00 AM	From a concerned citizen	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katrina Detwiler and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Katrina Detwiler Katrinadetwiler@gmail.com (812)219-3657</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:00:00 AM	You speak for the people: we are the people. Show that you actually care about black lives	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brooklyn Baker and I've been a resident of Asheville for the past 5 years. Today I'm writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I *demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.*</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Please get back to me with your thoughts</p> <p>Thank you, Brooklyn Baker</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:01:00 AM	Redistribution of funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Rogstad and I'm a resident of Buncombe county. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Rogstad</p> <p>@emilyrogstad Emilyrogstad.com</p>
6/8/2020 11:01:00 AM	Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sam Antaramian and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sam Antaramian</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:01:00 AM	June 8, 2020	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members, My name is Sarah and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sarah</p>
6/8/2020 11:03:00 AM	June 9th APD Budget Vote	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Adele Bernard and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Adele Bernard</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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6/8/2020 11:03:00 AM	Enough is Enough. How Many Need to Die or be Seriously Injured by Those Meant to "Protect and Serve" the Community?	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lydia Loy-Santelli and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police and prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Especially after witnessing how APD went about handling the peaceful protests this past week, this change is far past due. Shooting extremely dangerous rubber bullets AND tear gas at peaceful protestors, during a pandemic that directly affects the respiratory system is absolutely unbelievable. On top of that, attacking and destroying a triage that was setup by medical personnel in order to help the protestors that APD were causing harm to...how is that so easily dismissed and excused?</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lydia Loy-Santelli</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:03:00 AM	Redirect Police Funds Now.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mila and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mila</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:03:00 AM	Budget Concerns	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hunter Stewart and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hunter Stewart</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:03:00 AM	DEFUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sydney Giordano and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sydney Giordano</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 11:04:00 AM

Agenda Items for June 9, 2020

Dear Council,

For the public hearing on June 9, 2020, to discuss the 2020-21 budget. We need a budget to allocate money with the purpose of meeting the demands compiled by the intergenerational collective of Black leaders in AVL listed at blackavidemands.org.

1) Divest from the APD/Invest in AVL Black community: 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable

2) Removal of confederate monuments: We need to remove the Vance Monument and the Robert E. Lee monument ASAP

3) End the War on Black people: an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).

Ryan Anderson

Asheville, NC



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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6/8/2020 11:05:00 AM	2021 budget for AVL	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mary Ann Garwood and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>There is also more information on https://8cantwait.org/ - I ask that you please consider these options.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Mary Ann Garwood</p>
6/8/2020 11:06:00 AM	Manheimers budget proposal 2021	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Kris Sorensen and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kris Sorensen</p>



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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:08:00 AM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jim Hitesman and I'm a resident of Asheville and firefighter for the city of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jim Hitesman</p>
6/8/2020 11:08:00 AM	Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Edith Neidhart and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Edith Neidhart</p>



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Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:09:00 AM	Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Olivia Posner and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Olivia Posner</p>
6/8/2020 11:09:00 AM	Defund Asheville PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Aleli Lauria and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Aleli Lauria</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:10:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alex and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, -Alex</p>
6/8/2020 11:10:00 AM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tyson-Cole Phillips and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Tyson-Cole Phillips</p> <p>Do A Good Turn Daily.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:10:00 AM	Asheville City Budget meeting	<p>Hello, my name is Harris Wagner and I have been a resident of the Asheville area for 6 years now. The increase in the APD budget of \$457,621 is not needed. I am requesting that the APD budget be cut and eventually follow the example of Minneapolis to completely defund the police department. The increase in budget to the APD alone is more than the \$454,999 equity and inclusion fund. This is unacceptable, as such the budget meeting should be postponed until a new budget plan is devised to more closely reflect the taxpayers of Asheville's interests. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>-Harris Wagner</p> <p>--</p> <p>*Harris Wagner* harris.r.wagner@gmail.com</p>
6/8/2020 11:11:00 AM	regarding the budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tanya Carwyn and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tanya Carwyn</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:11:00 AM	Comments for 6/9/20 Meeting	<p>Hello, my name is Rebecca Rose and I live in Asheville. Though I am outside of the city voting boundaries, I believe very strongly that it does not help our community to increase the budget of the Asheville Police Department by \$411,000. I urge you to remove this increase from the budget before it is considered for a vote.</p> <p>I understand some of the increases in this funding are in response to state mandates. To meet these state mandates, I believe the city and APD leadership can cut expenses in other areas of the almost \$30 million budget to meet those mandates without increasing the overall amount spent on APD.</p> <p>Lastly, I ask that you establish listening sessions on public safety and make a commitment to respond to our community's calls for a new way forward on policing. These sessions must be structured to encourage and center participation of black leaders, organizations, and community members.</p> <p>There are many approaches to policing that deserve consideration from the City of Asheville, and listening sessions with community members will help the Council understand our community's needs. I also encourage City of Asheville leadership to reach out to other cities in North Carolina, such as Durham, that are looking at alternative approaches to public safety.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and careful consideration of all the public input you will receive on this issue.</p> <p>Rebecca Rose 828-279-4406</p>
6/8/2020 11:13:00 AM	Delay the Vote! Defund APD!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Mittman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Hannah Mittman</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:14:00 AM	2021 budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cattlin Johnson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cattlin</p>
6/8/2020 11:14:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Caitlin Mushinski and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Caitlin Mushinski</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:15:00 AM	Defund the Asheville PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Heather Burrows and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Heather Burrows</p>
6/8/2020 11:15:00 AM	APD defund for Our Black Lives Safety	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Charissa Wright and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Charissa Wright</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:15:00 AM	ALTERNATIVE BUDGET	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Claire Shadomy and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Claire Shadomy</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:15:00 AM	Concerning the budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Zach Briggs and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Absolutely no increases to the APD budget, and in fact, a serious decrease in their budget is what should happen. An immediate freeze on hiring as well as very serious third party inquiries and evaluations of current APD personnel should also be brought into the picture. The APD is an international disgrace and the treatment of Asheville citizens in favor of property has been horrifying.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. The Black leaders of our community have made public their demands. I suggest you look at those and do EVERYTHING they say.</p> <p>I will absolutely be voting in the next local elections as well as doing my part to encourage others to vote. I hope you are taking the concerns of the citizens of Asheville seriously as you are here to serve and represent us. You have not done your job thus far.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zach Briggs</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:16:00 AM	2021 budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashley Redican and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ashley Redican</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:17:00 AM	Requested budget vote delay	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Libba McKinsey and I'm a longtime resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Libba -- libba g mckinsey (cell): 202-802-0657 email: libbamckinsey@gmail.com</p>
6/8/2020 11:17:00 AM	Looking at Community Policing models	<p>Please do not increase funding for the Asheville Police Department in the next budget. Rather, openly begin study of other cities' Community Policing models with the intent to continue to improve the community involvement in Asheville public safety matters.</p> <p>Thank you. Frank Fox 9 Chateau Place Asheville, NC 28805301-247-5529 "The lions never get out of the road of the person who waits to see the way clear before they start." ---anonymous</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:18:00 AM	Defund the Asheville Police Department	<p>Good morning, I'm writing this letter as a concerned citizen of Asheville. I understand a city budget vote is coming soon, and an overwhelming majority of public funds are slated to go to the Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>The APD is better equipped than Union Hospital. It has more resources than any other local public health organization. We still have monuments to Confederate generals and slave owners in prominent places in the city. The APD has an armored car. *An armored car?! Why?*</p> <p>Too much money is spent under the auspices of public safety, and protect and serve; the police department is fortified beyond necessity while many other public safety/health outlets are struggling, underfunded.</p> <p>Defunding the police department will not lead to a sharp rise in violent crime. Defunding the police department will not enable drug dealers or users. Defunding the police department will not give a green light to those who choose to drive after drinking. Defunding the police department will not reduce revenue gained from court fees and traffic tickets.</p> <p>The public demands more than an inquiry into Why a cache of water bottles was sabotaged, and why protesters were tear-gassed. The National Guard WAS NOT NECESSARY to quell largely peaceful protests; it only seeded distrust. Distrust in the public toward its elected officials, and blatantly showed no trust from those officials toward the people who elected them. The public does not feel as though the Asheville Police Department serves to protect their personal safety, nor their public or private property. The less fortunate of Asheville's citizens do not deserve to be criminalized for their poverty.</p> <p>INVEST in public safety through expanding resources needed for mental health services INVEST in affordable housing. DIVEST from the hotel industry. PROVIDE INITIATIVES for Black, Latinx, and Pan-Asian - owned businesses and upstarts INVEST in safe houses and social workers who provide spaces for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence INVEST IN AND EXPAND resources for our community who struggle with substance abuse</p> <p>If a settlement is ordered by the court to be paid to families affected by police violence or aggression, or wrongful arrest, *take it out of the cop's pension, not out of taxpayer dollars. *</p> <p>Asheville is already on the national radar (thanks to the whole water bottle fiasco) for How To Embarrass Itself By Sending The Wrong Message, by Meeting a Protest About Police Violence *With More Police Violence*.</p> <p>You can't undo that. But you can fix it. WE can move forward.</p> <p>DEFUND THE APD.</p> <p>We will be watching.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:18:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ethan Risinger and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ethan Risinger</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:18:00 AM	Re: Budget proposal and changes NEEDED	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members, My name is Melissa Allen and I've been a resident of Asheville for the last 12 years. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Police officers are not healthcare workers, mental health counselors, substance abuse experts, or private security guards; and we need to redefine our expectations of police to the services for which their training prepares them. I demand that funding cut from the APD be reallocated toward healthcare, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, education, and job training. I also advocate opening APD personnel records to community review in the interest public trust.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Melissa Allen</p>
6/8/2020 11:20:00 AM	Defund and Abolish the Asheville PD	<p>To all whom it may concern,</p> <p>I do not support the proposed budget increases to the Asheville Police Department. I demand defunding of the Asheville Police Department and that this money be redirected into social programs that will support black business, eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and end systemic terror being inflicted upon black people in Asheville. As a lifelong Asheville resident, I have not once felt safe because of the presence of the police, and I feel that they are a presence of control in the city that stifles the creativity, happiness, and freedom of every Asheville resident, especially our minority residents.</p> <p>If the police are not defunded in Asheville, I will have no choice but to abandon my childhood home forever.</p> <p>Troubled, Elliot Butterworth</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:20:00 AM	Delay budget vote	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Stori Walker and I'm a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:22:00 AM	Concerns over Asheville's 2021 Budget	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Beyond the events of this past week, the APD has not proven itself deserving of any budget increases. If the APD is a "business" as our Chief of Police put it, then the ROI of the APD is not worth the cost of investment.</p> <p>I'm not asking for my city council to single-handedly dismantle systemic racism. I'm calling for my city council to care as much for our BIPOC citizens as they do about local businesses and tourists.</p> <p>I'm not asking to entirely defund and dismantle the APD. *I'm calling for a significant reduction in their budget to be allocated to programs that directly benefit our community. Specifically, Equity and Inclusion, Sustainability, Planning & Urban Design, Public Transportation, and Parks & Rec.*</p> <p>On a side note, upon reviewing the 2021 budget, I'm surprised that a progressive, outdoor-centric city like Asheville doesn't invest more in these programs to begin with. If the goal is to bring in as much tourism money as possible, we need to remember what makes it special, what niche it fills against all the other cities with amazing restaurants and breweries. It's our mountains, our trails, our blooms in the spring and the spectacular leaves in the fall. It's our art scene, our desire to support a strong local economy with diverse and inclusive small businesses. We need to protect and invest in these assets!</p> <p>I'm not asking for perfection, I'm calling for progress. Real, observable, actionable progress. I'm not going to copy and paste the same 8 Can't Wait steps to address issues with our police force, you've seen it from a number of our citizens. I don't want hollow apologies, I don't want empty promises for change. I want a plan. We, the people, demand a plan that will address these serious issues.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>-- Sam Kearney Force of Nature at Give a Fox Goods www.giveafoxgoods.com</p> <p>**"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." - Lao Tsu*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:23:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the ADP	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Molly Clay, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from ADP, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police of prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to these areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Molly Clay</p> <p>Source: https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities></p>
6/8/2020 11:23:00 AM	Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Helen Vance and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Helen Vance</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alli and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alli Rowe</p>
6/8/2020 11:23:00 AM	Defund APD	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 11:23:00 AM	Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Molly and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am a lifelong Asheville citizen. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. We also absolutely need to see a line by line breakdown of the budget by department. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Molly Rosch</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:25:00 AM	Thoughts on the 2021 budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lucina Hancock and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lucina Hancock</p>
6/8/2020 11:25:00 AM	Reduce Funds Allocated to APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maggie W and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maggie W</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:26:00 AM	Redistribution of City Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Drew Sharkey. Five years ago I left East Tennessee, and adopted Asheville as my home in the hopes that it would provide a conscious, progressive community that I could be proud to participate in. I've never felt more at home and accepted anywhere in the world than I have here. I vote in every election, and in fact I voted for almost all of you. Here in lies the issue concern me lately, I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal, which flies in the face of what my friends, neighbors, and I believe to be the true spirit of our city.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, accessible mental community mental health programs, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>I feel strongly that the APD has grievously betrayed my fellow Asheville citizens and me. They have time and again proved that the safety of the people is far from a real priority. I abide by the law, and I believe in a society supported by an ethical code of conduct, however I feel that the police are no longer a part of this framework.</p> <p>Please dissolve the police department, advocate for community safety, mental health, housing, public transit, and substance abuse programs. Countless citizens such as myself are ready to pick up this torch and make Asheville the truly beautiful place to live that it could be. \$30,000,000 could go a long way towards achieving this goal. We are all counting on you to stand for your community, and refuse to defend the harmful institution of policing.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and public service</p> <p>Drew Sharkey</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:26:00 AM	Defund APD, and re-fund social services	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jodi Walker and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jodi Walker</p>
6/8/2020 11:26:00 AM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 11:27:00 AM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Hi my name is Callaway Berry, I'm a citizen of Asheville and I'm writing to ensure that we not only spend less on our police department but we allocate those funds to programs that actively benefit our communities/city. Support our people!!!! Do not increase the police budget!!</p>
6/8/2020 11:28:00 AM	Defund the police	<p>Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:28:00 AM	Upcoming Budget meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rebecca Ferris and I'm a sister of a UNC-Asheville student. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>--</p> <p>*Rebecca Ferris*</p> <p>rmferris@gmail.com (919) 260-3755</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:28:00 AM	Upcoming Budget Meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rebecca Ferris and I'm a sister of a UNC-Asheville student. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-- Rebecca M. Ferris Legal Assistant Ware Law Firm, PLLC Click here <https://warelawfirmpllc.sharefile.com/r-ra2aa124af084d178> to upload files.</p> <p>****NOTE: Our office is continuing to work remotely for our clients. If you call the direct line number below, our phone system will connect you to my home office. ****</p> <p>100 Europa Drive, Suite 401 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517</p> <p>Desk: (919) 446-4218 Fax: (919) 869-2927 Email: rferris@warelawfirmpllc.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:28:00 AM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Rebecca Steinhoff and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rebecca Steinhoff</p>
6/8/2020 11:28:00 AM	How much Violence is too much?	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Nathan Burrows and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Nathan Burrows</p>
6/8/2020 11:29:00 AM	Please postpone budget vote and redirect funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashley Peck and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ashley Peck</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:29:00 AM	2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Winkler and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/8/2020 11:29:00 AM	WE NEED ACTION NOW	<p>Sarah Winkler</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Ermer and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Ermer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:29:00 AM	Asheville Police Budget - Reallocation of Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Grace Schmidt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Grace Schmidt</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:30:00 AM	Reallocation and change	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nina Kavar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Nina Kavar</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:30:00 AM	2021 Police Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sally Morgan and I'm a resident of Buncombe County who spends a whole lot of my time and money in the City of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sally Morgan</p> <p>-- Sally Anne Morgan She/Her</p> <p>www.sallyannemorgan.com www.ratbeepress.com</p>
6/8/2020 11:30:00 AM	Defund Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Victoria and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, -V" Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness." -Martin Luther King Jr.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:31:00 AM	Citizen's desire to defund police department	<p>My name is Bonnie Melanson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Bonnie Melanson</p>
6/8/2020 11:32:00 AM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hazel Bray and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hazel Bray</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:33:00 AM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kristi Schmidt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kristi SchmidtGet Outlook for Android</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:34:00 AM	Defund the APD	<p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>I urge you to cut funds for policing in the city's budget and reallocate those funds towards community programs and social services that are designed and equipped to meaningfully, effectively, and compassionately address systemic issues that plague our community, such as homelessness/lack of affordable housing, addiction and untreated mental illness, joblessness/lack of living wages, inequities in education, and domestic violence in our city.</p> <p>As we have seen time after time in our community and across the country, the police are not equipped to help address or alleviate the vast majority of the societal problems that we have unreasonably charged them with addressing.</p> <p>In my time working at a local job training organization, I regularly encountered unhoused clients whose tents and belongings had been slashed by the police, effectively and cruelly taking away the only home they had. What problems did that solve? People of color who we served were unwilling and afraid to report violent crimes to the police, not trusting the police to protect them or their families from further violence, or to fairly administer justice. How does that reality help to alleviate crime in our community? How does it protect those residents of our public housing communities who are most often the victims of violent crime?</p> <p>Our tax dollars and precious resources would be better invested in programs and initiatives designed to alleviate these issues, rather than make them simply "disappear" from Downtown Asheville and the gaze of tourists.</p> <p>The APD has consistently shown that they lack the leadership and accountability to fairly, equitably, and humanely administer the law. Far too often people of color--and black people in particular--are the victims of violence perpetrated by the police. The culture of policing in our community and nation *must be changed*. Now is the time to *take bold action* to begin dismantling policing as we know it and invest in new equitable forms of community support and restorative justice. You are our leaders--now is the time to lead!</p> <p>Violence only begets violence. Let's instead invest in progressive community-centered initiatives that promote equity in education; increase access to housing, healthcare, and living wages; and create true liberty and justice for all.</p> <p>Thank you, Gwen Hill Resident of West Asheville, 28806</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:34:00 AM	Comments for the June 9th Budget Meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Alyssa Prendergast and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50 percent of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Alyssa Prendergast 828-273-1267</p>
6/8/2020 11:34:00 AM	Public Hearing comment	<p>Hi there, my name is Nicole Lupo. I'm a long term citizen of Asheville, NC.</p> <p>I demand a denial of the \$400,000 budget increase to the APD!</p> <p>I demand a divestment from the police and investment into our black communities. 50 percent of APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies. Including supporting black start ups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools and finding an all civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Research shows that crime is a response to social conditions, so by defunding the police and redirecting that money into our communities, violent crimes can be reduced and our communities can thrive and be uplifted.</p> <p>We should focus on affordable housing, healthcare, employment, free education/training, after school programs, more counselors, trauma services, and anti violence programs.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Kindly,</p> <p>Nicole Lupo</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:35:00 AM	Please Defund APD and Redistribute Our Budget Into Our Community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lily Oden and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lily Oden</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 11:35:00 AM	June 9th meeting on budget proposals	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Marlene Thompson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I'm writing, as I did earlier this week, about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I'm asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>We have defunded other services in our community, like education, for far too long.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to healthcare and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy)— or honestly, any trusted source. You can google it.</p> <p>I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Our black communities and communities of color have been disproportionate targets of police violence for far too long.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when APD is reformed.</p> <p>This will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Marlene Thompson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Savannah Dicus and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Considering Asheville's history of gentrification, you owe it to the Black community to rebuild our communities and cease over policing .</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Savannah Dicus</p> <p>Sent from Mail for Windows 10</p>
6/8/2020 11:36:00 AM	Concerned POC UNCA Student	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Evan Herrin and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. *As a social worker,* *can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? *</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Evan Herrin</p>
6/8/2020 11:37:00 AM	[URGENT] 2021 Budget Review	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:38:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kimmie O'Brien and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591633959550000&sa=D&ust=1591633959563000&usg=AFQjCNFZarfqmYPG4Vwh_wJ0SIhgjPVtyA>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kimmie O'Brien</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:39:00 AM	Public Comment	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'd like to first draw attention to the demands of Black leaders in Asheville (taken from their website www.blackavldemands.org):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-50% of APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies centering black people-Reparations be paid in the form of replacing racist monuments with monuments honoring Black Ashevilleians and renaming racist street names with names of local black leaders-Accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. There must be an end to systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer, and gender-nonconforming people). <p>The police do not keep communities, especially black communities, safe. APD has displayed the way that they deal with things they fear (and fear for no reason) - they destroy them. They stomped on and stabbed harmless water bottles because they "feared" that those water bottles could be used against them. Do you see how absurd that is? If the way they treat valuable resources and supplies (provided by MEDICS no less) is any indication of how APD chooses to interact with Black individuals, it is well past time to defund the police.</p> <p>Black people's safety, livelihood, and mental health are in immediate and constant danger. Police don't do anything to improve this situation, they actually create and uphold these dangers and actively cause harm to Black lives and their communities.</p> <p>If Asheville City Council wants to do the right thing, and be on the right side of history, I implore that you honor the above requests from Black leaders in Asheville.</p> <p>Divest in the police, and invest more in community resources. Dismantle racism. Do the right thing. This is the only way forward.</p> <p>Thank you, Alison Antaramian -- Alison Antaramian Videographer alisonantaramian.com tel: 239-404-2849</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:39:00 AM	APD Budget	<p>Dear members of the Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Matt D. Wilson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about the fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>Reconsider this budget, which funnels so many taxpayer funds to the police department at the expense of communities, education and racial justice. Please direct the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and toward programs that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>As we have seen over the past week, the only tool police seem willing to use, no matter what the problem, is force. Force cannot solve systemic problems such as homelessness, unequal educational access, health inequality, income inequality, drug addiction and so on.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color that are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Again, please consider an alternative budget that can address systemic racism and other issues rather than simply using force to push them away.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Matt D. Wilson</p>
6/8/2020 11:40:00 AM	BLM	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>The actions I have seen by government employees since moving here a little over a year ago are absolutely shameful. Swallow your pride, and fix the problems now.</p> <p>I have seen black kids breath in tear gas and abused by your police force with my own eyes for doing NOTHING wrong. I watched a white kid throw his hands up at protesters with a gun in his waistband and APD did absolutely nothing.</p> <p>I expect to see more change than is comfortable for this city, because your comfort is at the expense of black lives and happiness.</p> <p>I would like to see the defunding of APD, the prosecution of any officers involved in harming any innocent people or infringing on anyone's constitutional rights, the resignation of the Chief of Police and Mayor, the immediate release of anyone arrested during protests, the complete removal of the Vance Monument, reallocation of city funds to better the community (specifically for predominately black neighborhoods), the appointment of a black city representative to ensure the proper needs are met for black people, help for black entrepreneurs in starting more businesses downtown, and more funding for the education of black children, just to name a few things.</p> <p>FIX THE PROBLEMS.</p> <p>Thank you, Benjamin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:40:00 AM	My Support for Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Lucia Rosero and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday, and I demand that Black residents stop getting killed and brutally assaulted by police force. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Lucia Rosero</p>
6/8/2020 11:40:00 AM	Please Reallocate Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Wyatt Grant and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Wyatt Grant</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:41:00 AM	Support Protestors: Budget Reallocation Request	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is D Waldron and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality: Education, Social Services, Homeless Rehabilitation, Children's Services, Mental Health, Transportation.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>D Waldron</p>
6/8/2020 11:41:00 AM	Defund police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Audrey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Audrey</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:42:00 AM	Please Support the Community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jeff Mason and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jeff Mason</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:42:00 AM	2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katelyn Knell and I've been a resident of Asheville since 2015. I am in college studying sustainability. I think that in order for our city to move into a sustainable future, there needs to be a few changes. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katelyn Knell</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:42:00 AM	DEFUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is James Hargis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>James Hargis</p>
6/8/2020 11:43:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Fagan. I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hannah Fagan</p>
6/8/2020 11:43:00 AM	Consent Agenda Item	<p>Sent from my iPhoneX</p> <p>Hi, I am a resident of Asheville. I am emailing to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the ADP's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to help the ADP and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>--</p> <p>*Elizabeth Bates*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:43:00 AM	In support of black demands and defunding the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Analise Miljour and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Analise</p>
6/8/2020 11:43:00 AM	Regarding Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elizabeth Albright and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Elizabeth Albright</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:44:00 AM		<p>Hello, this is Courtney Kramer and I am a resident of Asheville. I am emailing to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>thanks,</p> <p>--</p> <p>*Courtney Kramer, MSW, LCSW-A* Email: Ckramer38@gmail.com Cell: (703)-380-5299</p>
6/8/2020 11:45:00 AM	Concerned Citizen	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Allyson Seifert and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Allyson Seifert 407-416-1588 Allyseifertt@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:46:00 AM	APD Budget Deflation	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Miranda and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Miranda Rentz</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 11:46:00 AM	APD Budget 2020	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Zane Buchholz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zane Buchholz</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:46:00 AM	We Must Make Changes	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Breanna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Breanna Davis</p>
6/8/2020 11:47:00 AM	Budget Transparency	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Whitney Richmond and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Whitney R</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:47:00 AM	Public Comment	<p>Medical Workers are providing their own PPE. Teachers are providing out-of-pocket for their own classrooms. But it's Asheville's citizens who buy the police their guns and riot gear. Please do better, Asheville.</p> <p><http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail> Virus-free. www.avg.com <http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail> <#DAB4FAD8-2DD7-40BB-A1B8-4E2AA1F9FDF2></p>
6/8/2020 11:48:00 AM	Asheville can do better, let's be the change!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sydney Rubin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sydney Rubin</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:49:00 AM	Asheville Deserves Change and Reform NOW	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Mooney and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauren Mooney</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:49:00 AM	Open Comment Defund the Police Budget	<p>Honorable Mayor and members of City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly encourage a complete revision of the current police budget to defund the police department and focus those funds on programs to empower and improve the black population of Asheville. I've been shocked and appalled by the gaping inequities in this community. I know that you have all been moving in the direction of greater equity and I applaud those efforts. The current police budget is a step in the wrong direction and given the current awareness will not be tolerated by the Asheville community or me personally.</p> <p>Minneapolis has voted to dismantle its police department and institute a community based policing model. LA is also defunding the police department to fund programs for disenfranchised black communities. The current protests and property destruction should make clear to us all, as if it wasn't already, that the current situation is not only unconscionable but also unsustainable. It is a cauldron of resentment that is always boiling and can boil over at any point doing real damage to our city, both physical and psychological.</p> <p>What LA, Minneapolis, and other cities are realizing is that the way to fix this problem is not to clamp down harder, to issue curfews, and to spend more and more on police force. The solution is to actually address and fix the glaring inequalities and lack of opportunities and access for our black neighbors. We need to build tangible bridges that create real support and opportunity for black folks. I am not black and so I will let black voices lead the narrative on what programs are needed and proven effective for their community.</p> <p>Lastly, I trust that the culture that allowed officers like Hickman to exist at all is completely banished. Officers already know who the bad actors are. They know who the dangerous cops are and so I'll leave you with one question. How sure are we that it won't happen again in Asheville? How sure are we that our police are aware of their own racial bias and highly trained in de-escalation. How much control at all do we have over our own police force? The budget seems to be our most potent and practical tool to initiate real change in the department. Because if it happens again I fear for the soul of our city.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Han Winogron</p> <p>326 Beucatcher Rd</p> <p>Asheville NC 28805</p> <p>(828) 620 - 6461</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:49:00 AM	Defund Asheville PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alexandra Dudley and I'm a former resident of Asheville. While I do not currently live in your city, I plan to move back and am very concerned about the future of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alexandra</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:50:00 AM	End Police Brutality Against Black Lives	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mikal and I'm a NC native and resident of Asheville for 4 years.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>These questions are directed toward the APD specifically.</p> <p>Are our officers using body cams and if not, why? Is enough emphasis being put on de-escalation tactics? How frequently are cops being mentally evaluated? Do our police know that there are alternatives to using tear gas? For example, you could NOT USE TEAR GAS.</p> <p>Also, WHEN WILL THE INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING A MED TABLE BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS??</p> <p>Our community deserves better.</p> <p>Mikal Sholar</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Hello, my name is Jeff Winston and I live in Asheville. Though I am outside of the city voting boundaries, I believe very strongly that it does not help our community to increase the budget of the Asheville Police Department by \$411,000. I urge you to remove this increase from the budget before it is considered for a vote.</p> <p>I understand some of the increases in this funding are in response to state mandates. To meet these state mandates, I believe the city and APD leadership can cut expenses in other areas of the almost \$30 million budget to meet those mandates without increasing the overall amount spent on APD.</p> <p>Lastly, I ask that you establish listening sessions on public safety and make a commitment to respond to our community's calls for a new way forward on policing. These sessions must be structured to encourage and center participation of black leaders, organizations, and community members.</p> <p>There are many approaches to policing that deserve consideration from the City of Asheville, and listening sessions with community members will help the Council understand our community's needs. I also encourage City of Asheville leadership to reach out to other cities in North Carolina, such as Durham, that are looking at alternative approaches to public safety.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and careful consideration of all the public input you will receive on this issue.</p> <p>Jeff Winston 413-588-7807 jeffwinston@me.com</p>
6/8/2020 11:50:00 AM	Asheville Police Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Wanat and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sarah Wanat</p>
6/8/2020 11:50:00 AM	Upcoming budget proposal decision	Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:51:00 AM	Police Budget	<p>Hello, I am a concerned Asheville City Resident . I live at 157 Flint St , Asheville NC, 28801 . I am writing to express my opinion .</p> <p>I do not want my tax money being spent on increasing the police budget !</p> <p>Do not raise the police budget, allocate those resources to different departments that help sustain our city/community (ex. Parks and rec, social services, health department etc.)</p> <p>Thanks , Brandon Dombrowski</p>
6/8/2020 11:51:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sonny Helms and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sonny Helms</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>To Whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council direct the police budget towards a strategic plan that supports social justice initiatives in the city.</p> <p>These could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A team of social workers, counselors, mediators/negotiators could be hired to be dispatched where needed to support individuals and families • A team trained in domestic violence could be dispatched to homes as needed • Neighborhood leaders could be hired and trained to be peer support mediators • People assigned to handle the flow and safety of traffic • People to uphold human and civil rights in housing, employment, etc. • Services for healing stress and trauma • Allocating funds toward investment in current and incubation of African American and Latinx owned businesses, equitable economic and educational opportunities, living wage jobs, affordable housing, transportation, poverty remediation alleviate the root causes of crime <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider these important initiatives.</p> <p>Caroline Callahan</p>
6/8/2020 11:51:00 AM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Rockelle Hancock</p>
6/8/2020 11:52:00 AM	Thoughts on 2020 budget proposal	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:52:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kristen Anderson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kristen Anderson</p> <p>--</p> <p>"Man did not weave the web of life - he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself." ~ Chief Seattle 1854</p>
6/8/2020 11:53:00 AM		<p>My name is Keith Rudd, and I have lived in Asheville for my entire life, as have my parents before me. In the past week, I have been more disappointed in my city than I ever have— but mostly in my police force. For a city that prides itself on progressiveness, the actions of our police force have been nothing short of archaic. I want to see my town on the news for good, not for state-run vigilante justice. This is why I, as well as many others, implore you to please reallocate some funds from the APD in the new budget. As someone who spent 13 years in Asheville City Schools, that money could so easily be allocated into greater resources within our schools. More guidance counselors, school psychiatrists, anything that can help bring our community up, not break it down as the police have done. I love this city, because I know how incredible a place it can be.</p> <p>Thank you, Keith Rudd</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:53:00 AM	2020 Funding	<p>Hello, my name is Hannah Moore and I live in Asheville. Though I am outside of the city voting boundaries, I believe very strongly that it does not help our community to increase the budget of the Asheville Police Department by \$411,000. I urge you to remove this increase from the budget before it is considered for a vote.</p> <p>I understand some of the increases in this funding are in response to state mandates. To meet these state mandates, I believe the city and APD leadership can cut expenses in other areas of the almost \$30 million budget to meet those mandates without increasing the overall amount spent on APD.</p> <p>Lastly, I ask that you establish listening sessions on public safety and make a commitment to respond to our community's calls for a new way forward on policing. These sessions must be structured to encourage and center participation of black leaders, organizations, and community members.</p> <p>There are many approaches to policing that deserve consideration from the City of Asheville, and listening sessions with community members will help the Council understand our community's needs. I also encourage City of Asheville leadership to reach out to other cities in North Carolina, such as Durham, that are looking at alternative approaches to public safety.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and careful consideration of all the public input you will receive on this issue.</p> <p>Best, Hannah</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>"One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</p> <p>Hi Mayor, Hi Council, Hi Debra, Hi Chief Zack,</p> <p>There will be many voices asking to cut the APD budget. The Minneapolis model of 'disbanding' not just cutting the budget of MPD is unproven as to reducing crime. Asheville has plenty of crime and those crime statistics need to be radically reduced. A Next New Deal that improves the quality of our civilization is something I have actively promoted. You can see my 2028 commentary where I talk about looking to Scandinavia for a new American happiness model:</p> <p>Happiness is comparing the USA with Norway's liberal democracy</p> <p>https://www.citizen-times.com/story/opinion/columnists/2018/02/14/guest-column-happiness-finding-innovation-norways-liberal-democracy/332447002/</p> <p>People of faith have a kind of happiness, or try to. But policy is about delivering tangibles. The tangibles for anyone having an unjust experience with the judicial system is something to fix. But there are all kind of injustices out there for all kinds of constituencies to design a reform from. I happen to care about persons with disabilities (PwDs). City of Asheville habitually does not.</p> <p>I am happy to have designed a solution that helps recreate what 'keeping the peace' looks like to a certain degree. I won't be sharing that until several things are in place, but I hope those steps happen. The point is many Americans are interested in reforming the justice system and improving the wellness and happiness indicators of all American constituencies. PwDs are highly susceptible to COVID 19 and they were already living terrible versions of 'quality of life'.</p> <p>If there was every a State of PwDs in Asheville report to spell out how this largely invisible constituency survives—or not—in cities like ours, we'd have a realistic picture of community justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and wellness. PwDs are all races, genders, sexual orientations, and creeds.</p> <p>PwDs need protection. Their crime victimization picture is way worse than African-Americans. African-Americans need protection from law enforcement, even if law enforcement is an imperfect scene today.</p> <p>Slashing the APD budget when there isn't a budget to expand the US happiness agenda isn't justice. It will be unpleasant to explain that there needs to be a strategy to reduce crime and the factors that feed crime before seeing fewer APD officers, or things like unarmed APD officers who use little force doing their jobs.</p> <p>Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey encountered the wrath of a tiny fraction of America when he said we likes reform, but can't allow the vulnerable—and the rest of us—to face crime without law enforcement. Now City of Asheville can explain that the factors of crime need to be ameliorated before going straight to a super radical and dangerous solution like reducing the number of APD patrol officers.</p> <p>The ratio of less than five minute responses to 911 calls at peak no doubt needs to be improved rather than undermined. Expanding harms while we build the new Jericho Road isn't the answer.</p> <p>"The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped." - Vice President Hubert Humphrey</p> <p>I agree a uniform understanding of what the model law enforcement officer is about is a good thing. But as it is law enforcement officers alone aren't going to reduce the threat of crime by themselves. I'm not taking on the challenge of describing unjust deaths of Americans like George Floyd as errors in a dangerous and vast US War on Crime. Because leaders like you all need to make those 'errors' that cost the lives of valuable Americans at the hands of law enforcement get to try to make those injustices go away while making sure crime impacts don't get worse in a pandemic with shrinking local budgets.</p> <p>It's super tangible that with reduced crime there will be fewer law enforcement errors. Even with ideal reform legislation there will be law enforcement errors, and those errors will create legal liabilities and real harms to citizens. So reducing crime is how to increase the happiness factors (i.e. and happiness factors like lack of corruption, access to democracy, wealth, and wellness are tangible) for all of us, including African-Americans. Are African-Americans as well as PwDs ready to be treated better by the system. It seems like it. I agree the system is ready to be reformed.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:55:00 AM	Public hearing comment	<p>> > Hi there, my name is Jonathan Lupo. I'm a long term citizen of Asheville, NC. > > I demand a denial of the \$400,000 budget increase to the APD! > > I demand a divestment from the police and investment into our black communities. 50 percent of APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies. Including supporting black start ups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools and finding an all civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. > > Research shows that crime is a response to social conditions, so by defunding the police and redirecting that money into our communities, violent crimes can be reduced and our communities can thrive and be uplifted. > > We should focus on affordable housing, healthcare, employment, free education/training, after school programs, more counselors, trauma services, and anti violence programs. > > Thank you for your time, > > Kindly, > > Jonathan Lupo</p>
6/8/2020 11:55:00 AM	Request to Defund Police and Delay Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Karli and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Karli Schwartz</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:55:00 AM	2021 fiscal budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mari Miljour and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mari L.Miljour</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 11:55:00 AM	Reevaluate Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lucinda and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lucinda</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:56:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katie Sachs and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katie Sachs</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:56:00 AM	2021 Budget Proposal - reallocation away from APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ruth Bhakta and I'm a resident of Buncombe County. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ruth Bhakta ruth.bhakta@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:56:00 AM	Call for Reallocation of Police Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alexis Campbell and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Alexis Campbell</p>
6/8/2020 11:56:00 AM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [regis Bryer] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[regis Bryer]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 11:56:00 AM	Agenda Item (Please Specify)	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:56:00 AM	Regarding the 2021 budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kyra Pruitt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them and invest back into these communities.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>I sincerely hope so... the world is watching.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>K</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:57:00 AM	Regarding tomorrow's meeting re: budget	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the Asheville community.</p> <p>I am writing to implore you as a longtime Asheville citizen, to please support and enact the demands of Black Asheville in this year's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Please divest from the police and invest in Black communities by supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Please remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>Please name streets after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>Please hold individuals *and* the entire APD accountable and end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>With gratitude. Megan Martell</p> <p>-- Megan (McCarter) Martell Executive Director Odyssey School 90 Zillicoa Street Asheville, NC 28801 828-259-3653 (s*he / her / hers)* *new email as of 7/6: *megan.m.martell@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:57:00 AM	LISTEN TO YOUR COMMUNITY	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Alyse Baca and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alyse Baca</p>
6/8/2020 11:57:00 AM	DEFUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brooke and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Brooke Maples</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:57:00 AM	Sharing Thoughts	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Imes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Imes</p>
6/8/2020 11:58:00 AM	Public Input on Council Meeting June 9th	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Grace Puffer and I am a resident of Asheville. I am emailing in regards to the city counsel meeting that will be taking place tomorrow, Tuesday, June 9th. I want it on the record that there should be no approval of further Asheville Police Department funding. More than that, there should be a freeze on hiring. I have lived in Asheville for more than 15 years and have witnessed funding be drained from efforts to better the community with my own eyes and under no circumstances is the APD budget, already overinflated and wrongly prioritized above other areas (health and education), deserving of more money or more personnel. It is time for change and that starts with seriously evaluating the internal workings of our local police system, not funneling more money into an already broken system.</p> <p>Let it be known from a concerned citizen, we are watching and we will not be tossed aside. The government works for the citizens and these are our voices.</p> <p>Grace Puffer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:58:00 AM	Asheville Police Department Budget	<p>Hello, my name is Stephan Moore and I live in Asheville. Though I am outside of the city voting boundaries, I believe very strongly that it does not help our community to increase the budget of the Asheville Police Department by \$411,000. I urge you to remove this increase from the budget before it is considered for a vote.</p> <p>></p> <p>> I understand some of the increases in this funding are in response to state mandates. To meet these state mandates, I believe the city and APD leadership can cut expenses in other areas of the almost \$30 million budget to meet those mandates without increasing the overall amount spent on APD.</p> <p>></p> <p>> Lastly, I ask that you establish listening sessions on public safety and make a commitment to respond to our community's calls for a new way forward on policing. These sessions must be structured to encourage and center participation of black leaders, organizations, and community members.</p> <p>></p> <p>> There are many approaches to policing that deserve consideration from the City of Asheville, and listening sessions with community members will help the Council understand our community's needs. I also encourage City of Asheville leadership to reach out to other cities in North Carolina, such as Durham, that are looking at alternative approaches to public safety.</p> <p>></p> <p>> Thanks for your time and careful consideration of all the public input you will receive on this issue.</p> <p>></p> <p>> Best, > Stephan Moore</p>
6/8/2020 11:59:00 AM	Defund the Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Christine Mowad and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Christine Mowad</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:59:00 AM	Defund the Asheville Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kelly and I'm a former resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kelly Wilson</p>
6/8/2020 11:59:00 AM	Defund the PD!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Greyson Phillips and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Greyson Phillips</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:59:00 AM	Stop APD budget increase	<p>Hello, my name is Rebecca and I am an Asheville citizen. I am writing this email to respectfully ask you to do what you can to stop the \$400,000 budget increase to Asheville Police Department. Also, 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. With some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in North Carolina, and ongoing outright discrimination and violence towards Black residents, that department has not even remotely earned a budget increase.</p> <p>Thank you for your work for our community.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rebecca</p>
6/8/2020 12:00:00 PM	Defund Asheville PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Meagan Ferris and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Meagan Ferris</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:00:00 PM	FT2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Caroline Parker and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591635147869000&sa=D&ust=1591635147881000&usg=AFQjCNEI6APPex2apqxcgHehS4UABZK5w). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Caroline</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:00:00 PM	APD Budget	<p>Dear Leaders of Asheville,</p> <p>Regarding the City Council's budget meeting on June 9, 2020, I am writing to advocate for a reduction of the Asheville Police Department's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 20-21 budget.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community.</p> <p>In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas at a time of acute community grief. This approach comes despite a public overhaul of APD's use of force policies. This does not inspire public trust, and in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>Moreover, as we see time and again the lethal effects of police violence, the time has come to consider dis-arming police and restricting access to deadly weapons. The community has asked for community policing. This should not necessitate weapons that by their very presence in a scene open up the possibility of using lethal force. Removing weapons from these scenarios creates an environment in which police must inspire trust and engage in productive dialogue with the community, where partnership becomes a possibility.</p> <p>Do not approve an increase in budget for the police department. Decrease their existing budget. Consider making deadly weapons less of a presence on our streets by limiting officers' access to weapons. Look to other countries for examples of how to do this (e.g. Norway, which allows weapons to be stored in vehicles so they can be accessed if a situation necessitates their use, but prohibits officers from approaching a scene armed). Make racial sensitivity training mandatory for all officers (per the 2017 APD annual report, it is currently voluntary). And remove police from our public schools. Children should not be confronted with armed officers in a learning environment.</p> <p>We have seen across the country that police are bringing violence, mayhem, and death to our communities. Please be part of the solution.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Sophia Narron</p> <p>Asheville resident -- *Sophia Narron* Phone: +44 (0)7305 588799 Email: Sophiapnarron@gmail.com LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/sophia-p-narron/</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Marissa and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marissa</p>
6/8/2020 12:01:00 PM	Redirect Funds ❤️👮 Save Lives	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brent Stoltz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Brent Stoltz</p>
6/8/2020 12:03:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:03:00 PM	Redirect Funds!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maggie Antaramian and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maggie Antaramian</p>
6/8/2020 12:04:00 PM	For Our Community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sierra Brodland and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sierra Brodland</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:06:00 PM	2021 Asheville Budget Comment: APD Re-Allocation.	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is William O'Daniel Windham and I'm a resident of Asheville since 2007 and a homeowner in West Asheville since 2016. I am currently employed at Astral - a local business since 2002. I received a Bachelors in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia. I then worked for GreenPlan from 2007-2009 assisting design in developing plans, ordinances, and projects that strengthened Asheville communities by respecting and enhancing our unique characteristics. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors of mental health crises, drug abuse treatment, homelessness crises, domestic abuse and facilitate dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas and</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William O'Daniel Windham</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Camille and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Considering that areas like Planning and Urban Design are being allocated around \$1 million while our police department could be allocated almost \$30 million, I think there are major budget changes to be made here.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Camille</p>
6/8/2020 12:06:00 PM	Defund Asheville Police Department	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Good afternoon Council,</p>
6/8/2020 12:06:00 PM	Budget Considerations	<p>I wanted to comment on the upcoming budget discussion and ask that any decisions be delayed in order for appropriate deliberations to be made. As a resident of Asheville, I have been very proud of the citizen's responses to addressing the needs of our black community. However, I am less proud to see our police department made national headlines for disgusting action against protestors. The right to protest is a given right and medics were willing to put themselves at risk in order to protect citizens; our police department broke any trust we had with them and they *must* be held accountable.</p> <p>I believe this needs to be done with reconsidering how much we fund them. Still within the reach of COVID-19, I believe city funds should be allocated toward the community in terms of parks and conservation, education, and small businesses impacted by recent shutdowns. I ask that you delay budget decisions in order to allow Asheville citizens more time to research and comment on how we want our city's money spent. I am saddened to see outsiders respond on social media by saying the actions of the police here have caused them to reconsider spending their vacation money here, which will further impact our hard-working small business owners and incredible community.</p> <p>I am holding you accountable for the actions of the Asheville police and the half-hearted non-apologies the Chief has released.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Summer Winkler, West Asheville</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Greg Phipps and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Greg Phipps</p>
6/8/2020 12:07:00 PM	The time for change is now	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 12:07:00 PM	Budget Meeting	<p>To whoever this may concern,</p> <p>As I am scrolling through the many stories and posts on my instagram and Facebook I come across many posts about defunding the police. The citizens in Asheville put together an email template to send to you for your meeting about the 2020-21 budget. I just pray that the Lord gives you all wisdom to discern what is best for our city. Please do not give into the irrational talk and truly discern what you believe to be best. Everyone is so on edge during these times and their emotions have taken over. I pray that they find peace during these unusual scary times. I believe the last thing our city needs is to defund our police system. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.</p> <p>With Care, Emily</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:08:00 PM	Decrease Police Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nicole Allison and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nicole E Allison</p>
6/8/2020 12:08:00 PM	Open public comment	<p>Hi my name is Rachel Brant, and I live in weaverville.</p> <p>I demand a divestment from the police and an investment in the black communities here in Asheville. I believe that 50% of the Asheville police departments budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including investing in black start up/businesses, eliminating racial opportunity gaps in the city schools and funding an all Civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD an individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I also demand reparations for the past and continuing harms that have been inflicted on Asheville's black communities. I also demand that the Vance & the Robert e Lee monuments be taken down and replaced by the many black ashevillians that helped build this city. I also demand that streets named after former slave owners be replaced with names of historical black leaders.</p> <p>I demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for the accountability of the entire Asheville police department. I demand an end to the systematic harms inflicted on all black people which includes black trans, queer and gender non conforming people.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:08:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katie Sachs and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katie Sachs</p>
6/8/2020 12:10:00 PM	Comments for June 9 Asheville City Council Virtual Meeting	<p>I'm a resident of Asheville, and I'm writing to voice my support for a structural change in funding the Asheville Police Department. I would like to see half (50%) of the APD's budget moved to invest in supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable for violations of law. If this is not possible at this time, I ask that you delay a vote on the budget until you can find a way to achieve this.</p> <p>Please make real dollar changes that reflect our community's seriousness about racial justice. Asheville can be a leader in this area and I look to the City Council to make that happen sooner rather than later.</p> <p>Thank you, Jay Wherley Asheville</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:10:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 12:11:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elise Jordan Grob and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Elise Jordan Grob</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:11:00 PM	Comments for June 9th budget meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Michelle Weitzenkorn and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50 percent of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Michelle Weitzenkorn 970 366 2945</p>
6/8/2020 12:11:00 PM	The City of Asheville depends on this for positive forward movement!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Heather Welch and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Heather Welch</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:12:00 PM	6/9 Public Hearing on Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Bobby Kitchens, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Bobby Kitchens</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 12:13:00 PM	Stand for what's right	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Sonia Norris and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Sonia Norris</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:13:00 PM	Please listen	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Annabell Lisa and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Annabell Lisa</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:13:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cortney Harp and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal and the recent treatment of protesters by APD.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591635572887000&sa=D&ust=1591635572900000&usg=AFQjCNFhwZMmnMqDL2fpSTtNFQKeBXecQ>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Additionally, I am completely heartbroken that the city I love so much now (again) has a reputation of treating it's citizens poorly. The destruction of the medic station last week was absolutely unacceptable. The APD (not taxpayers) needs to reimburse the medics for all of their supplies and food. They deserve an apology from the individual officers who wrecked their space. This was absolutely uncalled for.</p> <p>We see you on live streams throwing tear gas and terrorizing our people. We will not stand for it or with you.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cortney Harp</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Westley Hollamon and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Westley Hollamon</p>
6/8/2020 12:13:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Taylor Chappell and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Taylor Chappell</p>
6/8/2020 12:14:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:14:00 PM	Regarding Budget Meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Stacy Donahue and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Stacy Donahue</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:15:00 PM	DELAY THE VOTE: Reallocate APD Funding!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katy Estrada and I've lived in and around Asheville since 2000. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the *budget vote be delayed* so that Council may find ways to *redirect money away from Asheville Police* Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an *ethical and equal reallocation* of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Minneapolis and New York City have already begun. There are models.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). Our three children attend the Asheville City Schools and every year parents, teachers, administrators and city officials throw their hands in the air due to the ever-expanding achievement gap, worst in the state and in the bottom 5 nationwide. Source: Mountain Xpress https://mountainx.com/news/asheville-city-schools-worst-in-nc-achievement-discipline-gaps-widen/ , Source: Carolina Public Press https://carolinapublicpress.org/28562/two-nc-school-districts-with-major-racial-achievement-gaps-look-for-solutions/ It's all connected. I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas and within the marginalized communities within Asheville.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katy Estrada</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:16:00 PM	Delay Budget Vote to Reallocate Funds to Support Racial Equity and Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauri Kemmerling and I'm a teacher in West Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauri Kemmerling</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 12:16:00 PM

To whom it may concern,

I, Holly Laster, am a resident of Asheville and an Asheville native. I am embarrassed and appalled by the actions of the APD during the protests. These events are unfortunately indicative of a lifetime of systemic abuse on POC and Asheville, despite its advertising as a progressive city, continues to neglect and abuse its communities of color.

In light of all of the protests and the appalling brutality shown by police forces all around the country, I would like to know how you, our city officials, are going to proceed in action against this brutality. Our APD has shown us no sign of hope in this regard and they HAVE to be held accountable. Our police chief's response of "going back to the drawing board" each time police brutality is demonstrated is beyond insufficient. The citizens of Asheville are expecting clear action from our officials and thus far have not seen it.

I not only strongly encourage, but insist that you begin with abstaining from the funding increase proposed for the APD. We need to see funds allocated to our community and used to support communities of color that are disparately affected by the pandemic and are systemically underserved. We need actions such as funding for affordable housing and for underprivileged schools. These requests are only the tip of the iceberg considering the lifetimes of systemic oppression that our government systems are built on.

We are demanding ACTION, not false promises or police taking knees. These are arbitrary forms of placation that are offensive at best.

The people are speaking to you. Listen.

Sincerely,
Holly Laster

Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:16:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is John Piland and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Please listen to the voices of your city desperate to make Asheville a place where all can feel safe and secure. Please let Asheville live up to its reputation as a haven for diversity and culture, let it be a city known for peace, quality of life, and greatness for all, setting an example for other cities throughout the United States.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>John Piland</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:17:00 PM	2021 Proposed Budget - June City Council Meeting	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Diana Hoover and I moved to Asheville from Houston in 2019. I am a licensed clinical psychologist and health disparities researcher with 15 years of experience. My research has focused on cancer prevention and health promotion (e.g., smoking cessation, cancer screening) in low-SES and racial/ethnic minority populations. My family and I were attracted to Asheville because it seemed like a progressive and smaller city that would afford us the ability to spend a lot of time in the outdoors. I have been very disappointed in the</p> <p>I am writing in regards to the proposed city budget for the 2021 fiscal year. Specifically, I am asking that the budget vote be delayed so that funds are redirected from the Asheville Police Department's overinflated proposed budget. Efforts are needed by the city leadership to take time to listen to those from the Black community and commit to taking action to enhance racial justice through the reallocation of funds.</p> <p>I would suggest that rather than continuing to invest large amounts of money in the APD, that we focus on using this money towards community building, particularly within the Black community. Funds could be used to increase educational opportunities and affordable housing. They could also be used to bolster small Black-owned business that were greatly affected by COVID-19. Other the last week, a number of much larger cities have committed to such efforts, and we can look to them as an example.</p> <p>As a health disparities and prevention researcher, I understand the benefit of investing in health, or in this case, community, on the front end. Please consider my request to delay the meeting and reinvest in our community.</p> <p>Best, Diana Hoover 28806 913-683-1508</p>
6/8/2020 12:18:00 PM	Budget Meeting	<p>I'm writing today to support the proposal made by Black Asheville Leaders through blackavldemands.org.</p> <p>"50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable"</p> <p>Also I urge city council to meet with Black Leaders in our community and put additional resources into programs that support access to medical care and mental health. We know that our Black community members are disproportionately affected by the current COVID crisis and budget resources need to be allocated to make sure we are keeping all of Asheville safe and healthy.</p> <p>Thank you Julia Sanders, BSN/RN</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Jackson Corn and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jackson Corn</p>
6/8/2020 12:19:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	Sent from my iPhone
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Van Epps and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Lauren Van Epps</p>
6/8/2020 12:20:00 PM	Change Starts With our City Budgets!	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:20:00 PM	Re: Asheville's Budget	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the Asheville community.</p> <p>I am writing to implore you as a longtime Asheville citizen, to please support and enact the demands of Black Asheville in this year's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Please divest from the police and invest in Black communities by supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Please remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>Please name streets after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>Please hold individuals *and* the entire APD accountable and end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>With gratitude,</p> <p>Kristin Erhard</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:21:00 PM	2021 fiscal budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Erin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Erin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:23:00 PM	Reconsider Budget - Defund and Divest	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Talia Scarpelli and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Talia Scarpelli</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:24:00 PM	2021 budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Heather Clark and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Heather Clark</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:25:00 PM	Comments for June 9 on police budget	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>The destruction of that medic station and the initial tepid statement from the new police chief made us angry. We need to stop militarizing the police, and we want the police to respect human rights and make reforms that will bring about a more peaceful and equitable city. Graffiti, looting, and throwing water bottles at the police also make us angry, and obviously we want the police to stay safe along with the public.</p> <p>Protesters are not criminals and our police department should not treat their fellow citizens with violence. The chief said he was worried about water bottles. Well, his officers have riot gear, guns, toxic chemicals, all manner of scary equipment that they seemed pretty eager to use. How about treating the people manning that medic station with respect and notifying them that they needed to break it down and disperse instead of bull-rushing them and destroying their private property?!? If they refused, how about simply moving their stuff back into the alley and stationing a few police officers there to make sure the water bottles weren't handed out and used for violence? Instead, we saw our own police take up Trump's ugly call to action to dominate the streets, mistreating protesters and treating them like criminals.</p> <p>The fact that the APD budget is the largest item in the General Fund at the expense of all other vital services is wrong. This may seem off topic, but it's nonetheless true: the greatest threat to ALL of us is climate change and other environmental problems like habitat destruction and the frightening drop in numbers of insects and amphibians. Take that 3% that you want to give to the police this year and hire an urban forester! Please!</p> <p>Officials have outfitted the police with riot gear and war weapons to use on fellow citizens. That's wrong, and we need drastic change and now. We can't let this moment pass without it. We read Carmen Ramos-Kennedy's op-ed in the local paper today with great interest. Let's try something new, because the old way isn't working.</p> <p>Thank you for your service and taking on the hard issues. We appreciate you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Heather Rayburn & Ben Gillum (co-writers of this email)</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:25:00 PM	Better Use of City Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Anna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Anna McKinsey</p>
6/8/2020 12:26:00 PM	City budget	<p>Dear Asheville City council members,</p> <p>My name is Shannon Thompson, I am a citizen of Asheville and a public school teacher in our city. I ask that you postpone the budget vote in order to more thoughtfully consider the way we allocate funds and resources in our city into which communities will benefit from those the most. The increased budget for our police department should not be increased they have shown that they cannot responsibly conduct themselves at this juncture. our city budget should reflect a dedication to improving the lives of our citizens and more of that money should be focused on social programs that will benefit people. For example, allocating more of the city budget towards affordable housing, public health, education etc that will help address problems in our city in our community, and allow the police to conduct their job duties effectively.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Shannon Thompson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:27:00 PM	Budget comments	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am Makennah Bristow, a resident of Asheville. I'm writing to urge the city to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Makennah Bristow</p>
6/8/2020 12:27:00 PM	2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ava Schwartz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ava Schwartz</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:28:00 PM	City Council Budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>This is Katie Fisher and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing to urge the city to us the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the APD'S budget Should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Thank you, Katie Fisher</p>
6/8/2020 12:28:00 PM	Defund Police Brutality	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Roxie Nebel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Roxie Nebel</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:28:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kathryn Crawford and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kathryn Crawford</p>
6/8/2020 12:28:00 PM	We must invest in our communities	<p>Sent from my iPad</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sara Mulvey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sara Mulvey</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:28:00 PM	An Asheville for Equity	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is TeeJay Heaslip and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p>
6/8/2020 12:29:00 PM	June 9th Consent Agenda Item D	<p>Good morning! Hope you are having a nice day.</p> <p>My name is Jill (Bandur) Klott and my family and I are residents of Asheville, NC. I am emailing about Consent Agenda Item D, regarding the Equinox Environmental Consultation & Design Inc. for the Swannanoa River Greenway – Phase II Project. I noticed that Equinox was unable to identify any local Minority & Women-Owned businesses for subcontracted services and that their current team on their public website appears to significantly lack racial diversity.</p> <p>Given that this phase of the project includes “surveys, greenway design, geotechnical engineering, permitting, public engagement, and other tasks needed for greenway design” which will presumably shape all future phases and have significant investment from our City budget, I ask the City Council to set a higher expectation of usage of MWBE service providers.</p> <p>Thank you for the consideration - looking forward to the meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Jill Klott</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:29:00 PM	Public Comment for June 9, 2020	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Chelsea Rath and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We Demand a Divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities2. We Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community3. We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. <p>I'm no expert on budgets or local government, and yet, I have many ideas for how you could better allocate proposed funding from APD to other areas in the community, as I know many others in our community also have ideas that should be heard and considered. APD is an over-funded tool, not meant to handle social problems, and clearly not meant to keep ALL OF US safe. Do not budget an additional \$400,000 to APD in the coming fiscal year. Re-allocate funds to those working in crisis intervention, in mental health, in addiction services, homelessness, school lunch programs, after-school programs, and schools themselves. Invest in Black business, eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and fund an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD and individual officers accountable. I ask that 50% of APD's budget be invested in long-term strategies like those mentioned above.</p> <p>There is safety outside of policing. I hope that I can count on you for this essential policy shift.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>-- Chelsea Rath 30 years old White 28804</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:29:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Phoenix and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Phoenix Murphy-Carlson</p>
6/8/2020 12:30:00 PM	Asheville City Budget Meeting	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Greetings!</p> <p>My name is Dakota Wagner and I have been a resident of Asheville, NC for 5 years now (28806).</p> <p>The increase in the APD budget of \$457,621 is not needed. I am requesting that the APD budget be cut and eventually follow the example of Minneapolis to completely defund the police department. The increase in budget to the APD alone is more than the \$454,999 equity and inclusion fund. This is unacceptable, as such the budget meeting should be postponed until a new budget plan is devised to more closely reflect the taxpayers of Asheville's interests.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Best, Dakota Wagner</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:31:00 PM	VOTE NO FOR APD BUDGET INCREASE	<p>I'm a citizen of Asheville. Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>Therefore we make these demands: City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors. 2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invest in affordable housing b. Invest in underprivileged schools c. Invest in mental health treatment d. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacity e. Invest in drug treatment facilities f. Invest in public transit 3. End no-knock raids. 4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds. 5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary. 6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly. 7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually. 8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment. b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcement c. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoing d. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online. 9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: if an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The over- seeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. Officers on the scene that do not intervene when lethal use of force is utilized are also considered to be accomplices for legal purposes in the offense. The charges and penalties to each responsible officer shall be judged by their level of involvement in the offense. Level of involvement shall be judge by a third-party review board dedicated to investigating such offenses. 10. Implementation of mandatory body camera footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if the camera is manually turned off, disabled, or altered by the officer. Black lives matter. As our local leaders, you can't just say it anymore, you must start acting on it with real policy moves and police accountability <p>.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:31:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Caitlyn Bailey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Caitlyn Bailey</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:32:00 PM	Budget Reform	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Kayla and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>*Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. *</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence, gentrification and segregation. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we revert their fundings to help other sections of our city.</p> <p>Please consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs.</p> <p>Thanks and be well.</p>
6/8/2020 12:32:00 PM	June 9th - Consent Agenda Items J1 and J2	<p>Good morning! Hope you are having a nice day.</p> <p>My name is Jill (Bandur) Klott and my family and I are residents of Asheville, NC. I am emailing about Consent Agenda Items J1 and J2. Regarding the Budget amendment, in the amount of \$4,936,000, from the Federal Transit Administration, to amend the Fiscal Year 2020 Transit Multi-Year Fund budget. Per the federal bill subsection (a)(1) or (b) of section 5307 of title 49, United States Code, funds provided under this heading are available for the operating expenses of transit agencies, to maintain service and lost revenue, and for paying the administrative leave of operations personnel due to reductions in service.</p> <p>I urge the City Council to disperse these funds inclusive of the last category, i.e. paid leave for employees impacted by reductions in service and/or fee collections.</p> <p>Thank you for the consideration - looking forward to the meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Jill Klott</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:33:00 PM	Police force is rarely the best aid	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Georgeanna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Georgeanna</p>
6/8/2020 12:33:00 PM	Asheville budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lilly and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lilly</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:33:00 PM	Proposed 2021 Budget Input	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Reed Frellick and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I ask that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Reed Frellick</p>
6/8/2020 12:33:00 PM	Meeting to address police matters	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>I am in support of defunding the police department and replacing them with a community run alternative with strong community accountability. There is far too much corruption and internal investigation of the police force's actions to continue to function as a contributing part of our society.</p> <p>We need transparency, community action, and an end to police brutality focused on the black community. The change starts here.</p> <p>--</p> <p>*Emily VanderMey*</p> <p>Ceramic Artist, Graphic Designer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:34:00 PM	Asheville budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ana and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ana Balzano</p>
6/8/2020 12:34:00 PM	June 9th - Consent Agenda Item N	<p>Good morning! Hope you are having a nice day.</p> <p>My name is Jill (Bandur) Klott and my family and I are residents of Asheville, NC. I am emailing about Consent Agenda Item N, regarding the contract with Ashewell Medical Group to provide FDA-approved COVID-19 antibody and PCR testing for City employees. I'd like to understand if a Request for Pricing (RFP) bid, or similar attempt at finding competitive pricing, was attempted. If so, would the city council share and/or publish the results?</p> <p>Thank you for the consideration - looking forward to the meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Jill Klott</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:34:00 PM	Restructure Police Budget & Funding. We need reform.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Thomson Knoles and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal *reallocation* of the city's expenditures,* away* from APD, and *towards* sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that *a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons* (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the *police are reformed*, and this will not be possible until we *defund them*.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Thomson M. Knoles *local musician*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cate Brokenshire and I'm a resident and registered voter of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas and away from the police department.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Please, please reconsider this budget. Lives depend on it.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cate Brokenshire</p>
6/8/2020 12:35:00 PM	Concern and Demands for the Asheville PD Budget	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 12:35:00 PM	June 9 Police Budget Reform	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kathryn O'Shea and I'm a native of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kathryn O'Shea</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:36:00 PM	June 9th - Public Hearing Item D	<p>Good morning! Hope you are having a nice day.</p> <p>My name is Jill (Bandur) Klott and my family and I are residents of Asheville, NC. I am emailing about Public Hearing Item D, regarding the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget. I am calling to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I implore the City Council to adjust the budget so that it begins divesting from the Asheville Police and investing in social programs and Black communities. My husband is part of the Black community, and I'd like to see portions of the APD's budget invested in safety strategies including supporting Black businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and the individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Thank you for the consideration - looking forward to the meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Jill Klott</p>
6/8/2020 12:37:00 PM	Defund the Police! BLACK LIVES MATTER	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jen Toledo and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jen Toledo</p> <p>-- www.jentoledo.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:37:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Joanne Lynch and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>It is absurd that policing eats up over \$30 million of our community's budget, while beneficial community support services fall to the wayside. We cannot use the police for every problem in this community. We cannot criminalize homelessness, drug addiction and innocent Black people in Asheville. There is a serious problem here. We are a small city of forward-thinking individuals, and our budget needs to reflect that. We want more money for public schools, rehabilitation for substance abuse, more money for public transit and for sustainability measures. These are our tax dollars and we do not wish them to be spent in obscene quantities on policing. This must stop.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Joanne Lynch</p>
6/8/2020 12:37:00 PM	Budget Reform	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Gwendolyn Hageman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Gwendolyn Hageman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:39:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andrea and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andrea Dellinger MA, CCC-SLP</p> <p>CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is intended for the use of the individual(s) to whom it was addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail and are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies of the original message and contact the sender by reply e-mail.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:40:00 PM	meeting 8958 demands	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am emailing to make statements for the upcoming city council meeting. First off, I demand that 50% of the APD's budget be rerouted to be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Second, I demand reparations for the black community of asheville in the form of tearing down the confederate monuments that pay homage to this country's racist beginnings and continuities. I demand that these monuments be replaced with monuments that honor the black history of asheville. In the same vein, I demand that the streets named after former slave owners be renamed to represent prominent historical and contemporary local black leaders.</p> <p>Finally, I demand that all police be held accountable for all racist hate crimes from past and present. In addition to that, I demand that the city of asheville hold itself accountable for the housing discrimination that exists in and because of the city and the gentrification that makes asheville function well for tourists passing through, but leaves little chance for a good life for anyone who lives locally.</p> <p>Please take these words seriously. Asheville currently is a city built on erasure and foreign money. We can feel the evil when we walk down the streets. Take this growing movement for the incredible opportunity that it is to build a better world that we ALL want to be a part of (see Minneapolis PD deconstruction). The fate and the blood of Asheville is in and on your hands.</p> <p>In honesty and solidarity, Adam</p>
6/8/2020 12:41:00 PM	Please be the change we need	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Sage Holmes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Sage Holmes</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:41:00 PM	reallocation of funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Noechel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily</p> <p>--</p> <p>Emily Noechel *Owner/Designer *</p> <p>C: 804-363-3413 E: emily@johndarst.com W: johndarst.com @: _ <https://www.instagram.com/_johndarst_/>johndarst_</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:43:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Harmony Kunst and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Harmony Kunst</p> <p>--</p> <p>All mail correspondence to and from Buncombe County Schools is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law, which may result in monitoring and disclosure to third parties, including law enforcement.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:43:00 PM	2021 AVL Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Buddy Spafford and I'm a resident of West Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. It is crucial that people from the affected communities, specifically the Black and POC communities, be present and have a voice in these decisions.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are disbanded as we know it. Follow the lead of Minneapolis and start the discussion of disbanding the police and pouring their resources into programs that aid and protect our community.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Buddy Spafford</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:44:00 PM	Hear Our Voices	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Geovanna Lopez and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Geovanna Lopez</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:45:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brandon Davis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D159163795583000&sa=D&ust=1591637955598000&usg=AFQjCNG_m_5m85TDqmffBjQjlxZheNZGQ>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Brandon Davis</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:46:00 PM	Budget delay	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kayleigh Rhatigan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kayleigh Rhatigan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:47:00 PM	Asheville City Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jasmine Sipe and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jasmine Sipe</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:47:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Izabella and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Izabella Zielinski</p> <p>Get Outlook for Android<https://aka.ms/ghei36></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:48:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Darcy Wade and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591638058434000&sa=D&ust=1591638058444000&usg=AFQjCNFSXFAN0quYHdy4bBj04ky5nHOLog>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Darcy Wade</p>
6/8/2020 12:49:00 PM	DEFUND THE APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members, My name is Chase Scott Tomkalski and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Chase Scott Tomkalski</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Devin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Devin</p>
6/8/2020 12:49:00 PM	Defund Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Zella and I'm a senior social work student, an organizer with the Poor People's Campaign, and an Asheville resident. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I would like to see Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget and divert these funds to programs that serve low-income communities of color. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an equitable reallocation of the city's expenditures.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support to be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zella</p>
6/8/2020 12:49:00 PM	Defund APD	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:50:00 PM	Asheville Police Defund	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katie and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katie Brown</p>
6/8/2020 12:50:00 PM	Defund the APD	<p>My name is Darby McGregor and I am an Asheville resident. Please vote against the proposed \$400,000 budget increase to the Asheville Police department. With the cities largest budget we need to come up with better solutions for keeping our community safe. This money would be better spent on our underserved population.</p> <p>Thank you Darby McGregor</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:50:00 PM	Let's Use These Funds to Build a Better Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sophia and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sophia</p>
6/8/2020 12:51:00 PM	Comments on how to use next year's budget from a citizen	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Nelson and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Managers Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hannah Nelson Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:52:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eli Del Castillo, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591635147869000&sa=D&ust=1591635147881000&usg=AFQjCNEI6APPex2apqxCgHehS4UABZK5w>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Eli Del Castillo</p>
6/8/2020 12:52:00 PM	Community Safety	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I was under the impression that the meeting tomorrow would include a proposal to boost funding for the Asheville Police Department but I don't see that item on the Agenda. I want to express my belief that no more funds should be allocated to the police. Instead that money needs to support economic growth opportunities for people of color and money for reforming our educational system here in Asheville, where black students still consistently underperform to their true potential. My daughter is mixed race, and we experienced first hand that Asheville High has one system for privileged white students and a lesser system for black and poor white students.</p> <p>I'd like to see Asheville City Council invest in our black communities.</p> <p>Thanks for your time,</p> <p>Deborah Morgenthal</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:52:00 PM	A plea for the 2021 budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Grace Girardeau and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand that more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>*Grace Girardeau* *Biochemistry major, **Student Government Co-President*</p> <p>*Warren Wilson College*</p> <p>*ggirardeau.f16@warren-wilson.edu <ggirardeau.f16@warren-wilson.edu> 816-729-2118*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:53:00 PM	Regarding tomorrow's meeting re: budget	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the Asheville community.</p> <p>I am writing to implore you as a longtime Asheville citizen living in the Montford neighborhood to please support and enact the demands of Black Asheville in this year's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Please divest from the police and invest in Black communities by supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. Asheville citizens deserve to be able to call a number for help and have someone without a gun show up. Also how is it possible that the training hours necessary to become a police officer are fewer than the hours required to become a barber?</p> <p>Please remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>Please rename streets after former slave owners, replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>Please hold individuals *and* the entire APD accountable and end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Steve Martell</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:54:00 PM	For Your Consideration re: Asheville's City Budget	<p>Hello City Council Members,</p> <p>I am a citizen of Asheville. Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>Therefore we make these demands:</p> <p>City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors. 2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invest in affordable housing b. Invest in underprivileged schools c. Invest in mental health treatment d. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacity e. Invest in drug treatment facilities f. Invest in public transit 3. End no-knock raids. 4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds. 5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary. 6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly. 7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually. 8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment. b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcement c. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoing d. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online. 9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: if an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The over- seeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. Officers on the scene that do not intervene when lethal use of force is utilized are also considered to be accomplices for legal purposes in the offense. The charges and penalties to each responsible officer shall be judged by their level of involvement in the offense. Level of involvement shall be judge by a third-party review board dedicated to investigating such offenses. 10. Implementation of mandatory body camera footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if the camera is manually turned off, disabled, or altered by the officer. Black lives matter. As our local leaders, you can't just say it anymore, you must start acting on it with real policy moves and police accountability. <p>Sincerely, Your Constituent, Alex Deutsch</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:54:00 PM	Fw: BLM Requests	<p>Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone</p> <p>Begin forwarded message:</p> <p>On Monday, June 8, 2020, 12:35 PM, Leah Noel <smg209@bellsouth.net> wrote:</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Leah Noel and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Greetings,</p> <p>I'm a citizen of Asheville. As a professional that is educated in crisis intervention, mental health, and behavioral therapy, it is clear to me that the Asheville Police Department as well as police forces across the country are violating basic human rights, not trained with their weapons or their bodies, and not trained in racial equity.</p> <p>Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>Therefore we make these demands: City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors.2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Invest in affordable housingb. Invest in underprivileged schoolsc. Invest in mental health treatmentd. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacitye. Invest in drug treatment facilitiesf. Invest in public transit3. End no-knock raids.4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds.5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary.6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly.7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually.8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment.b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcementc. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoingd. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online.



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:55:00 PM	Demand for justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Ashley and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ashley Goodman</p>
6/8/2020 12:55:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>I am a proud citizen of Asheville NC yet I am ashamed of how horrible our police force handled the protests. The right to peacefully protest is an essential and necessary part of our country and as our police force is supposed to support, defend, and work for our population, I could not be more sickened by their actions. Repressing free speech is about as totalitarian as it gets and instead of empathizing with citizens frustrations regarding police brutality, protesters were met with MORE police brutality. I urgently request we demilitarize and defund the APD and deny their budget increase and instead reallocate those funds into social programs, economic reforms, and support for our local culture, businesses, and people. Thank you and God bless.</p>
6/8/2020 12:55:00 PM	Please move funds to where they are needed	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andrea and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andrea Baty</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:55:00 PM	DEFUND AND REALLOCATION	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Scott Ewell and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Scott Ewell</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 12:56:00 PM	2021 budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Dylan Webb and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Dylan Webb</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:57:00 PM	Defund the APD	<p>To the Asheville City Council,</p> <p>In the past week, I have been alarmed with the tactics used by the Asheville Police Department during protests held by concerned citizens regarding the death of George Floyd.</p> <p>Images posted by the Citizen Times showing the police destroy resources like water and food for protesters show direct abuse of power by APD.</p> <p>Images of police using tear gas on protesters is a direct abuse of power by the APD.</p> <p>REMOVE funds that have been allocated to the police in your budget.</p> <p>DEMILITARIZE the APD.</p> <p>Allocate these funds back to the community in ways that directly affect and promote success of citizens.</p> <p>Sincerely, Margaret Phipps</p>
6/8/2020 12:58:00 PM	Asheville City 2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is McCartney and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>McCartney</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 12:58:00 PM	More transparency on the budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Federica Collina, I am a resident of Asheville and I demand more transparency about how public money is spent. It is your job to keep it such.</p> <p>I also demand the City to invest in community through living wages, affordable housing and better transit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pay Asheville firefighters a living wage. - Provide operational support for the Asheville Buncombe Community Land Trust. The Asheville Buncombe Community Land Trust needs an investment in operational expenses to move this effort forward now. The City of Asheville should invest \$100,000 in operational support for the land trust. - Provide transparency in spending for the Asheville bus system. The City of Asheville is highlighting the costs of a full year of the route changes implemented in January 2020 as the major increase in the General Fund without transparency around the \$3.7 million dollars given to the City for transit from the federal CARES Act. Additionally, the City has postponed increased evening service hours (part of the first phase of the Transit Master Plan) and increased frequency to South Asheville (year 2 of the Transit Master Plan). <p>Thank you, Federica Collina</p>
6/8/2020 12:58:00 PM	BLM	<p>Dear Asheville City Council (or staff member name),</p> <p>My name is Federica Collina and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Federica Collina</p>
6/8/2020 12:59:00 PM	Alternative Budget Proposal	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:00:00 PM	Defund APD in the 2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is James Irvin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Asheville has catered far too long to the yuppie tourist culture solely because of monetary gains. Your white washing and black demonization of this town is despicable and revolting even by today's standard.</p> <p>I highly doubt it but if you have an ounce of self respect or any sliver of moral code you will defund these corrupt, bigoted animals you call "police officers".</p> <p>Thank you, James Irvin</p> <p>-- Respectfully, Jimmy Irvin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:01:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chloe Serapio and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chloe White Serapio</p>
6/8/2020 1:01:00 PM	Stop approval of APD funding	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my opinion. The funding of Asheville Police Department must be halted. Please freeze on hiring. Too much brutality and not enough empathy. We can use the funding for more progressive programs.</p> <p>Thank you, Brie Capone -- Brie Capone www.facebook.com/briecaponemusic 828-230-8568</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:01:00 PM	2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Stacie Ziele and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Stacie Ziele</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 1:01:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Hello, this is Nick Prosser and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing to urge the city to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think the City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunities gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emme Poteet and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emme Poteet</p>
6/8/2020 1:02:00 PM	no justice, no peace.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Zara Williams and I was born and raised in Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zara</p>
6/8/2020 1:02:00 PM	Relocate APD Funding to Better the Asheville Community	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:02:00 PM	DEFUND APD!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Giannina Callejas and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Giannina Callejas</p>
6/8/2020 1:02:00 PM	Change starts now	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Jacqueline Stevens and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jacqueline Stevens</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:02:00 PM	ASAP APD DEFUNDING	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Evan, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Evan Gates Asheville City Council,</p>
6/8/2020 1:03:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>As a citizen of Asheville, I demand the defunding of police and reinvestment into the black community, reparations for the black community, including the removal of the Vance and Robert E. Lee monuments, and to insure that no further money is invested into the police department leading to its eventual complete defunding.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter, Wesley McCoy</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:03:00 PM	RECONSIDER BUDGET ALLOCATION	<p>Hello all,</p> <p>My name is Katie and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to RACIAL justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. Delay the vote so there is more time to think of better ways to distribute this money. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591639142497000&sa=D&ust=1591639142514000&usg=AFQjCNEf0ctVSAP4EYHYeq6Rlex1uAoyfA>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? We need change now. Defend black lives. Put the money where it NEEDS to be.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katie</p> <p>-- Katie Slickman 262-744-1494</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:05:00 PM	Please give more funding to social services that help the community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Amber and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Amber</p>
6/8/2020 1:05:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Dani Harris and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Dani Harris</p>
6/8/2020 1:05:00 PM	POWER TO THE PEOPLE. PLEASE LISTEN TO YOUR CITIZENS	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Rebecca D. and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Rebecca D.</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>I'm a citizen of Asheville. Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many Black Americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our Black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>Therefore we make these demands: City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors. 2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invest in affordable housing b. Invest in underprivileged schools c. Invest in mental health treatment d. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacity e. Invest in drug treatment facilities f. Invest in public transit 3. End no-knock raids. 4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds. 5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary. 6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly. 7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually. 8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment. b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcement c. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoing d. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online. 9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: if an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The over-seeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. Officers on the scene that do not intervene when lethal use of force is utilized are also considered to be accomplices for legal purposes in the offense. The charges and penalties to each responsible officer shall be judged by their level of involvement in the offense. Level of involvement shall be judge by a third-party review board dedicated to investigating such offenses. 10. Implementation of mandatory body camera footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if the camera is manually turned off, disabled, or altered by the officer. Black lives matter. As our local leaders, you can't just say it anymore, you must start acting on it with real policy moves and police accountability. <p>Thank you,</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:07:00 PM	Police budget and policies	<p>Asheville City Council,</p> <p>We clearly have a policing issue in this country and are not immune to it here in Asheville. We need to be redistributing funds from the police budget to things such as mental health first responders and social workers. We need to be funding housing opportunities for our poor communities instead of running them out of town. We need to start focusing on the people who live here, and not on just the tourism we can bring in. My family is from here and has been here for generations. Our current patterns are not sustainable. Today I'm asking that you take what would be an increase to the police budget and focus it on under resources communities. Please invite the activist POC in our community to the table to help review and reform policing in this community. It's time to be a voice for people who are upper middle class white people. We are all watching closely right now.</p> <p>-Sarah Gaskin Physician Assistant West Asheville resident</p>
6/8/2020 1:07:00 PM	City Council Budget	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Sara Doverspike and I am a resident of Asheville. I writing to urge the city to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I am writing in support of the Black Asheville demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in both houseless and Black Communities. I believe that 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses and eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable for their actions and promises to our community.</p> <p>Please do not allow the budget increase for the APD. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sara</p> <p>-- *Sara Doverspike* she/her</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:07:00 PM	Take Action	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lena and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Lena</p>
6/8/2020 1:08:00 PM	WE WILL BE HEARD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Bayleigh Zagami and I'm a newly transplanted resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. My first interaction with Asheville Police Department was getting year gassed at shot at on my second day in your city because ONE INSTIGATOR threw a firework. Your Police Office risked lives over a fire work while they stood completely protected in full riot gear.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Bayleigh</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:08:00 PM	Budget Concern	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Eva Ridenhour, and I am a Buncombe county resident with concerns about the city council meeting. I'm commenting specifically on the proposed budget increase for the Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>My comment comes directly from the Black AVL Demands, as I stand with the Black Community of Asheville. I support their demands 100%.</p> <p>"We demand a divestment from the police and investment in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable."</p> <p>Please do not allow the budget increase for the APD.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Eva Ridenhour</p>
6/8/2020 1:09:00 PM	Protect your citizens	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chelsea Maclean and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chelsea Maclean</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:09:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Matthew Decker and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Matthew Decker</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:10:00 PM	Community Cry for Change	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tori Litz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tori Litz</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:10:00 PM	Public Comment in Regard to APD budget	<p>I, Kimberly Treadaway, am writing as a concerned citizen and resident of Asheville for 9 years, imploring city council to not honor the increased budgetary request for APD. The violent racism demonstrated by the APD has not gone unnoticed, but it has gone unrectified. It was merely 4 years ago that the murder of black man by a police officer occurred here in our own city. On July 2, 2016 Sgt Tyler Radford of the Asheville PD shot Jerry Williams 9 times with an assault rifle in the Deaverview community. One year later, Asheville PD asked for a million dollars. Even then, there was outrage from the community, demanding that funds be allocated to departments that actually SUPPORT the WHOLE community, not just the upper class white folks.</p> <p>I can only hope that the actions of the department this past week are finally enough for the council to consider allocating these funds to policing alternatives. APD's use of excessive force, the systematic rounding-up and jailing of people experiencing homelessness during curfew, and the destruction of a medic station and its water, should be enough for Asheville to consider reducing reliance on a dangerous, corrupt police force. Now is the time to follow the example of cities like Minneapolis and Los Angeles, and divert this money toward problem-solving strategies that are less contingent on police forces that cannot be trusted.</p> <p>Black organizers in Asheville have stated their demands of a 50% divestment of funds from policing to be invested into the black community. I stand in solidarity with this demand. I urge my elected officials to ensure that the proposed APD budget increase is turned down. I suggest a reallocation of funds back into the community using the guidance of those affected—namely our BIPOC community—to create a long term solution within our community.</p> <p>I demand that funds allocated for police forces be deferred to public health and rehabilitation efforts.</p> <p>I demand that officers who have abused their power by suppressing the constitutional rights of citizens be held accountable. The officers responsible for tear gassing, shooting rubber bullets, and destruction of the medic tent should be fired, or at the very least suspended!</p> <p>In summary, at the very least, City Council should deny APD's budget increase request. More appropriately, City Council should make budget cuts to the police department and reallocate funds to the community. However ideally, both previous demands should be met along with the City Council exploring policing alternatives and holding officers accountable for misconduct over the last week.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kimberly Treadaway Asheville Resident</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Janae Madelans and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 1:10:00 PM	Delay voting on budget	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am writing as a lifelong citizen of Asheville to request that you defund the Asheville Police Department and redistribute the APD budget towards programs and services that actually benefit our communities.</p> <p>I was born and raised in Asheville, a fact that I am mostly proud of. What has always caused me shame, however, is how segregated Asheville is by race, and how over-policed and underinvested in our Black communities are. As I'm sure you are aware, this is a direct consequence of actions taken by Asheville's government over the years: a feature, not a bug, of our city's history and design. As our town's reputation as a cultural destination has grown, the economic and justice disparity has only widened. You as the City Council are uniquely placed to begin to turn back the tide of racist policies that has been as much a part of Asheville's fabric as our mountains. I suggest you do so.</p> <p>The Asheville Police Department cannot be reformed. Nothing but a complete reimagining of public safety will even begin to make a difference in the lives of black and brown Ashevilleans.</p> <p>Please do not let our communities down.</p> <p>Eliza Paul</p>
6/8/2020 1:10:00 PM	Defund the APD - a request from a lifelong Asheville resident	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:11:00 PM	Defund the Asheville PD and Reinvest in Black and Brown Communities	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Edwards and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Edwards</p>
6/8/2020 1:11:00 PM	Ending Genocide in Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Daniel Fleer and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Daniel Fleer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:11:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kiah Neale, I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer’s fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department’s overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager’s Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city’s expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kiah Neale</p>
6/8/2020 1:12:00 PM	Defunding request	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brandi Aydelette and I’m a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer’s fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department’s overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager’s Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city’s expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Brandi Aydelette</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:13:00 PM	Shift the money	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sean Lee and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sean Lee</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:13:00 PM	Reallocate budget resources	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Marcyanne Hannemann and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marcyanne</p>
6/8/2020 1:13:00 PM	Call to Action!	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Claire and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Claire</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>My name is Karli Schwartz and I am an Asheville resident of 5 years. I have not joined in congregating in protests this week due to the pandemic, but I believe that there are other ways I can affect change and I plan to exhaust them. So, I write you all now.</p> <p>It is thoroughly shameful to witness how the APD has been handling the protests in our city over this past week and how they have been allowed to use such unnecessary force and violence. With their actions they have beyond a shadow of a doubt proven themselves inept at their jobs and need to be removed from protest and surrounding areas immediately.</p> <p>Because of COVID-19, the use of teargas and flash grenades by police at these protests is equal to manslaughter in my eyes. We are in the middle of a respiratory pandemic and the use of teargas will surely spread the virus even more, thus quickly overwhelming our healthcare systems and further damaging our local communities by multitudes. This will not end with the protests. It is absolutely unacceptable that the APD is disregarding public health and safety with the use of a war-zone weapons that will exacerbate the pandemic that is sweeping our community. With their actions the APD has made it clear that public safety is not their goal.</p> <p>City leaders, take strong action now. In this situation it is irrelevant that there are some good officers in the force. In this moment I beg of you to pull all of APD out of the protests immediately and ban the use of damaging respiratory chemicals in our city. The APD must be strongly monitored moving forward.</p> <p>All officers involved with the destruction of the medic station need to be fired, arrested and charged.</p> <p>Like the nation as a whole, it is clear that Asheville needs massive reform, but this week we must start with our local budget. The officers who will lose their jobs due to their actions at the protests must not be replaced and the department must not receive the proposed budget increase. The money saved by not refilling those positions needs to be properly allocated to services that better address the health needs of all of our residents and especially those in minority groups who have been disproportionately harmed as a result of the long history of injustice that is being illuminated brighter than ever before by the current state of this movement and protests.</p> <p>There is no possible way the current and ensuing protests will end peacefully if the very institution we're protesting against is allowed by city leaders to be on the front lines with weapons of war. Let me be clear, though important, right now we're not specifically protesting causes like wages, or women's rights, but we are protesting police brutality itself and the incredibly disproportionate force used against non-white people. We are also protesting the system that nurtures it. So, as community leaders, I ask you to ask yourselves how logical it is to have the police on the front lines if the actual goal is peace and reconciliation and community building. The APD had a massive opportunity to show support in this moment, but instead has shown us this week that their goal is definitely not peace or public safety. I urge you all to continue to follow the threads of this logic into the possible futures it implies in order to fully grasp the devastating effects of delayed or non-action and how your actions and inactions now will shape the future of the city we love for generations.</p> <p>The whole world knows what happened with the medic station by Salsa's, the likes of which amount to Geneva Convention violation level war crimes. Moving forward from that low point, let's be an example to the country as to what compassionate and firm leadership looks like. It's gonna be scary for ya'll, but you just have to do it. Regardless of political affiliation, we, residents of Asheville, elected you to do that. There's no time to waste. I'd rather my leaders try something bold that doesn't work than not try enough in times of crisis.</p> <p>I was incredibly impressed with Asheville and Buncombe County's initial response to the spread of the novel coronavirus and credit that with any increased healthcare advantage we may have now after cases spike in the coming weeks and months due to protests and reopening. Truly, thank you for urging us and leadership in that respect.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:14:00 PM	2021 Fiscal Year Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Creola Djarlo and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Creola Djarlo</p>
6/8/2020 1:14:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lindsey Pitman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Lindsey</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:14:00 PM	Defund Police!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Joey Harrington and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Joey</p>
6/8/2020 1:15:00 PM	Help stop injustices in our community!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nathan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Nathan Landolt</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:15:00 PM	REQUEST TO DEFUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Catherine Looper. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Catherine Looper</p>
6/8/2020 1:15:00 PM		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Laura Guinessey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Laura Guinessey</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:16:00 PM	City Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Katie Williams. I am recently a new resident of Asheville & am utterly disappointed in finding out about your current fiscal budget. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katie Williams</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:16:00 PM	Do NOT approve funding for APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jordan Burnett and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jordan Burnett</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:16:00 PM	Defund the APD, invest in Asheville's Black community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Melissa Hyman. I'm a musician and educator, and I have lived in Asheville since 2007. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>It is essential that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I am asking that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from the Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from the APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, we the citizens of this community, in the spirit of love and inclusivity, demand that more substantial financial support be directed to those areas. Please do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be possible when police are no longer agents of violence and suppression; this essential change can only happen if we restructure and redirect our resources toward programs that promote peace, mental health and physical well-being among ALL of our citizens.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Melissa Hyman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:16:00 PM	Please reconsider police funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Molly Naffke and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Molly Naffke</p>
6/8/2020 1:17:00 PM	It's time for a change	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kris and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kris</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:17:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Catherine Amos and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Catherine Amos</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:18:00 PM	Concerned community member	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Wooton and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Wooton</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:18:00 PM	Comment for Budget Public Hearing - Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am a resident of Asheville, NC. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday, June 6th 2020. I advocate for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million budget, with NO additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, police brutality targeted against Asheville's Black community members persists in this city.</p> <p>In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas and rubber/pepper bullets. APD also needlessly destroyed medical supplies while protests were peaceful. In response to public outrage at this destruction, APD Chief David Zack released a superficial "apology." His response has made it all the more clear that the entire APD do not understand the harm they have inflicted, and continue to inflict.</p> <p>We cannot continue to invest in this department. We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>We demand to end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people). This includes reparations to the Black Community. We demand repair for the past and continuing harms inflicted on Asheville's Black Community.</p> <p>With the budget up for consideration, the only sufficient action moving forward is to divest funds from the Asheville Police Department and to invest those funds into Asheville's Black Community for long-term emergency response programs, community-led health and safety strategies, supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and MUCH MORE.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter. Defund Asheville Police.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lia Purdy</p> <p><http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail> Virus-free. www.avg.com <http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail> <#DAB4FAD8-2DD7-40BB-A1B8-4E2AA1F9DFD2></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:18:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Katherine Lloyd, I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Katherine Lloyd</p>
6/8/2020 1:18:00 PM		<p>Yes this is a copy/paste but I am in agreement with the positions and asks of this email.</p> <p>I'm a citizen of Asheville. Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE. Therefore we make these demands: City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors. 2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invest in affordable housing b. Invest in underprivileged schools c. Invest in mental health treatment d. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacity e. Invest in drug treatment facilities f. Invest in public transit 3. End no-knock raids. 4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds. 5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary. 6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly. 7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually. 8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment. b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcement c. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoing d. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online. 9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: if an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The overseeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. Officers on the scene that do not intervene when lethal use of force is utilized are also considered to be accomplices for legal purposes in the offense. The charges and penalties to each responsible officer shall be judged by their level of involvement in the offense. Level of involvement shall be judge by a third-party review board dedicated to investigating such offenses. 10. Implementation of mandatory body camera footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if the camera is manually turned off, disabled, or altered by the officer. Black lives matter. As our local leaders, you can't just say it anymore, you must start acting on it with real policy moves and police accountability. <p>Chris Moe</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:20:00 PM	Budget Reallocation	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Clara Ashe-Moore and I'm a life long resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunities, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Clara Ashe-Moore</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:20:00 PM	Asheville Budget	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Dale and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding.</p> <p>With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police.</p> <p>Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies.</p> <p>This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees.</p> <p>This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community.</p> <p>Sincerely signed,</p> <p>Dale Murphy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:20:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tessa Matthes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tessa Matthes</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:21:00 PM	APD Budget	<p>I am writing as a concerned citizen and resident of Asheville for 9 years, imploring city council to not honor the increased budgetary request for APD. The violent racism demonstrated by the APD has not gone unnoticed, but it has gone unrectified. It was merely 4 years ago that the murder of black man by a police officer occurred here in our own city. On July 2, 2016 Sgt Tyler Radford of the Asheville PD shot Jerry Williams 9 times with an assault rifle in the Deaverview community. One year later, Asheville PD asked for a million dollars. Even then, there was outrage from the community, demanding that funds be allocated to departments that actually SUPPORT the WHOLE community, not just the upper class white folks.</p> <p>I can only hope that the actions of the department this past week are finally enough for the council to consider allocating these funds to policing alternatives. APD's use of excessive force, the systematic rounding-up and jailing of people experiencing homelessness during curfew, and the destruction of a medic station and its water, should be enough for Asheville to consider reducing reliance on a dangerous, corrupt police force. Now is the time to follow the example of cities like Minneapolis and Los Angeles, and divert this money toward problem-solving strategies that are less contingent on police forces that cannot be trusted.</p> <p>Black organizers in Asheville have stated their demands of a 50% divestment of funds from policing to be invested into the black community. I stand in solidarity with this demand. I urge my elected officials to ensure that the proposed APD budget increase is turned down. I suggest a reallocation of funds back into the community using the guidance of those affected—namely our BIPOC community—to create a long term solution within our community.</p> <p>I demand that funds allocated for police forces be deferred to public health and rehabilitation efforts.</p> <p>I demand that officers who have abused their power by suppressing the constitutional rights of citizens be held accountable. The officers responsible for tear gassing, shooting rubber bullets, and destruction of the medic tent should be fired, or at the very least suspended!</p> <p>In summary, at the very least, City Council should deny APD's budget increase request. More appropriately, City Council should make budget cuts to the police department and reallocate funds to the community. However ideally, both previous demands should be met along with the City Council exploring policing alternatives and holding officers accountable for misconduct over the last week.</p> <p>Asheville Resident Alexander Merck</p>



Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 1:21:00 PM

Dear Asheville City Council,

I am aware that city council and the budget department have received multiple emails regarding the upcoming budget and allocations to the Asheville Police Department within it. As an Asheville resident, I would like to included my voice and advocate for the reallocation of police funding to services such as education, healthcare, community projects, affordable housing and a living wage.

The police do too much. They are not trained social workers or mental health counselors. We ask police to not only respond to violence, but to illness and homelessness. We ask them to treat the products of our broken society as crime, which only exacerbates the problem. The police currently DEAL WITH the outcomes of homelessness, drug use, etc, but they do not help PREVENT them. For this we do not need the police to become more powerful and more militarized, we need a smaller presence to make room for community based initiatives.

This change in Asheville starts with city council. We can lead the way in North Carolina and rework our budget to minimize APD's presence where they are not needed. Let's work to build our city infrastructure and assure every resident has safe housing, clean water, and does not live in fear.

Thank you for listening,



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:22:00 PM	Divest APD Budget Increases to Other Departments	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Lane Snipes and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding.</p> <p>With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police.</p> <p>Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies.</p> <p>This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees.</p> <p>This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community.</p> <p>Sincerely signed,</p> <p>Lane Snipes Asheville Citizen</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 1:22:00 PM

Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,

My name is Max schenk and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.

Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.

Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.

Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?

Thank you,

Chester Max schenk



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lia Trebilcock and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lia Trebilcock</p>
6/8/2020 1:22:00 PM	Defund Asheville Police Department	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 1:24:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Hello, my name is Rachel and I am an Asheville citizen. I am writing this email to you to demand the stop of \$400,000 budget increase to Asheville Police Department. With some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in North Carolina, and ongoing outright discrimination and violence towards Black residents, that department has not even remotely earned a budget increase. Those funds should go to meet community needs such as affordable housing and transit instead.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rachel</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:25:00 PM	2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Summer and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I'm sure you've all seen Asheville community members come together in protest of the intersections of racial injustice and police brutality in both our local community as well as this country at large. We all saw how the Asheville Police Department responded to such protests, by tear gassing and shooting rubber bullets into crowds full of people, showing with actions their stance on what we were asking of them, and are really asking of you, TO STOP KILLING AND/OR ALLOWING THE KILLING, BRUTALIZATION, AND CRIMINALIZATION OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY MEMBERS YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO SERVE. We pay your bills with our tax dollars, and here is the simple request we have of you now: stop using our money to fund and protect the brutalization of Black people in our community. Start using that money to invest in them and support them.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Summer Coby</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:25:00 PM	Allocate funding towards what matters!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katherine Castro and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katherine Castro</p> <p>-- Katherine Castro Kncastro07@gmail.com 305-794-0850 School of Integrated Science and Humanity/ School of International and Public Affairs Florida International University Psychology and Criminal Justice B.A., 2012</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:26:00 PM	Please consider redirection of funds to a more effective cause	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Aubrieann and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Aubrieann Dickert</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:26:00 PM	Ethical Reallocation of Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alexandra Wilensky and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alexandra Wilensky</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:27:00 PM	City Budget	<p>My name is Ryan DuVal, I moved to Asheville 4 years ago, I bought my first home in West Asheville just over a year ago and I am Chief Engineer of local tech startup Auxbus. Ahead of tomorrow's public hearing on the budget, I wanted to mention https://www.blackavldemands.org and reiterate their important demands:</p> <p>*INVEST-DIVEST* We Demand a Divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities</p> <p>50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable</p> <p>*REPARATIONS* We Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community</p> <p>We demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>*End the War on Black People* We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>-- *Ryan DuVal* avlfilm.com - auxbus.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:27:00 PM	Budget comment and police reforms	<p>I am sure you are all getting a flood of emails and I hope you take the time to read this. I won't waste time explaining the situation as by now you know it well. What I will say is that Asheville is in a unique position to lead on this issue and be an example for others across the nation on police reform. Our size, politics, and strong network of civil society organizations mean that we can make changes larger cities can't, at least with any rapidity. What I'm about to outline will be difficult, but it can be done, and you will have the public behind you every step of the way. People will gladly give their time money and willpower if they believe you are sincere.</p> <p>First, we need an elected citizens review board with no members of law enforcement directly appointed to the board. If the public would like law enforcement on the board they will vote to include them. The meetings of this board must be open to the public and the media. The board must be given some authority to enact discipline. I understand police leadership will not want to give up this authority, and perhaps it's not necessary to do so entirely, but the board should have authority to fire officers for repeated abuses, a three strikes rule perhaps. These boards are not foolproof - Minneapolis has one and Chauvin appeared before it 17 times - but they are crucial for transparency and procedural justice (if you're not familiar with that term look it up - it is very insightful in understanding the public's justified outrage at police misbehavior). This will likely require a renegotiation of the contract with the police union, so be it. Do not be afraid to go Reagan on them. This is not the time to tiptoe around the sensitivity of the police, they must understand that they need to accommodate themselves to the public's will or they no longer deserve to serve that public.</p> <p>Second, and most importantly, we need to begin the transition away from relying on police as the primary emergency civil servants. 90% of times that the citizens of Asheville need help and dial 911 the help they need is not best given by a thug with a gun. I have seen with my own eyes police use any innocuous interaction as an excuse for searches seizures and arrests. A more appropriate response would almost always be a social worker, mental health worker, or crisis mediator. If you create robust organizations and compensate them as well as you do police people will turn out in droves and with pride to fill these jobs. I understand there are and will always be situations that bare the threat of violence and police officers should remain available to respond to these relatively rare situations, but in these cases police should respond alongside members of the above mentioned first responders and authority over use of force should rest with the ranking civil servant on the team and NOT the officer holding the gun. Funding these new first responders should be easy. They will be taking the place of the police on our streets and their funding can take its place as well. Again, this process will not be easy, it is uncharted territory and mistakes will be made. What you need to understand is that the public WILL support you and that you will attract extremely talented and motivated people who have been waiting for the chance to contribute to something so meaningful. To be clear, I am not advocating an end to police in Asheville, only a curtailment of their role. They will still be a crucial part of the team keeping us safe, only now focusing on providing support and protection to social workers and civil servants and investigating real violent crimes and apprehending real violent criminals. The APD of the future would be better payed, better respected, better educated, better behaved, and much much smaller. We will have need to keep only the very best apples.</p> <p>Third, and finally, we need to demilitarize the APD. Get rid of the riot gear, get rid of the armored personnel carrier they were all too gleeful to get a chance to roll out against protesters, get rid of the swat teams and the long guns. We need none of these things. They symbolize an overwhelming reliance and predilection for the use of force among our law enforcement and these are exactly the things that your citizens are demanding an end to. There will be no wars fought on the streets of Asheville, and we need not train and equip the police as though there are. It is a waste of time and resources and serves only to further distance the police from the community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, and I wish you all the courage necessary to step up and seize this opportunity history has given you to help make a better world.</p> <p>Best, Daniel DeCarlo</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:27:00 PM	We Can't Breathe	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Henry Casson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Henry Casson</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:28:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Samuel Rogers, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council delay the budget vote must be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. If the council wants to commit to an overt and visible commitment to racial justice, there must be concrete actions. This would be the first of many.</p> <p>As I'm sure you're aware, research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, councilmembers should aggressively direct financial support to those areas and away from the already overinflated APD budget. Redirecting funds has the benefit of providing water bottles and medicine to those who are in need rather than destroying them without consequences.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when we defund the APD and invest in our communities.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Sam</p>
6/8/2020 1:29:00 PM	Budget comments	<p>The Asheville Police Department absolutely DOES NOT need a budget increase for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.</p> <p>Allocate those funds to the transit plan, the schools, or literally any other city department that does not regularly harass and threaten the citizens of Asheville.</p> <p>-- Sara Kaglic skkaglic@gmail.com (919)-221-4312</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:29:00 PM	Demilitarized Our Police, Fund Social Services and Education	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Fox Reckard and I'm a resident of Buncombe County. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Please. Demilitarized Our Police, Fund Social Services and Public Education.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Fox Reckard</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:30:00 PM	Issues for discussion	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am aware that city council and the budget department have received multiple emails regarding the upcoming budget and allocations to the Asheville Police Department within it. As an Asheville resident, I would like to included my voice and advocate for the reallocation of police funding to services such as education, healthcare, community projects, affordable housing and a living wage.</p> <p>The police do too much. They are not trained social workers or mental health counselors. We ask police to not only respond to violence, but to illness and homelessness. We ask them to treat the products of our broken society as crime, which only exacerbates the problem. The police currently DEAL WITH the outcomes of homelessness, drug use, etc, but they do not help PREVENT them. For this we do not need the police to become more powerful and more militarized, we need a smaller presence to make room for community based initiatives.</p> <p>I would also like to address the issue of the Vance monument. It is an outdated symbol that no longer represents the ideals and culture that make Asheville unique and wonderful. The statue should be replaced with a monument that highlights the racial culture of Asheville now & in the past. And be at minimum moved to a less central location if not completely destroyed.</p> <p>This change in Asheville starts with city council. We can lead the way in North Carolina and rework our budget to minimize APD's presence where they are not needed. Let's work to build our city infrastructure and assure every resident has safe housing, clean water, and does not live in fear.</p> <p>Thank you for listening,</p> <p>Ellen Blackburn</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:30:00 PM	Redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ryan Untalan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ryan Untalan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:31:00 PM	Divest and Re-invest	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eric Janoski and I'm a former resident of Asheville, wife and I currently living in Brevard, NC and have considered moving back to Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Eric</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>I'm a citizen of Asheville. Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>Therefore we make these demands:</p> <p>City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors. 2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invest in affordable housing b. Invest in underprivileged schools c. Invest in mental health treatment d. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacity e. Invest in drug treatment facilities f. Invest in public transit 3. End no-knock raids. 4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds. 5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary. 6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly. 7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually. 8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment. b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcement c. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoing d. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online. 9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: if an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The over-seeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. Officers on the scene that do not intervene when lethal use of force is utilized are also considered to be accomplices for legal purposes in the offense. The charges and penalties to each responsible officer shall be judged by their level of involvement in the offense. Level of involvement shall be judge by a third-party review board dedicated to investigating such offenses. 10. Implementation of mandatory body camera footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if the camera is manually turned off, disabled, or altered by the officer. <p>Black lives matter. As our local leaders, you can't just say it on paper</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:31:00 PM	Fwd: Defunding the police	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Begin forwarded message:</p> <p>> From: Ashley Rivera <funkybeastly@gmail.com> > Date: June 8, 2020 at 11:13:21 AM EDT > To: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com, gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com, brianhaynes@avlcouncil.com, vijay Kapoor@avlcouncil.com, juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com, sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com, keithyoung@avlcouncil.com > Subject: Defunding the police > > > To whom it may concern, > > My name is Ashley Rivera and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville. > > I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials. > > As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands. > > Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding. > > With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police. > > Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies. > > This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees. > > This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community. > > > Sincerely signed, > > Ashley Rivera ></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:31:00 PM	We demand justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Violet, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Violet</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:31:00 PM	Fwd: Honoring black leaders and demolishing racist monuments	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Begin forwarded message:</p> <p>> From: Ashley Rivera <funkybeastly@gmail.com> > Date: June 8, 2020 at 11:16:15 AM EDT > To: gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com, vijay Kapoor@avlcouncil.com, sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com, brianhaynes@avlcouncil.com, esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com, juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com, keithyoung@avlcouncil.com, AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov > Subject: Honoring black leaders and demolishing racist monuments > > > To whom it may concern, > > My name is Ashley Rivera and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The demonstrations that have swept our nation are explicitly about police brutality and violence against black people at the hands of police officers. However, just as important, these demonstrations are about the 400 year long struggle of systemic racism and white supremacy that black people have been forced to negotiate and fight against. > > With that said, while strict control and accountability of the APD must be enacted, we as a city must do a lot more to repair the structural and racist harms enacted by our city and our country against black people. > > As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville. > > I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials. > > As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands. > > Specifically, to give full credence to the brutal history of white supremacy in this city, I demand that: (1) the city of Asheville remove the Robert E. Lee and Vance monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many black Ashevilleians that built this city, and (2) all street names in Asheville named after slave owners are replaced with names that honor black leaders. > > By replacing these monuments and street names with tributes to black Ashevilleians, the city of Asheville can begin the long journey of repairing the past and continuing harm of Asheville's black community. These actions should be coordinated and managed by a committee of black and POC leaders from our Asheville community. > > Sincerely signed, > > Ashley Rivera ></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:31:00 PM	Police Dept	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andrew Auster and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andrew Auster</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:31:00 PM	Fwd: Defunding the police	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Begin forwarded message:</p> <p>> From: Ashley Rivera <funkybeastly@gmail.com> > Date: June 8, 2020 at 11:13:21 AM EDT > To: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com, gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com, brianhaynes@avlcouncil.com, vijay Kapoor@avlcouncil.com, juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com, sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com, keithyoung@avlcouncil.com > Subject: Defunding the police > > > To whom it may concern, > > My name is Ashley Rivera and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville. > > I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials. > > As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands. > > Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding. > > With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police. > > Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies. > > This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees. > > This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community. > > > Sincerely signed, > > Ashley Rivera ></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:31:00 PM	Delay the budget vote! Add police alternatives that focus on social services in Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jennifer R. Nathan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jennifer Nathan 120 W Oakview Road Asheville, NC 28806</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>I am an Asheville citizen who protested peacefully and was fired 3 times with various APD tools over the course of a week. None of these times were for breaking curfew.</p> <p>APD escalated aggressive engagement as every opportunity, literally stomped on and destroyed our community memorials, and attacked us and our medics. It wasn't until their actions were revealed on national news that they changed their tone and tactics.</p> <p>APD must understand that military-style aggression, lack of transparency and lack of accountability will result in *reduction or elimination of funds.*</p> <p>I do not support fully funding the APD with this year's proposed allocation. Their funds should be reduced as a tangible warning that they cannot get away with "dominating" the streets of Asheville and violating 1st amendment rights.</p> <p>*Their funds should not be increased until they have provided significant and effective public channels for transparency and accountability on race and policing in Asheville*.</p> <p>This means *accurate and timely **data* that can be scrutinized by the public and a community oversight committee, and used at all meetings to make data-based funding decisions. It also means direct internal policy, training, and disciplinary changes, including criminalizing police officers that needlessly attack, assault, and murder people.</p> <p>We are the people. *These are OUR streets*. Police cannot brutalize and murder people on them with impunity anymore.</p> <p>C. Lindeman</p>
6/8/2020 1:33:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Grace Schmidt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Grace Schmidt</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:33:00 PM	Budget Public Hearing	<p>My name is Addie Ward and I am a resident of South Asheville. I am writing you today with concerns about the proposed budget increase to the Asheville Police Department of 400,000 dollars. That money should be reallocated to social services programs because increasing our police force size and presence will not help address longstanding issues within the community, but instead will just continue to operate 'as is' providing no substantive improvement. By reallocating that funding to social services programs like affordable housing, school nurses and psychologists, reliable transit, etc, the county will be able to help our communities that are disproportionately represented and that are more likely going to end up in prison/jail institutions due to lack of adequate resources. We should be proactive, and by doing so we can create a more equitable Asheville for ALL citizens.</p>
6/8/2020 1:33:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>To all concerned, I am alarmed by and opposed to injecting our broken policing system with more funds to harass and assault people of color in this community. I am disgusted by the actions of this community's police in the past weeks--gassing and shooting peaceful protestors and destroying supplies that are only meant to support community members isn't protecting anyone; they are instilling fear, anger and distrust in the community. The APD does not deserve any increase of funds. Instead, I encourage you to redirect that money into programs that can actually serve our communities. This money should be used to support real public safety efforts such as education, mental health care and transit. Move this money so that it can actually help black people. If you care for our community you will not approve funding for the APD. Regards, Evelyn Smith</p>
6/8/2020 1:33:00 PM	Dismantle Abusive Power	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:34:00 PM	One Constituent's Input for the City Council Meeting.	<p>Dear AVL City council,</p> <p>I would like to leave an official comment for the city council meeting on 6/9.</p> <p>As a white, female, voting member of the community and 5 year Asheville resident, I fully support the AVL BLM demands. I support reallocating funds from the police department to invest in social programs which benefit POC. Let's invest in lifting people up, not in pushing people down.</p> <p>I can only hope that the actions of the department this past week are finally enough for the council to consider allocating these funds to policing alternatives. APD's use of excessive force, the systematic rounding-up and jailing of people experiencing homelessness during curfew, and the destruction of a medic station and its water, should be enough for Asheville to consider reducing reliance on a dangerous, corrupt police force. Now is the time to follow the example of cities like Minneapolis and Los Angeles, and divert this money toward problem-solving strategies that are less contingent on police forces that cannot be trusted.</p> <p>Black organizers in Asheville have stated their demands of a 50% divestment of funds from policing to be invested into the black community. I stand in solidarity with this demand. I urge my elected officials to ensure that the proposed APD budget increase is turned down. I suggest a reallocation of funds back into the community using the guidance of those affected—namely our BIPOC community—to create a long term solution within our community.</p> <p>I demand that funds allocated for police forces be deferred to public health and rehabilitation efforts.</p> <p>I demand that officers who have abused their power by suppressing the constitutional rights of citizens be held accountable. The officers responsible for tear gassing, shooting rubber bullets, and destruction of the medic tent should be fired, or at the very least suspended!</p> <p>In summary, at the very least, City Council should deny APD's budget increase request. More appropriately, City Council should make budget cuts to the police department and reallocate funds to the community. However ideally, both previous demands should be met along with the City Council exploring policing alternatives and holding officers accountable for misconduct over the last week. Very sincerely, Caitlin Ortega 900 Longwood Ln, Apt. 304 Asheville, NC 28806</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:34:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maddie and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maddie</p>
6/8/2020 1:36:00 PM	<p>*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***</p>	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:36:00 PM	We demand racial justice.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eden Sullivan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Eden Sullivan</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:36:00 PM	Divert Funding from the Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Ella Conder and I'm a resident of North Asheville. I've lived in Buncombe County for 6 years and currently work at Vortex Doughnuts. I'm writing to demand that the Asheville City Council commit to addressing racial injustice in our community and take immediate action to divert funding from the Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>Asheville has joined cities around the world in protest of police brutality, systemic racism, and the murder of George Floyd and countless others at the hands of the police. Peaceful protests in our own cities have been met with cops in riot gear, tear gas, rubber bullets, and the violent destruction of a city-approved medical triage station.</p> <p>The Asheville Police Department's actions during these protests and their record in policing our black communities show blatant racial bias and routine use of excessive force. We have not forgotten the APD's violent assault of Johnnie Rush for jaywalking, or the killing of Jerry Williams and the subsequent monitoring and police surveillance of Black Lives Matter organizers in Asheville.</p> <p>A black man testified at the downtown Black Lives Matter march on Saturday that in a protest earlier in the week, he was on the front lines of the crowd marching down Interstate 240 and was shot directly in the chest with a rubber bullet. He was the *only black individual on the front lines*. Every other person standing with him was white. *He was the only one shot. *The APD is constantly showing us their inability to protect and serve without racial bias, and we routinely fail to hold them accountable while we simultaneously funnel more money towards their department. How do you expect this money to help?</p> <p>I am writing to explicitly oppose the 4% increase in the APD's budget and also demand that a significant portion of their proposed \$30,057,325 budget for the 2021 fiscal year be diverted from the department and redistributed to supporting our black communities. I want to echo and amplify the demands of Black Lives Matter organizers in Asheville who demand that 50% of the APD's budget be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>The APD doesn't need more funding. Research has shown time and time again that increasing policing does not decrease crime. We demand that the Asheville City Council hear our pleas and pour funding into areas of the budget that will uplift our communities and especially our black communities. Take action to defund the APD now.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ella Conder 423-213-3744 10 Hyannis Dr., Asheville, NC 28804</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:37:00 PM	Outrage - Reallocation of APD Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Wesley Bryant and I'm a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am positive you are reeling, in many ways, from recent events, as we all have been.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Wesley Bryant</p>
6/8/2020 1:37:00 PM	Reallocate APD Budget Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tanya Johnson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tanya Johnson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Members of the Asheville City Council,</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have already received this message in your inbox earlier this week, forgive the redundancy, but as with many things, repetition can be the path to change. I have been a taxpaying member of Buncombe county for ten years, and have been actively working to contribute my energy and talent to work that makes our city vibrant. I am sure you also take pride in your work as a civil servant to the benefit of all members of Asheville.</p> <p>In advance of the City Council's budget meeting on June 9, 2020, I am writing to advocate for a reduction of the Asheville Police Department's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 20-21 budget.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. This community has elected you to represent us to the interest of the whole.</p> <p>In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas at a time of acute community grief. This approach comes despite a public overhaul of APD's use of force policies. This does not inspire public trust, and in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. The choice to destroy a neutral volunteer medic station at a protest, with what I am to understand was in the interest of protecting officers from the "weapon" of water bottles shows a lack of critical thinking in a department that demands it.</p> <p>We cannot continue to invest in this department. If money and resources are what is needed to retrain a department into better practice, I hope that you as council people will recognize that it may be time for them to do what many disadvantaged people in the city of Asheville have been forced to do, which is to discover a way to exist and thrive with limited resources. Let necessity be the mother of invention, and demand that there be a rethinking of how to serve and protect the entire community with a lens of equality and restraint.</p> <p>Moreover, as we see time and again the lethal effects of police violence, the time has come to consider dis-arming police and restricting access to deadly weapons. The community has asked for community policing. This should not necessitate weapons that by their very presence in a scene open up the possibility of using lethal force. Removing weapons from these scenarios creates an environment in which police must inspire trust and engage in productive dialogue with the community, where partnership becomes a possibility.</p> <p>Do not approve an increase in budget for the police department. Decrease their existing budget. Consider making deadly weapons less of a presence on our streets by limiting officers' access to weapons. Look to other countries for examples of how to do this (e.g. Norway, which allows weapons to be stored in vehicles so they can be accessed if a situation necessitates their use, but prohibits officers from approaching a scene armed). Make racial sensitivity training mandatory for all officers (per the 2017 APD annual report, it is currently voluntary). And remove police from our public schools. Children should not be confronted with armed officers in a learning environment.</p> <p>I am not writing to insinuate that I know the deep inner workings of how the City of Asheville's Police Department operates, and I do not expect</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:39:00 PM	APD Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Kuhns and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Kuhns</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:39:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Asha Owens and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Asha Owens</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:39:00 PM	Hear our voices	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Stacey Hammett and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Stacey Hammett</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:40:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jessica Willig and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jessica Willig</p>
6/8/2020 1:40:00 PM	Police Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Grace Wilkins and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Grace Wilkins</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Daniela Ginsburg and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD and the tourist industry, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Daniela Ginsburg</p> <p>--</p> <p>Daniela Ginsburg</p> <p>ATA Certified Translator French-English Asheville, NC 28801</p> <p>dgtranslation.com</p>
6/8/2020 1:41:00 PM	reallocate resources away from police and tourism	
6/8/2020 1:41:00 PM	Divest from Police & Invest in Black Lives in AVL	[image: image.png]
6/8/2020 1:41:00 PM	Budget Hearing	<p>Hello, this is Matthew Clark and I am a resident of Asheville. I am calling to urge the City to adjust next year's budget. We need to begin divesting from the police and investing in houseless and Black communities. 50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in community programs and long-term safety strategies, including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I urge every Council member to support this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. Thank you.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:41:00 PM	Racial Justice for our Black Community—Decrease Police Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ryan Willard and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice.</p> <p>I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ryan Willard -- --</p> <p>*Ryan Willard* *ryanwillard@gmail.com <ryanwillard@gmail.com>* *http://www.ryanwillard.com/ <http://www.ryanwillard.com/>* *@ryanthegurl *</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:43:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chelsea Harrison and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Chelsea Harrison</p>
6/8/2020 1:43:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tara Wright and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Tara Wright</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:43:00 PM	CONCERNED CITIZEN	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jasmine Pullen-Schmidt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jasmine</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:46:00 PM	Asheville Police Department Budget Concern	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ross Gentry and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ross Gentry</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:47:00 PM	Public Comment for Budget Process	<p>Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Carolina McCreedy and I have been a resident of Asheville for almost 25 years. I am writing to comment on the budgeting process and call each of you to step into the transformative leadership Asheville needs in this moment.</p> <p>Reviewing the website for the City of Asheville, nowhere was I able to find a line by line budget. The mgr budget presentation <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_e_2Lw4GrEW8TBuzaWou8mAcqMySecC/view> is an overview with no ability to deep dive into any of the areas of the budget. The presentation states that the budget development was created with intentionality and a focus on equity. It's time to lift that value front and center with transparency and accountability. I am in alignment with Black AVL Demands:</p> <p>*We Demand a Divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities*</p> <p>50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable</p> <p>*We Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community *</p> <p>We demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>Sincerely, Carolina Maria McCreedy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 1:48:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>To whom it may concern,As a resident of Asheville the last 9 years I echo the demands of Black community members. We demand a divestment from the police and investment in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>We demand repair for the past and continuing harms inflicted on Asheville's Black community. We demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>STOP PRIORITIZING FUCKING TOURISTS.</p> <p>Taylor Ramsey</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:49:00 PM	Asheville Police Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Juliana Russo and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Juliana Russo 631-655-4652</p>
6/8/2020 1:50:00 PM	DEFUND APD NOW	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alyssa Field and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? If you care about our community, you will not approve funding for the APD.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alyssa Field</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:50:00 PM	Budget opinion	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members, My name is Leigh Johnson Schaefer and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Leigh Johnson Schaefer</p>
6/8/2020 1:50:00 PM	Please reallocate the police budget	<p>*To:* ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov ,AshevilleCityCouncilJune92020@PublicInput.com ☐ *Subject:* [*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***] *Message* *(Don't forget to replace the [x]'s with your information!)* ☐</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Holly and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Holly Juniper</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:50:00 PM	This is so important	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 1:51:00 PM	It's past time for change in Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Steve Hogan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I ask that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Please do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Steven Hogan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:51:00 PM	Police Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Audrey Pierce and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Audrey Pierce</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:52:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Erica Anderson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Erica Anderson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:52:00 PM	DEFUND ADP	<p>Hi my name is Ariana</p> <p>I grew up in Asheville and attended Asheville highschool. I am writing to you to share my concern and to encourage you to invest in the Asheville community.</p> <p>I know that the city council needs to adjust our city's budget and divest from the Asheville police department and reinvest in our community. This means putting our money into long term safety strategies, sustainable growth and to support communities instead of terrorizing them. This means shifting our money to support Black startups and local businesses. This means consciously taking steps to eliminate racial gaps within our local economy.</p> <p>Asheville prides itself on being local and STAYING LOCAL!! Do your job and support our community for Asheville's future and also re-write the wrongdoings of our past. I mean this historically as a city in the south and I mean this NOW in our current climate. I am talking about the ways in which police brutality is evident in our local protests this past week and the ways in which Asheville is still deeply segregated today.</p> <p>Be the change we need and be a leader in today's climate. Listen to your citizens and support our community during this time when your city is rightfully protesting!</p> <p>-Ariana Hoch</p>
6/8/2020 1:52:00 PM	APD and The Current Situation	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Grace Wester and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Grace</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:53:00 PM	Concerns for Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andy and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andy</p>
6/8/2020 1:54:00 PM	2021 Budget Proposal Discussion	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Liza Allen and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. A focus on community-building resources would greatly benefit Asheville in this time of uncertainty with the looming overhead of COVID-19.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Liza Allen</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:54:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sage Bowman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591641998492000&sa=D&ust=1591641998512000&usg=AFQjCNEdk1-tgV7tOz7m3XvHUQmVQ_qqAA>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sage Bowman</p>
6/8/2020 1:55:00 PM	Supporting the Black Community of Asheville	<p>Hello Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I hope you are all doing well as we undergo some major shifts in our community and society as a whole.</p> <p>I am writing to ask you to adjust the budget to provide more funding for Black communities of Asheville and less for the APD police department. I am asking for 50% of the APD's budget to go towards long-term safety strategies including supporting Black start-up businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts in making this happen!</p> <p>Kindly, Erica</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:55:00 PM	Abolish the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jodie Karr and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jodie Karr</p>
6/8/2020 1:56:00 PM	2021 Proposed Budget - June City Council Meeting	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is John Hoover and I am writing to urge Council to delay the budget vote and direct funds to better invest in our community.</p> <p>I am a board-certified pediatrician and neonatologist, and I am proud to care for some of Western North Carolina's most vulnerable. I moved here to not only practice medicine, but to raise my family in a place that seemed to reflect those same values: Do no harm. Treat others equally. Help those in need. This year's budget represents a colossal opportunity for our city. Will we be progressive in name only? Or are you willing to do the hard work of listening to marginalized voices and reallocating funds to invest in the communities that need it most?</p> <p>The proposed budget does nothing to reflect this current opportunity. Spend the time needed to thoughtfully reconsider our largest budget item.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>John Hoover, MD 28806</p> <p>Sent from my wireless device //JDH</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:56:00 PM	Request to Vote Towards Reducing APD Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>I, Ruth Partridge, am a resident of Asheville and have been for twelve years. I am writing to advocate for a reduction of the Asheville Police Department's 29.6 million dollar budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive deescalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, the Asheville Police Department chose to meet protesters with tear gas and excessive force. Furthermore, Asheville, a city which has proudly gained a reputation for being particularly progressive, is currently making headlines for the police officers' aggressive dismantling of a city-approved medical station during a peaceful protest taking place on Tuesday, June 2nd. These actions are inexcusable and I would like to know how you, our elected city official, are going to proceed in action against these acts of brutality.</p> <p>These events are, unfortunately, indicative of a lifetime of systemic abuse against People of Color in and outside of Asheville. Black communities are living in persistent fear of being killed by state authorities. In light of the police department's horrific use of brutal force against its' citizens (particularly those citizens of color) in Asheville and all around the country, I am emailing today to insist that you vote against the proposed increase for funding towards the Asheville Police Department. The APD's actions have demonstrated a profound disregard for human life and we cannot continue to invest in this department. Therefore, these vital funds need to be allocated to our community and used to support communities of color that have been systematically underserved for far too long.</p> <p>It is your job as an elected representative of our city to work towards creating positive, sustainable, longterm change in our community. What will you do to protect black lives and prevent further instances of police brutality?</p> <p>Sincerely, Ruth Partridge</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:56:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Iva and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Iva Phillips</p>
6/8/2020 1:56:00 PM	Defund The Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Matthew Garau and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Thank you, -Matthew Garau --</p> <p>*Matty*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:58:00 PM	Asheville City Council, Listen, Act, Be Good, Defund APD	<p>Dear Council Members Haynes, Kapoor Mayfield, Smith, and Young,</p> <p>Thank you each for accepting positions which amplify the voice of our Asheville community. It is clear that your community is singing loudly for a change surrounding the Asheville Police Department in regards to defunding their budget, deepening their accountability, and investing in efforts to shift away from systemic racial injustice . Mayor Manheimer’s fiscal year 2021 budget proposal must be delayed so that as a Council, a new plan can be created to better direct money towards racial and class equality and away from the APD.</p> <p>While you create a new plan to better support racial justice, please focus the budget towards better living wages, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunities, and stable housing. By promoting these other areas, the APD does not need the funding. By promoting these other areas, the community will feel supported by you to be better.</p> <p>Instilling fear in people to be better is not sustainable. By that I mean, you can instill fear in a person for a moment, but long-term how are they going to want to help their community if they are scared of it’s ‘protectors’. That is what the APD has been doing .Why are you going to give more money to those people? Why are you going to give short-term money to people that are creating long-term damage? Communicating with people and providing outlets for change, will create a more just society.</p> <p>A tangible first step in creating a more just community is to get rid of those daily reminders that contradict the movement for human compassion. For a city so proud of it’s tourism, how do you expect future tourists, whom are much more aware of the racial injustices that exist today, to navigate a city by following streets named after formers slave owners? When a tourist asks a local how to get around our city, do you want us to use derogative descriptors of the Vance and Robert E. Lee monuments as navigational pillars of reference? For example, when tourists ask us how to get to the art museum, our new responses will be “ it is next to that disgraceful, tauntingly cruel statue that reminds us daily that Asheville’s council leaders refuse to promote equality”, although that is probably the kinder way to put that response. How do you think they will leave Asheville, certainly not with a good impression. You have the capability to keep those tainted conversations from happening, what a fantastic role you each hold! If you do not take those statues and street names down, daily reminders that racism and inequality are openly practiced in Asheville by it’s leaders, we will rename them for you simply adding adjectives before the statue or street name to speak truthfully as to what that name represents. What descriptive words do you want associated with your names moving forward?</p> <p>It is interesting to write you all, sharing my thoughts. You do not see me in person, demanding APD funding divestment. You do not see me begging to take down statues that stand for historical injustice. You do not see me. Can you hear me?</p> <p>I encourage you to take a moment, take a deep breath. While you must be overwhelmed with your community’s cries for change, we are writing and calling you because we want to believe that you are good people. Prove to us that this is true by defunding Asheville Police Department, give us dates when the Vance and Robert E. Lee statues will be removed, and give us an outline of how this community is going to move forward to create a more community.</p> <p>Warm Regards, Lindsey Giglio</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:59:00 PM	A Call To Action: Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Audrey Walsh and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Audrey Walsh</p>
6/8/2020 1:59:00 PM	Demand for Redistribution of Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jasmine and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jasmine</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:59:00 PM	Consent Agenda Item	<p>Hi, I am a resident of Asheville. I am emailing to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the ADP's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to help the ADP and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Charles Goldberg</p>
6/8/2020 1:59:00 PM	action please	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Constance Ensner and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Constance</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:59:00 PM	Asheville Budget Concerns	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mary Wines and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mary Wines Citizen of Asheville</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 1:59:00 PM		<p>Dear Mayor Manheimer, Vice Mayor Wisler, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kapoor, Councilwoman Mayfield, Councilwoman Smith, and Councilman Young,</p> <p>I'm writing to you as an Asheville native and as someone who has had a tremendous change of heart regarding the police department over the past few years, not just due to the horrendous behavior I witnessed first hand at the protests, but due to my own awakening to the ongoing issues the department has had for years and years now. As a privileged white woman I am embarrassed to say that I've mostly ignored much of this violence until now. I still remember Johnnie Rush who was stopped for jaywalking in 2017 and ended up being beaten in the head by an Asheville Police officer with many others standing around watching. That one stuck with me, but I remained silent. I remember the man on the bicycle at the bridge, Terry Marzelle from 2017. That one broke my heart, but I remained silent. I was saddened by the killing of Jerry Williams in 2016 by Officer Radford, yet I remained silent. As for more recent times, I will never forget seeing the angry police destroy the medical tent like a bunch of spoiled children during these protests, stabbing water bottles and stomping on snacks which could have fed our homeless after the protests were over. I'll never forget the stories and videos friends posted of the police being violent towards well meaning and unarmed community members. Instead of going after the few who threw fireworks despite the community's efforts to stop them, the police gassed the innocent, peaceful protestors. Instead of going after the white man who fired shots into the air at Pack Square, they shot pepper bullets at unarmed protestors. It is time for change.</p> <p>The Police do not need more funding. Please vote to deny their budget increase. Those funds should be put towards community outreach, mental health counseling, drug rehabilitation, and uplifting our incredible and resilient African American community. These folks have been living in a city signed with the names of slave holders, protesting under monuments of confederate soldiers while standing on the very ground where their ancestors were once sold. Enough is enough.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lindsay Bostic West</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:00:00 PM	Delay Budget Vote and Reallocate Funds to Social Service Programs	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nina Kavar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nina Kavar</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:00:00 PM	Request for the fiscal year 2021 budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Celene Syntax and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of colour who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Celene</p> <p>Slowly regarding silent things. Be gentle with each other so you can be dangerous together. Your heart is a muscle the size of your fist - keep loving, keep fighting. [image: image.png]</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:00:00 PM	Fwd: Asheville 2021 Budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Sapporah Stevens -- I have been a resident of Asheville for over 2 years now.</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice by decreasing the APD budget and allocating that money to more social safety net programs and basic infrastructure.</p> <p>I found myself horrified when reviewing the proposed 2021 AVL City Budget. \$30,057,325 will be allocated to the AVL police department, only \$454,999 for Equity and Inclusion, \$1,509,389 for human resources and \$2,613,942 for transportation. These fiscal disparities are unacceptable! Our city needs to be focusing on specialized programs that directly benefit our community like living wage, access to health services/treatment, food security, education, affordable housing, homeless resources and public transportation. Research shows that having access to these everyday resources is far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality and promote physical and emotional well-being. We have seen far too many cases where police intervention results in death, violence and trauma -- Especially for people of color, low-income and homeless folks. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Here are better ways we can be using the massive police budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rent relief and quality housing opportunities for people living at our below the poverty line.2. Free public transit and increased hours for bus schedules3. Trained mental health professionals to de-escalate, transport, and connect those in need with resources4. Free higher education5. More outdoor spaces and multi-use parks in lower income neighborhoods6. Free after school programs, daycare and healthier food options in schools7. Free health clinics8. Green energy <p>Can I count on you to help put more money towards the things that matter most? On things that keep people safe and out of desperate situations? Can you help defund our police?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sapporah Stevens</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:00:00 PM	Public Comment from an Asheville Native	<p>Hi, my name is Spencer Kelly and I am a resident of Asheville, NC.</p> <p>This is in regards to the 2020 - 2021 proposed annual budget for the City of Asheville.</p> <p>Please vote against the current proposed budget. This is specifically because of the \$30 million dollar budget including a \$400k increase proposed for the Asheville Police Department. The use of these funds needs to be critically examined.</p> <p>We ask the Council to provide a line item budget by department. Last year the budget was 131 pages. This year it is only 37 pages. Where is our money going? We demand transparency and ask that the council addresses equity in every department.</p> <p>We demand a divestment from the police and investment in Black communities. At least 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. It is vital to redirect money away from the APD and into the funds that target the problems of public safety and help promote our communities overall well-being. For example, the Shiloh Neighborhood Infrastructure line item in the budget is scheduled several years out. Make this a priority along with other projects to support our Black Community.</p> <p>There should be no staffing increases or hiring of any sort to the APD. We do not need more police. We need more mediators and community peacekeepers.</p> <p>Examine police union contracts. These contracts often allow the purging of misconduct records and can allow the reinstatement of fired officers. This is unacceptable. We demand this contract be made public and be critically examined if it is to remain in place while the transition away from police entirely is made.</p> <p>We demand reparations for past and continuing harms inflicted on Asheville's Black Community. We demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>We demand for law enforcement and the community to end the war on Black People. We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>No more resource officers in schools. The presence of these officers in our children's places of learning is entirely unnecessary. Have Asheville City Schools show solidarity with our commitment to build a healthy community by removing resource officers from schools and replacing them with mental health professionals, trained mediators, and peacekeepers.</p> <p>Implement community elected service groups to respond to the public health and safety crises that would have previously been handled by police. For example, mediators that respond to domestic violence or disputes. Unarmed traffic assistants that can help someone change a turn signal or get to an auto service center. Mental health responders that can help someone stay calm and get help during a manic episode. The militarized police institution has been tasked with serving public health and safety. They are not trained for this service and the entire institution has been built in such a way that is counter to these types of service. The police system must be dismantled and a new system of unarmed public health and safety constructed with equity and consideration for all that it serves.</p> <p>These are ideas for a transition to a better model. The actions and legislation put in place need to be constantly evolving in direct response to ongoing dialogue with our Black community leaders.</p> <p>We are asking you to delay the budget vote and take the time to provide us with a transparent line item budget that redirects money away from the APD and towards sectors & funds that directly facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality within our community.</p> <p>Your Asheville community is counting on you to do the right thing. Please make us proud.</p> <p>Thank you. Spencer Kelly</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:02:00 PM	Invest in Black Community! Defund the Police!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Milo Gallagher and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Milo Gallagher</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>I'm a citizen of our lovely city of Asheville and a psychologist that works with youth and adults throughout western NC. I am well-versed in risk factors for violence as well as the mental health needs of our community. We are living in a racism pandemic. It is time for drastic change. We will no longer tolerate the institutionalized behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black americans, both locally and nationally by police. Small, incremental, change from within has not been effective. I support our community leaders in making the following demands, which have been backed by decades of research into what actually works:</p> <p>City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers, psychologists, and trauma doctors. These are social issues that require treatment. 2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invest in affordable housing b. Invest in underprivileged schools c. Invest in mental health treatment d. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacity e. Invest in drug treatment facilities f. Invest in public transit 3. End no-knock raids. 4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds. 5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary. 6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly. 7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually. 8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment. b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcement c. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoing d. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online. 9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: if an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The over- seeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. Officers on the scene that do not intervene when lethal use of force is utilized are also considered to be accomplices for legal purposes in the offense. The charges and penalties to such responsible officers shall be judged by their



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

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6/8/2020 2:03:00 PM	2021 Budget Concern	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amy Holtvedt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amy Holtvedt</p>
6/8/2020 2:05:00 PM	Listen to Us	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Coco Villa and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Coco Villa</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:05:00 PM	We're begging you guys	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Grace Polaneczky and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Grace P</p>
6/8/2020 2:05:00 PM	Input	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>I want to comment publicly to DEFUND THE POLICE. STOP targeting communities of color, especially the Black community in Asheville.</p> <p>-Ailsa Bennett 828-329-4049</p>
6/8/2020 2:05:00 PM	Upcoming Fiscal Year Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Drew Sencabaugh and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Drew Sencabaugh</p> <p>Sent from Mail<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986> for Windows 10</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:05:00 PM	FUND OUR COMMUNITY, NOT APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rye Fox and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rye Fox</p>
6/8/2020 2:05:00 PM	URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED - DEFUND POLICE	Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:05:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Xan Janik and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Xan Janik</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

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6/8/2020 2:06:00 PM	Support Those in Need Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kyra and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kyra Stewart</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amy and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget. I urge you to counsel the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality, and less towards the APD's ever increasing budget.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>It is our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when long running paradigms like the current American law enforcement system is recalibrated and reset, so let's start right here in our town.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs that could help those incurring the most impact of our police force?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amy Jones North Asheville 828.230.3969</p>
6/8/2020 2:06:00 PM	Reconsider Police Funding	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 2:07:00 PM	Defund AVL Police!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hanna Sigmon and I'm a resident of Swannanoa. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Hanna Sigmon</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:07:00 PM	Time sensitive!!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashleigh Short and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ashleigh Short</p>
6/8/2020 2:08:00 PM	Council Meeting Comments	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing as a citizen of Asheville, North Carolina to request that the city council extend consideration of the budget. Specifically, I would like to request the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the city provide a full document breaking down each expense by department. I think it is important that our government maintains transparency, especially during these trying times. 2. The Asheville firefighters be paid a living wage. 3. That the city provide transparency in spending for the bus system. How will the money received from the CARES Act for transit be spent? 4. Most importantly, please explain what the increase in police funding is intended for. As you know, the Asheville Police Department has not reacted well to protests over the past week. I believe the community is calling for reform, and the city council should listen. <p>Thank you, Nikki Gensert</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:08:00 PM	Budget Considerations	<p>Good afternoon Council,</p> <p>I wanted to comment on the upcoming budget discussion and ask that any decisions be delayed in order for appropriate deliberations to be made. As a resident of Asheville, I have been very proud of the citizen's responses to addressing the needs of our black community. However, I am less proud to see our police department made national headlines for disgusting action against protestors. The right to protest is a given right and medics were willing to put themselves at risk in order to protect citizens; our police department broke any trust we had with them and they *must* be held accountable.</p> <p>I believe this needs to be done with reconsidering how much we fund them. Still within the reach of COVID-19, I believe city funds should be allocated toward the community in terms of parks and conservation, education, and small businesses impacted by recent shutdowns. I ask that you delay budget decisions in order to allow Asheville citizens more time to research and comment on how we want our city's money spent. I am saddened to see outsiders respond on social media by saying the actions of the police here have caused them to reconsider spending their vacation money here, which will further impact our hard-working small business owners and incredible community.</p> <p>I am holding you accountable for the actions of the Asheville police and the half-hearted non-apologies the Chief has released.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Matthew Carter, West Asheville</p>
6/8/2020 2:08:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amani Holder and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Amani Holder</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ruby Neu and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ruby</p>
6/8/2020 2:09:00 PM	EMERGENCY DEFUND	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jennifer Paris and I'm a resident of Asheville/Fairview. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jennifer Paris</p>
6/8/2020 2:09:00 PM	Please Reallocate funding from police department to social services and new vision of policing	<p>The APD betrayed Asheville. Defund and reorganize the police with emphasis on problem solving and de escalation. Please use any remaining resources towards food programs across the community.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nirvana Hintgen</p>
6/8/2020 2:09:00 PM	Defund APD	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:09:00 PM	The AVL community is calling for change	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Jillian Milazzo and I'm a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>Please acknowledge what our community is asking for. We demand change and to be LISTENED to.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Please don't be on the wrong side of history, --Jillian</p>
6/8/2020 2:10:00 PM	Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sahil Dhawan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sahil Dhawan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Geneva Bierce-Wilson and I'm a life long resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. This should be a line item budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>The following is from blackavidemands.org and I want to see all of these demands met.</p> <p>Thank you, Geneva Bierce-Wilson</p> <p>An intergenerational collective of Black leaders in Asheville, North Carolina demand the following for our city <https://www.blackavidemands.org/support>INVEST-DIVEST We Demand a Divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities</p> <p>50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable</p> <p>----- REPARATIONSWe Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community</p> <p>We demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>----- End the War on Black PeopleWe demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>"When Black people get free, everybody gets free" — Alicia Garza (co-founder of the national Black Lives Matter movement) The long-form of these demands, including more specific steps for the Asheville community, will be released in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 2:10:00 PM

Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,

My name is Cassidy Doyle and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.

Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.

Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.

Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?

Thank you,

Cassidy Doyle



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:11:00 PM	AVL Needs to Change!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lila Richardson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lila Richardson.</p>
6/8/2020 2:11:00 PM	Comment on divesting avl police force	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is John Hale, I am a father of 2 children and an owner of a small business in downtown Asheville, and a resident. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>John Hale</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mackenzie Kaelin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Mackenzie Kaelin</p>
6/8/2020 2:11:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	Sent from my iPhone
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elizabeth McKinsey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Elizabeth</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 2:11:00 PM	Please delay budget vote	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:12:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Caroline Petty and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Caroline Petty</p>
6/8/2020 2:12:00 PM	Defund the Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Graham Sachse and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Graham Sachse</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:13:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Government,</p> <p>My name is Chelsea Sokolow and my family has lived in Asheville and surrounding WNC for generations. I am a Brown University graduate and will be starting my master's in social work at Western Carolina University this fall.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a measurable commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's hugely overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and actively anti-racist reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequity. Additionally, there must be members of Asheville's black and latino communities involved directly in the decision making process about where funds are most needed. I urge you to put the right people at the table and stop prioritizing tourism and outside investors.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Asheville does not need more policing. In the last week alone we have seen how violent and dangerous APD is as they destroyed a medic station, assaulted community members, prevented them from practicing their first amendment rights, and showered them with tear gas during a respiratory pandemic. It is absolutely heinous that members of the Asheville community were treated that way. Asheville needs less policing and more social workers, more educators, more community health workers, more mental health workers, affordable housing, and opportunities for the most vulnerable populations to participate directly in the governing of our city.</p> <p>I love my community and I want to see my city thrive. The way things are currently headed I do not foresee that happening. Asheville City Government needs to take a hard look at things and shift priorities to the safety, health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable communities. Police do NOT keep anyone safe, we need to take money away from the APD and put it towards real change through expanding our social services and social safety nets.</p> <p>If you are unfamiliar with what defunding the police actually looks like there are SO MANY resources on alternatives. I encourage you to start by taking a quick look at the document I have attached on Frequently Asked Questions for Building a Police-Free Future.</p> <p>With utmost conviction,</p> <p>Chelsea Sokolow</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:13:00 PM	Public Comment - Demand APD Budget Decrease	<p>Dear Asheville City Council (or staff member name),</p> <p>My name is Miriam Benavides and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Miriam Benavides</p>
6/8/2020 2:13:00 PM	Please Reconsider City Budget 2021	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dr. Maegan Davis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dr. Maegan Davis 828-351-8716</p>
6/8/2020 2:14:00 PM		<p>My name is Addison and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:15:00 PM	Input for the City Council Budget Meeting - Defund the APD in the 2021 Budget	<p>To the Asheville City Council and Mayor Manheimer:</p> <p>My name is Leila Zefri. I am, and have been for the most of my life, a resident of Asheville. In advance of City Council's budget meeting on June 9, 2020, I am writing to advocate for a reduction of the Asheville Police Department's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2021 budget. Do not approve an increase in budget for the police department. Additionally, decrease their existing budget.</p> <p>Consider making deadly weapons less of a presence on our streets by limiting officers' access to weapons. De-militarization of our police department is long overdue. Make racial sensitivity training mandatory for all officers (per the 2017 APD annual report, it is currently voluntary). Remove police from our public schools. No child should not be confronted with armed officers in a learning environment. We have seen across the country that police are bringing violence, mayhem, and death to our communities. Please be part of the solution by limiting their already inflated budget. As a city this pivotal moment is an opportunity to reimagine our future. It is not enough to state commitments to racial justice—action must be taken. Redirect funds from the already inflated Asheville Police Department towards sectors that actively facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. For example, research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to create, support, and enact an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you for your time. I hope you choose to do the right thing.</p> <p>Leila Zefri A concerned Asheville Resident</p>
6/8/2020 2:15:00 PM	Please consider our request	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Aimee and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Aimee</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:15:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hope Larson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hope Larson 199 Pennsylvania Ave Asheville, NC 28806</p>
6/8/2020 2:16:00 PM	Budget Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Koerwitz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauren Koerwitz</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:16:00 PM	Please dont support growing the APDs budget!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers</p> <p>My name is Alyce Householter and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/8/2020 2:17:00 PM	Budget Proposal MUST be reevaluated	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Dylan Callas and I'm a resident of Asheville. Please acknowledge what our community is asking for. We demand change and to be LISTENED to.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money into the community and away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Don't be on the wrong side of history, --Dylan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:17:00 PM	AVL Budget 2021	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Madeleine Richardson and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madeleine Richardson Videographer Wicked Weed Brewing c: *336.407.4029* *www.wickedweedbrewing.com <http://www.wickedweedbrewing.com/>*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:17:00 PM	Defund APD, Reinvest In Black Community!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lane Snipes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lane Snipes Asheville Citizen</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:17:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Heidy Galarza and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Heidy Galarza</p>
6/8/2020 2:18:00 PM	budget request	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jamieson Ridenhour; I'm a writer and teacher in the Asheville area. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I strongly ask that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Recent events have shown that the APD is not only unwilling to live up to its mission to protect the citizens of the city, it is an active danger to them. I can't imagine how the tourist industry will be affected by the embarrassing international attention the APD gained by attacking a medic station, not to mention beginning the violence on the first day of protests by tear-gassing a peaceful march. We deserve better than insincere apologies sandwiched between violence.</p> <p>Like many people nationwide, I am heartened by the pending dissolution of the Minneapolis Police Department. I would love to see a similar move in Asheville, but a good start would be to decrease the APD's budget to redirect money towards programs that work to assuage inequality rather than entrench it. Smart reallocation suggestions have been made by Black AVL Demands, and I support those completely. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jamieson Ridenhour</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:18:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Erika Busse and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Erika Busse</p>
6/8/2020 2:18:00 PM	City Council Meeting - June 9 2020 - Police Budget	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>My name is Taylor Labath and I am a resident of Hendersonville, although I lived in Asheville for many years. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Taylor Labath</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:18:00 PM	2021 budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ryan Furstenberg and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Ryan Furstenberg</p>
6/8/2020 2:19:00 PM	<p>[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]</p>	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Drew Dunton</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:19:00 PM	Racial Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maya and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maya</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 2:19:00 PM	Native to a city that I'm ashamed of...	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tia Hixon and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tia Hixon Brush Fire Artistry 828/545.6094</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rebekah and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rebekah Dobbins</p>
6/8/2020 2:20:00 PM	Racial justice in Asheville	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Good day to all concerned,</p> <p>I am a resident of Buncombe county, area code 28787, who was able to view the previous livestream.</p> <p>A note of particular concern is the issue of housing development. Affordable housing is critical for our community in this time of crisis. Regardless of the state of trash disposal, which is admittedly important, it is more important to ensure that our most vulnerable are well protected. It is a sign of a weak community that we cannot care for our own. This housing project is critical for all of us and it is imperative that it is finished without regard for the concern of trash pickup; to be clear, both issues are important, but they do not concern or cancel each other out in the material sense. It is silly to act as though this is the case, and this will be remembered. I plead that you do the right thing.</p> <p>The other issue of import that has become a hot button topic recently is the defunding of the police. This is an issue of no compromise. They must be defunded immediately, if not given a stronger message through complete abolition. It has been clearly demonstrated in the past days that they do not protect or serve our community, in fact the opposite. A new system must be created to genuinely service the public.</p> <p>I hope you take these considerations to heart. Have a wonderful day and a wonderful meeting.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>James Buchanan</p>
6/8/2020 2:20:00 PM	Policy Action	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:21:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Marie Nunalee. I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing to you about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Marie Nunalee</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,

I wanted to write again, to not only persist with our community's message, but to elaborate on it further. Minneapolis has shown that even as a much larger city, they have committed to completely dismantling the police department. It is not impossible, and it is not radical to suggest that effective public safety is non-violent and non-punitive. Examples (composed by someone other than myself) of alternatives (some already in place, just underfunded) are listed below.

- 1) Someone is behaving erratically & in harm's way. Imagine texting a number & an unarmed urgent responder trained in behavioral and mental health comes within 5 minutes. An hour later, that person is safe and getting the support they need. Isn't that public safety?
- 2) Your friends are intoxicated & fighting, but you don't want them to get into trouble. Imagine calling +311 and a crisis intervention team comes to your door. 1 hour later, your friends are sleeping it off at home. Isn't that public safety?
- 3) Someone is selling drugs to Youth who are overdosing. Imagine being connected to a substance use service that intervenes in harmful drug transactions. Youth are then supported in healthy outcomes & the seller takes accountability for the harm. Isn't that public safety?
- 4) Someone is talking to themself on the bus. Imagine they ride the bus without being bothered, and an hour later they are at their destination and going on with their day. Isn't that public safety?
- 5) You don't realize, but your brake lights aren't working. Imagine a city employee signals for you to pull over and says "hey, how about I replace those lights for you right here so no one gets hurt?" An hour later, both lights work and you're at home. Isn't that public safety?
- 6) You are experiencing intimate partner violence. Imagine texting a number and a trauma informed crisis intervention specialist meets you in a safe place. An hour later, you are working together to make a plan that will keep you safe in the long term. Isn't that public safety?
- 7) Some folks are sleeping on benches in the park. Imagine a city employee comes by and checks in to see if they need a place to sleep, food, water or health care. An hour later, those who want a different place to sleep, have one. Isn't that public safety?
- 8) You are experiencing a mental health crisis & afraid. Imagine you call +311 and a first responder trained in mental health comes to your door. An hour later, you are in a safe place, with your consent, with plans for follow up care. Isn't that public safety?
- 9) Incidents of gun violence are rising in the neighborhood. Imagine a trauma informed crisis intervention team work with community activists to disarm and deescalate conflicts. People doing harm are connected to services that address the underlying problem. Isn't that public safety?

My name is Heather R Harmon and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that the living



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:22:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hart A.V. Groves and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hart A.V. Groves</p>
6/8/2020 2:22:00 PM	Asheville Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is William Silverstein and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

Dear Asheville City Council members,

My name is Mallory McConnell and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.

Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.

Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.

Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?

Thank you,

Mallory McConnell
(828) 550-9683

6/8/2020 2:22:00 PM



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:22:00 PM	Defund APD to make Asheville a safer community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maggie Kinton and I'm a resident of North Asheville. I moved to Asheville about a year ago for the wonderful community that is so present in the city. However, I know that a decrease in police violence would make Asheville an even better community. Today I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. This issue is especially important to me because of my many friends and loved ones who are Black or people of color. I want the world to be as safe for them as it is for me. This is not a political issue, but a human rights issue.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Please be on the right side of history, and use this opportunity to fight for justice in our beautiful city of Asheville.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Maggie Kinton Davidson College Class of 2024 maggiekinton02@gmail.com (843)812-3396</p>
6/8/2020 2:23:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Inviato da iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:24:00 PM	Divestment from Police Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Alex Michele and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alex.</p>
6/8/2020 2:24:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>My name is Kayla Naas and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday, June 6th, 2020. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. Fifty percent of the Asheville Police Department (APD)'s budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including the support of Black startups/businesses, elimination of the racial opportunity gap in Asheville Public Schools, and funding of an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable for their actions.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>
6/8/2020 2:25:00 PM	Save lives by defunding the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Laura and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Laura</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:25:00 PM	Defund and Abolish Asheville Police, Charge Those who have Assaulted Citizens!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Leslie and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a REAL and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>I want you to completely Defund and Abolish Asheville Police, and Charge Those Police Officers who have Assaulted Citizens.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Learn more about defunding and abolition here: https://www.8toabolition.com/ <https://www.8toabolition.com/></p> <p>Thank you, Leslie</p>
6/8/2020 2:25:00 PM	2021 JUSTICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Baylee Sites and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Baylee Sites</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:25:00 PM	Please divest from APD and invest in Black communities	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Carissa Pfeiffer, and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to *divest from the police and invest in Black communities*. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in *long-term safety strategies* including supporting Black startups/business, *eliminating the racial opportunity gap* in Asheville City Schools, and *funding an all-civilian oversight committee* with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Carissa Pfeiffer</p>
6/8/2020 2:25:00 PM	Put your money towards your citizens	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is sydney and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sydney Naster</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:25:00 PM	City Council June 9 2020	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Thomas Smythe and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Thomas Smythe</p>
6/8/2020 2:26:00 PM	System Level Change Needed!! Asheville needs to step up	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eva McKinsey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Eva</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:26:00 PM	Do Better: Fund People, Not Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Drew Hendrickson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Drew Hendrickson (706) 506-1204 paintingbyflashlight@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:26:00 PM	Restructure Police Budget and Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Daniel Combs and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a quantifiable commitment to racial justice, by reallocating funds away from the over inflated APD budget (which has been inexplicably growing every year by hundreds of thousands of dollars) and putting that money towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>The city of Asheville has long cast aside it's residents of color, often in the pursuit of becoming a "destination" for tourists (going back to the Urban Renewal efforts decades ago that dismantled black communities, businesses, and neighborhoods). Rather than address the problems that have grown from this, it seems Asheville has chosen to instead continue to cater to the wealthy tourist community, with the constant development of new luxury hotels and condos, and ever increasing stream of funding to the APD. I demand, as a resident of Asheville, that this trend be reversed.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, more aggressive financial support must be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs for those in need, rather than violent police?</p> <p>Thank you, Daniel Combs local musician</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:27:00 PM	Police budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jonathan Davis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jon Davis</p>
6/8/2020 2:27:00 PM	Help people, don't punish them	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kesi Goure and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kesi Goure</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:27:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Asher Weidlich and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Asher Weidlich</p>
6/8/2020 2:27:00 PM	DEFUND ASHEVILLE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Francesca and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Francesca</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:27:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Brooke Hancock and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Brooke</p>
6/8/2020 2:28:00 PM	Concern over APD response to protests	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Jon Bierce-Wilson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>JBW</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:28:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Isla Neel and I am a current resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer’s fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. As a resident of this city, I ask that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department’s overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager’s Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city’s expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Isla Neel</p>
6/8/2020 2:30:00 PM	Destroy White Supremacy	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ali and I’m a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer’s fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department’s overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager’s Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city’s expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ali Esposito</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:30:00 PM	Defund APD and invest in Our Black community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is William Drew and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William Drew</p>
6/8/2020 2:32:00 PM		<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Taylor Ramsey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Taylor Ramsey</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:32:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauren and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauren</p> <p>- Lauren Squires</p>
6/8/2020 2:33:00 PM	Please invest in our community, not our police force	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kim Allen, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kim Allen</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:33:00 PM	APD Budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern for the APD receiving 30,057,325 for this year's budget. It is vastly disproportionate to expenditures in other much needed areas. We demand a 50% of APD's budget be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in asheville city schools, and funding an all-civillian oversight committee with the power to hold the APDS and individual officers accountable. This is long overdue and absolutely NEEDS to be addressed and repaired immediately.</p> <p>We also demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with the names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>Thank you, Maeve Hendrix LCMHCA</p> <p>--</p> <p>Many Moons Therapeutics Maeve Hendrix, LCMHCA, NCC, RYT (352) 262-4524 www.maevehendrix.net</p>
6/8/2020 2:33:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Given the recent demonstration of the racialized and militarized aspect of our police force (among many, many others), I am writing to request that you delay voting on the current budget proposal and reconsider the following: partially defund the Asheville Police Department, moving the funding AND many of the functions to professionals better qualified to address homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, etc. An enforcement response to these issues more often than not exacerbates them. Please investigate discussions of this strategy from Los Angeles City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson among others.</p> <p>Thank you, Richard Scott Shepard 89 Wild Cherry Rd. Asheville, NC 28804</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:33:00 PM	Request to delay budget vote	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Madeline Lafferty and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madeline Lafferty</p>
6/8/2020 2:33:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is AE Silver and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, AE Silver</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:34:00 PM	I Demand APD Be Defunded and Dismantled	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Natassja Simpson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Natassja Simpson</p>
6/8/2020 2:34:00 PM	Comment on Divesting Funds for AVL PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Anjuli Munjal. I am a person of color, a mother, a Nurse Practitioner, and a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in ensuring access to health care, long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Racism and overpolicing is now a public health epidemic in and of itself. The public is waking up and we are watching now more than ever. We demand that public spending priorities benefit the public. Put the money where it is needed. You must defund the police now.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Anjuli Munjal, FNP</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:35:00 PM	Delay Budget Vote	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Sarah Markham and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Sarah Markham</p>
6/8/2020 2:35:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ayla Macko and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ayla Macko</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:35:00 PM	Defund the APD	<p>My name is Saralyn Bellmer and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Saralyn Bellmer</p> <p>SARALYN BELLMER</p>
6/8/2020 2:36:00 PM	Budget	<p>It is time to meet the demands of the Black citizens of Asheville beginning with the first demand of divesting from the police department and investing in the Black community of Asheville, let's do the right thing and throw our support and money to our African American community</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 2:36:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jennifer Odom and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jennifer</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:36:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Daniel Devlin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Daniel Devlin</p>
6/8/2020 2:36:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Andrea and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andrea Dellinger MA, CCC-SLP</p> <p>CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is intended for the use of the individual(s) to whom it was addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail and are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies of the original message and contact the sender by reply e-mail.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:36:00 PM	Regarding tomorrow's meeting re: budget	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the Asheville community.</p> <p>I am writing to implore you as a longtime Asheville citizen, to please support and enact the demands of Black Asheville in this year's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Please divest from the police and invest in Black communities by supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Please remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>Please rename streets with the names of historic local black leaders; in particular, rename streets that are currently named after former slave owners.</p> <p>Please hold individuals *and* the entire APD accountable and end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>With gratitude,</p> <p>Amy Finkler</p> <p>--</p> <p>Live the life you want.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:37:00 PM	City Council: Defund APD	<p>Hi this is Sara Melosh. I am a resident of the City of Asheville. I work at East Fork Pottery and I am a graduate of UNC- Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing to urge the city to divest from the police, beginning with next year's budget.</p> <p>I hope along with divestment from APD, the city can invest in black communities. 50% of APD's budget should be reallocated to black startups and small businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville public schools, and funding towards an all civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>These demands come directly from Asheville's multigenerational collective of black leaders. I hope you stand in solidarity with this community and make the right choice when determining where our money is invested.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sara</p>
6/8/2020 2:37:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget	<p>Dear Asheville NC Council,</p> <p>I am writing in response to the proposed \$457,000 increase for the police department, of which already receives \$30 million per year. As a long time citizen of Asheville and local small business owner I stand with my community in demanding that 50% of the proposed budget be invested in Black communities, startups and businesses. We MUST eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools and invest in these long term safety strategies. We propose funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the Asheville Police Department and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Another highly suggested investment is to require a 6 month - 1 year long racial equity training before becoming a police officer in Asheville. All law enforcement should be required to commit to the safety and equity of our black and marginalized citizens. We must work on building a stronger city and community together.</p> <p>Sincerely, Shea Olinger</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:39:00 PM	Concerns Over Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Marley Priest and I'm not a resident of Asheville, but instead a concerned resident of Forsyth County who frequents Asheville and has several friends and family members who do reside in Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Marley Priest</p> <p>--</p> <p>J. Marley Priest Lighting Designer Production Electrician Appalachian State University marleypriest@gmail.com</p>
6/8/2020 2:39:00 PM	Defunding APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chad Eckerich and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chad Eckerich</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:39:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Colleen Young-Murrell and I am a resident of Asheville, NC. I grew up here (I am a proud product of the Asheville City School System) and have recently moved back as an adult.</p> <p>I am writing to urge the City to adjust next year's budget. We need to begin divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I urge every Council member to support this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>The world is changing and I know Asheville can be at the forefront if our leaders are brave enough to step forward.</p> <p>Respectfully, Colleen Young-Murrell</p>
6/8/2020 2:39:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Z. Cantrell and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Sincerely, Z. Cantrell</p>
6/8/2020 2:39:00 PM	2021 budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hardie and I am a resident of Asheville. I support divestment from the police and the demands stated here: https://www.blackavldemands.org/</p> <p>Thank you, Hardie</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Hello City Council Members,</p> <p>I am a citizen of Asheville. I am usually proud to say that I live in Asheville, where there is so much acceptance of all our citizens and visitors. That, however, changed when we made national headlines. As citizens, voters, tax payers, and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black Americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>Therefore we make these demands: City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors.2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Invest in affordable housingb. Invest in underprivileged schoolsc. Invest in mental health treatmentd. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacitye. Invest in drug treatment facilitiesf. Invest in public transit3. End no-knock raids.4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds.5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary.6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly.7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually.8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment.b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcementc. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoingd. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online.9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: If an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The overseeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a credible review of false department. Officers



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nadine Klaaren and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nadine Klaaren</p>
6/8/2020 2:41:00 PM	Defunding the Police	<p>All government bodies that do not immediately act to dismantle the systematic racism inherent in our society are complicit in the murder and enslavement of american citizens en masse. These are merely the latest version of institutions that have brutally subjugated people of color since the beginning of European colonialism.</p> <p>As a show that you are taking an active position to end this discrimination please;</p> <p>Deny the budget increase to the police department and spend that money on the public safety nets that actually keep people safe.</p> <p>Demilitarize the asheville police department, what do you need a grenade launcher for.</p> <p>Dissolve the asheville police department and allow them to reapply for their jobs using new stringent requirements. Psychological evaluation, review of records.</p> <p>Draft a proposal to shift police funding to social programs that support public health, safety and security.</p> <p>Promise to remove the vance monument from downtown, while it may be a part of history it should not hold a place of honor in our city.</p>
6/8/2020 2:41:00 PM	Black lives matter	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:41:00 PM		<p>My name is Jay Osborne and I'm an Asheville citizen. I'm writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands which were presented on Saturday. I urge city council to divest at least 50% of the APD budget and invest in black communities. Time and again we have seen officers abusing their power, harming black citizens, and avoiding any accountability. We help our community by investing in them, not by over-policing them and creating a culture of fear. We need to invest in black education, black business, and black community. I also support the establishment of an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD accountable for their actions.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support. Asheville, like all of the US, is in crisis because of unaddressed, unchecked racism and white supremacy, and we need accountability and community support, not more police, to begin the work of healing.</p> <p>Jay Osborne</p>
6/8/2020 2:42:00 PM	Invest in our community!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kaite Sadowski, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kaite Sadowski</p>
6/8/2020 2:42:00 PM	Budget	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Let's divest from funding APD and instead put 50% of that money into our black community here in Asheville , Let's put \$ into things like safety and education, let's Follow through And show we're serious by meeting the demands of our vibrant African American community Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alex Smith and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Alex Smith</p>
6/8/2020 2:42:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rachel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rachel</p>
6/8/2020 2:42:00 PM	2021 Budget	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:43:00 PM	Defund The Asheville Police	<p>My name is Rachel Young and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Rachel Young</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:43:00 PM	Call to Defund the Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>*Our city's motto is "y'all means y'all" and it's BEYOND time that we started embodying that ethos. *</p> <p>My name is Sarah Schultz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. These are action items that I am asking you to make right now.</p> <p>*1.* I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice.</p> <p>*2*. I am demanding that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>*3.* I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support to be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-- Sarah A. Schultz (919) 609-7910 writer editor project manager</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:43:00 PM	June 9 - City Council Meeting, Consent Agenda Item D	<p>My name is Sara Little and I am a resident of Asheville. I've lived in West Asheville for nearly 15 years and I have a son who will be starting Kindergarten at Hall Fletcher elementary school in August. I am emailing about Consent Agenda Item D, regarding the Equinox Environmental Consultation & Design Inc. for the Swannanoa River Greenway – Phase II Project. I noticed that Equinox was unable to identify any local Minority & Women-Owned businesses for subcontracted services and that their current team on their public website appears to significantly lack racial diversity. Given that this phase of the project includes “surveys, greenway design, geotechnical engineering, permitting, public engagement, and other tasks needed for greenway design” which will presumably shape all future phases and have significant investment from our City budget, I ask the City Council to set a higher expectation of usage of MWBE service providers. I look forward to hearing from you after tomorrow's meeting. Thank you,</p> <p>Sara Little</p>
6/8/2020 2:43:00 PM	Reallocate funds to better serve our citizens	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brenna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal and asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Brenna Gaffney</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:44:00 PM	Defunding police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Quinn and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Quinn</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:44:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Micaela and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591645173463000&sa=D&ust=1591645173477000&usg=AFQjCNHolWTx5BDrje9xKtwobZ7sWsufkg>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Micaela Scobie</p>
6/8/2020 2:44:00 PM	Support Black AVL Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Henry and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauren Henry</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:45:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elizabeth Evans and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591645190697000&sa=D&ust=1591645190722000&usg=AFQjCNEsZYT2SCyOXH9Nt98PCioOtMq5Q>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Elizabeth Evans</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:45:00 PM	I support defunding police	<p>I am writing to record my support as a trauma based therapist that policing needs foundational changes. There should be NO increase in law enforcement budgets. Policing unfortunately has been charged with taking care of our social issues, I saw it referred to as social workers with guns and handcuffs which makes no sense. We need funds to address social issues such as homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness with individuals and programs that actually know how to help. Criminalizing these social issues is wrong headed and perpetuates trauma.</p> <p>Furthermore, the way that Asheville PD showed up during peaceful protests was abhorrent and shows there is systemic issues around use of force and power. I would like to see immediate trainings based in trauma and implicit bias. Resmaa Menekam's My Grandmother's Hands is a great place to start to undermine how the history of policing is based in slavery and trauma is deeply embedded in the structure.</p> <p>This is a complex issue, yet there are extremely well written demands from Black Lives Matter and what is being done in Minneapolis that will address a new way of community service and free us of the tyranny of policing based in control and dominance. Let black community leaders guide this process, they have been subdued and ignored for WAY too long!!</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Anne Sherry, LPC Asheville</p>
6/8/2020 2:45:00 PM	Sharing my thoughts	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the Asheville community.</p> <p>I am writing to implore you as a longtime Asheville citizen, to please support and enact the demands of Black Asheville in this year's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Please divest from the police and invest in Black communities by supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Please remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>Please rename streets with the names of historic local black leaders; in particular, rename streets that are currently named after former slave owners.</p> <p>Please hold individuals *and* the entire APD accountable and end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>With gratitude, Kendall Williams</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:45:00 PM	City budget meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Martha Ann Callahan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Martha Ann Callahan</p> <p>-- Martha Ann H Callahan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:45:00 PM	Concerned Voter in Need of Response	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I'm sure you've seen thousands of these emails already. I hope you're reading them all.</p> <p>The funds mentioned below could be much more useful to Asheville's long-term health if directed toward community investment, black-owned business support, transit, and education.</p> <p>As an active voter and regular donor, I will remember how these budget concerns are addressed.</p> <p>Please make our community better for everyone, not just white voters like me.</p> <p>My name is Andrew Donahue and I'm a voting resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice.</p> <p>I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Andrew Donahue</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:45:00 PM	Divest from Police and Invest in Black Communities	<p>Dear Asheville City Council and City Staff,</p> <p>My name is Tayla Clark and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tayla Clark</p>
6/8/2020 2:46:00 PM	DEFUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katie and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katie Goodson Concerned Member of the AVL Community</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:46:00 PM	Defund the police. Invest in the black community.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Joshua Allen and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>I hope I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter Dismantle White Supremacy</p> <p>Thank you, Joshua Allen</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:46:00 PM	Asheville's Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Torin Grayson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Torin Grayson</p>
6/8/2020 2:47:00 PM	De-Militarize the APD	<p>De-Militarize the APD.</p> <p>Jeff Murphy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:47:00 PM	defund and reinvest	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eli Masem and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Eli Masem</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:47:00 PM	Public Input: Divest from APD, Invest in Black Communities	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Julia Dorn and I am a resident of Asheville, a student at UNC Asheville, and a member of the Asheville Friends Quaker Meeting. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday, June 6th.</p> <p>With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>If needed, I ask that the budget vote be delayed so that City Council and the Mayor's office can find ways to divert funds from APD's overinflated budget, and into community resources. In the words of Durham, NC Mayor Pro Tempore, Jillian Johnson, "The safest communities don't have the most cops; they have the most resources." Reform is not enough, we need to divest from police and invest in our Black communities for a safer, more equitable future.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Julia Dorn</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:47:00 PM	Public Comment	<p>Hello City Council,</p> <p>My name is Samhita Kudva, and I am a resident of Buncombe County (28804). I am urging you NOT to approve the \$400,000 increase to the APD's budget. Instead, I urge you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - put a hiring freeze on the APD, - cut the APD budget in half, - use the money to invest in Black communities, and - respond to the demands created by local Black leaders at Black AVL <p>Demands: https://www.blackavldemands.org/</p> <p>Word for word from the Black AVL Demands website:</p> <p>*An intergenerational collective of Black leaders in Asheville, North Carolina demand the following for our city*</p> <p>*INVEST-DIVEST* *We Demand a Divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable*</p> <p>*REPARATIONS* *We Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community. We demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.*</p> <p>*End the War on Black People* *We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).*</p> <p>*"When Black people get free, everybody gets free"* *— Alicia Garza (co-founder of the national Black Lives Matter movement)*</p> <p>*The long-form of these demands, including more specific steps for the Asheville community, will be released in the coming weeks.*</p> <p>-- Samhita Kudva</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 2:47:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>
6/8/2020 2:47:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



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6/8/2020 2:48:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



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Email Public Comments

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6/8/2020 2:48:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>
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6/8/2020 2:48:00 PM	Please copy Minneapolis' example and begin to defund police and invest in communities	



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		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Carter Lee Rutherford and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Carter Lee Rutherford</p>
6/8/2020 2:48:00 PM	Let's Save Lives	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>
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6/8/2020 2:49:00 PM	Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Laurie Chess and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the principles of Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. A significant percentage of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Laurie</p>



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6/8/2020 2:49:00 PM	FY2020-21 BUDGET:DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andrea Rose Juarez and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591645103549000&sa=D&ust=1591645103561000&usg=AFQjCNEwB115luLNKn6MKsJH581snbgvA). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andrea Rose Juarez</p>



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6/8/2020 2:49:00 PM	Request for Review I'd 2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lyndsey Parham and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lyndsey Parham</p>



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6/8/2020 2:50:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alex and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alex</p>



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6/8/2020 2:50:00 PM	Urgent Budget Concern	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Barron Northrup, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration, Barron Northrup</p>
6/8/2020 2:50:00 PM	Request for Review of 2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>> My name is Lyndsey Parham and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing > about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. > > I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible > commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so > that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police > Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's > Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's > expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the > dismantling of racial and class inequality. > > Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and > treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more > successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular > Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed > to those areas. > > Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are > disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served > when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund > them. > > Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on > social service programs? > > Thank you, > > Lyndsey Parham > ></p>



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6/8/2020 2:50:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>
6/8/2020 2:50:00 PM	Please Defund APD, Reinvest in community!	<p>Dear Asheville City Council (or staff member name),</p> <p>My name is Salomé Navarro and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I am calling for an active defunding of Asheville Police Department and a freeze on hiring. I am also calling to emphasize the deep need for the ultimate abolition of the police department in its entirety and the building of a community led public safety model in its replacement.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Salomé</p>



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6/8/2020 2:51:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE, WE ARE DONE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lindsay Riley and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Lindsay</p>



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6/8/2020 2:53:00 PM	Please defund the police!	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Sydney King and I am a resident of Asheville. I am asking that you please defund APD.</p> <p>As an Asheville native, it breaks my heart to see our police department react this way to protests against police brutality. I understand that you may make a decision to give the police department an even higher budget, this is unacceptable. People of color have been threatened by our police state since the beginning of police in our country. The law enforcement system is inherently racist and needs to be restructured in order to end systemic racism.</p> <p>APD wrongly destroyed a medic station, they wrongly tear-gassed peaceful protestors when outside agitators were involved, and we have not forgotten about the death of a black man in our own community due to police brutality.</p> <p>Please stand with us, not against us. Defund APD.</p> <p>Thank you, Sydney King</p>



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6/8/2020 2:53:00 PM	Asheville Budget	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Daniel, and I live in swannanoa and work in asheville. I am writing to you to implore you not to increase the Asheville police department's budget in the upcoming vote. There are many proven methods of providing community health and safety, a police force is not one of them. Next steps should be reallocating funds from the APD to these proven programs, but a great first step would be not giving them more money. Please spend our tax money to help our community. Giving the police more money is the opposite of that goal. Abolition and reform are in opposition, and if you would not have supported reforming segregation, you should not be in support of police reform. Stop using our money to reinforce systemic racism. Stop being a racist city council. Do not increase the budget for APD.</p> <p>Your local constituent, Daniel</p>



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6/8/2020 2:53:00 PM	Budget Concerns	<p>Hi there, Asheville City Council.</p> <p>My name is Marissa Schneider and I am a resident of Asheville; I've been in North Carolina my whole life and have been a proud WNC resident for six years now. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I greatly urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable, rather than inflating the police budget more and more.</p> <p>For example, as seen on page 28 of your FY 2020-21 proposal, it shows that the proposed staffing summary is far larger for police than any other group within the general fund (301.00). The smallest staffing summaries are for Sustainability (3.00), Equity & Inclusion (4.00), and City Attorney (7.00). It's so *interesting* to see that a city that prides itself on it's "progressive" attitudes gives the least amount of money to Sustainability, Equity & Inclusion, and City Attorneys for citizens. The staffing general funds for police is literally 10x higher than the ones for sustainability. *Why do you think this aligns with the direction our city should be heading in? *</p> <p>Similarly, the proposed budget for APD this year is \$30,057,325. *The police's budget is the largest expenditure category for the entire proposed budget. *The second highest proposed expenditure is for the Asheville Fire Department, coming in \$2,280,484 below APD budget. The third highest expenditure is \$16,380,296 for CIP/Debt service, which is about 54% less than the APD budget. The numbers just get smaller and smaller from that point on. About 22% of the city's budget is heading strictly to police, and based on recent trends in the last three years, that number is only going to get higher and higher.</p> <p>I hope that you get my point: the police department's funding is a massive sum of money. Where is all of this money from the police department directly heading to? *Please share line by line budgets for every single account in the police department. At least half of this money should be divested from the police department and directly funneled into initiatives to support Black owned businesses, economic development, greater public transportation initiatives, and other demands from Black Asheville Demands. *Put a hiring freeze on the police-- it is proving to only be more and more expensive for the city, while the force becomes more and more terrorizing for its citizens.</p> <p>Plus, a divested 50% of the police budget (which would equal out to approximately \$15,028,662) would still be about roughly *33x higher* than the Equity & Inclusion budget (proposed budget \$455,999 for 2020-21). Is this really how your priorities align for our city's vision? Is this really the message you want to send to the world, after we've already made national headlines for the APD's violent destruction and assaults against medics at the police brutality protest?</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city, nation, and now world's history. If not, we will vote you out. We are watching. I look forward to your answers.</p> <p>Talk soon,</p>



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6/8/2020 2:53:00 PM	June 9 Meeting - Consent Agenda Item J1 and J2	<p>My name is Sara Little and I have lived in West Asheville for nearly 15 years, and I have a son who is starting Kindergarten at Hall Fletcher Elementary. I am emailing/calling about Consent Agenda Item J1 and J2. Regarding the Budget amendment, in the amount of \$4,936,000, from the Federal Transit Administration, to amend the Fiscal Year 2020 Transit Multi-Year Fund budget. Per the federal bill subsection (a)(1) or (b) of section 5307 of title 49, United States Code, funds provided under this heading are available for the operating expenses of transit agencies, to maintain service and lost revenue, and for paying the administrative leave of operations personnel due to reductions in service. I urge the City Council to disperse these funds inclusive of the last category, i.e. paid leave for employees impacted by reductions in service and/or fee collections.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration, Sara Little</p>



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6/8/2020 2:53:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [Kate Donnelly] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[Kate Donnelly]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



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6/8/2020 2:53:00 PM	2021 budget proposal - request from an Asheville resident	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Casey Callahan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Please move forward with an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Casey Callahan</p> <p>---</p> <p>Casey Callahan</p>



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6/8/2020 2:54:00 PM	Be the change	<p>Hi all, Please be a part of the change we all need right now and make progressive steps towards the justice that is needed in our Asheville community. I stuck around the area after graduating Warren Wilson college, where I began my college journey in 1998. This city has heart and there has been so much positive growth here, but there is underlying inequalities that need to be re-addressed, like in many cities throughout America. And the time is NOW! By investing in black issues of equality...in housing, job training, business start ups, education and community development, our town could be so much more. Redistribution of services and moneys and the birth of new initiatives are all worth your time to consider. Please notice how our city is so ready for this, how businesses are stepping up, how strong and wise our community is, and is asking for these structural changes. Thank you. Annie Ross</p>
6/8/2020 2:54:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Dora Tovar</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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6/8/2020 2:54:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



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6/8/2020 2:54:00 PM	Our home, our demands.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Madison McBride and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madison McBride</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



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6/8/2020 2:54:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>My name is Sydney Coggiola and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up to consideration I urge city council to divest from the police and invest in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Best, Sydney</p> <p>Sydney Coggiola coggiolas@gmail.com (864) 237-1239</p>
6/8/2020 2:54:00 PM	Comment for Council Meeting	<p>My name is Miles Mesk and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in the long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



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6/8/2020 2:55:00 PM	City Council Agenda	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Chloe and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday along with the numerous overlooked demands of minority groups that seek to enrich Asheville. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in community-based models of safety, support and prevention specifically focused on our Black communities.</p> <p>50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the Asheville Police Department and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that not only I can count on your support for this essential policy shift, but also fellow Asheville residents at this crucial juncture in our city, and nation's history.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Chloe</p>



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6/8/2020 2:55:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



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6/8/2020 2:55:00 PM	Let's make our city a safe place where POC can thrive	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alexandra and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alexandra Mills</p>



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6/8/2020 2:55:00 PM	2020-2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rebecca Vines and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rebecca Vines</p>



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6/8/2020 2:56:00 PM	Supporting the Black Community of Asheville	<p>I thank you for taking the time to listen and read all the feedback regarding the enormous shifts that are occurring in our community, society, and even on a global scale. I am sure you have been flooded with voicemails and emails regarding the budget and how it could be better distributed in order to provide more funding for the Black communities of Asheville.</p> <p>I am asking for roughly half of APD's budget to go toward supporting Black start up businesses and establishing a community oversight committee in order to hold police officers accountable for all inhumane actions. There is most definitely a need for a system of checks and balances. There needs to be more accountability across the entire police department as well. Money should also be allocated to education in order to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in the city schools. This shift in budget needs to occur so that all members of our community can be supported and that we can create a system that allows everyone a chance to thrive and be safe. This starts with holding officers accountable and by allocating funds to those areas listed above.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and your efforts regarding this matter.</p> <p>Rebecca Batson</p>



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6/8/2020 2:56:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>
6/8/2020 2:56:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>My name is Tünde, and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including Black start-ups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and the individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Tünde Paule</p>



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6/8/2020 2:57:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Dora Tovar</p>



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6/8/2020 2:57:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Nate Price and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up to consideration I urge city council to divest from the police and invest in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thanks, Nate Price</p>



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6/8/2020 2:57:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



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6/8/2020 2:58:00 PM	June 9 Meeting - Consent Agenda Item N	<p>My name is Sara Little and I am a resident of Asheville emailing about Consent Agenda Item N, regarding the contract with Ashewell Medical Group to provide FDA-approved COVID-19 antibody and PCR testing for City employees. I'd like to understand if a Request for Pricing (RFP) bid, or similar attempt at finding competitive pricing, was attempted. If so, would the city council publish the results? We'd greatly appreciate the transparency.</p> <p>Sara Little</p>
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6/8/2020 2:58:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>
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6/8/2020 2:58:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Erin Daniell and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-citizen oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, Erin</p>



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6/8/2020 2:59:00 PM	2021 Asheville Budget Adjustments	<p>Hello,</p> <p>This is Antonio Ruberto and I am a resident of Asheville. I am emailing to urge the city to adjust next year's budget. We need to begin divesting from the police and investing in houseless and Black communities. 50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in community programs and long-term safety strategies, including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I urge every Council member to support this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you. *Antonio Ruberto *</p>
6/8/2020 2:59:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>
6/8/2020 2:59:00 PM	city council email in	<p>My name is Samantha-jane and i am a 18 year old (as of today) resident of asheville</p> <p>I am writing in support of the black Asheville demand that was presented on saturday. While the budget is up for consideration we need to look at how the police actually benefit the community and if we want to put a large sum of money towards them. that money could go to developing public housing and black communities in ways that would benefit them much more then the police could with that money.</p> <p>It disgusts me how much funding the APD gets and how little they benefit the communities that are there to protect. As someone who can vote I strongly urge for the demands of black Asheville to be heard and met.i hope i can count on you for this important year in U.S history that will shape policing forever.</p>



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6/8/2020 2:59:00 PM	City council budget thoughts.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michael and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-Michael</p>



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6/8/2020 2:59:00 PM	Budget Change!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Madeline Ayling and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madeline Ayling</p>
6/8/2020 3:00:00 PM	Defund police and fund black led community initiatives in Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Becker and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sarah Becker</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



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6/8/2020 3:00:00 PM	June 9 Meeting - Public Hearing Item D	<p>My name is Sara Little and I am a resident of Asheville emailing with comment on Public Hearing Item D, regarding the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget. I am calling to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance. Furthermore, I implore the City Council to adjust the budget so that it begins divesting from the Asheville Police and investing in social programs and Black communities. I'd like to see portions of the APD's budget invested in safety strategies including supporting Black businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and the individual officers accountable. Now is a precarious time for our renters, as massive layoffs and economic insecurity are putting people at risk of eviction and homelessness. CDBG is currently the only governmental funding source for rental assistance. Providing rental assistance has the added benefits of preventing homelessness, allowing landlords to pay their mortgages, stabilizes families and helps build the economy.</p> <p>Please make rental assistance the main priority issue when using CDBG funds to strengthen families, the economy and our community.</p> <p>Thank you, Sara Little</p>
6/8/2020 3:01:00 PM	DEFUND APD NOW, WE CANT WAIT	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Whitney Whittington, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed, so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Defund the APD,</p> <p>Whitney Whittington</p>



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6/8/2020 3:01:00 PM	Asheville Black Lives Matter	<p>Dear Asheville City Council (or staff member name),</p> <p>My name is Ryan Williams and I am a resident, a public school teacher, and a parent here in Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ryan Williams 183 Virginia Ave. 28806 919-619-7298</p>
6/8/2020 3:01:00 PM	Will you please take a moment to read this?	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Savannah and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Savannah Wheeler</p>



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6/8/2020 3:01:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>
6/8/2020 3:01:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



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June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:02:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Nikki Bush and I am a teacher in Asheville City Schools.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Nikki Bush</p>
6/8/2020 3:02:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:02:00 PM	defund asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dora Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dora Tovar</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:02:00 PM	I urge you to support Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Yerkey and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sarah</p> <p>--</p> <p>SARAH YERKEY Business Development Specialist She/her/hers 828.490.9299 ext. 700 LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarahyerkey/> / jbmediagrouppllc.com <http://www.jbmediagrouppllc.com/></p> <p>You do amazing things. More people should know.</p>
6/8/2020 3:02:00 PM	June 9, 2020 Budget Proposal	<p>My name is Noel and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual offices accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:02:00 PM	6/9/20 city council meeting Agenda Item V. D.	<p>Folks,</p> <p>I have voted for each of you at one point or another. I had hoped that a more liberal council would exercise the wisdom to support deep change in policing in Asheville.</p> <p>APD has a long history of abusing our residents. My children and I have experienced it first hand, and we're white. Too many of my black neighbors, students, and colleagues have experienced much worse than I.</p> <p>As such it is time to begin cutting APD's budget. They have shown that increasing their funding has not worked, so it's time to take it in the other direction. Please act to start this process.</p> <p>I was a business owner back in the 80's. I've been a homeowner for 20 years. I've spent 24 years as a teacher in City, County, Charter, Parochial schools (all here), and A-B Tech, including 8 years teaching inside Craggy Correctional.</p> <p>It's crystal clear that the current trajectory does not work. It's time to act with courage and change.</p> <p>Best--Andy Weatherly 72 Ora St Asheville, NC 28801</p>
6/8/2020 3:02:00 PM	Defund the asheville city police department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Logan McClellan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Logan McClellan</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:02:00 PM	In response to current events	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Madeline Claytor and I'm a resident of Clyde. I have grown up spending almost every weeks in Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madeline Claytor</p>
6/8/2020 3:03:00 PM	Concerns on Budget Proposal	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katherine Bernhardt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katherine Bernhardt</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:03:00 PM	We need you to listen now more than ever before.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, [x]</p>



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6/8/2020 3:03:00 PM	Allow Our Community to Thrive by Divesting from Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Anna Zurliene and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>I urge the council specifically to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Anna Zurliene</p> <p>--</p> <p>Anna Zurliene</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:04:00 PM	URGENT DELAY VOTE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ali Shumaker and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ali Shumaker</p>
6/8/2020 3:04:00 PM	Public Comment on FY21 Budget	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>My name is Dawn Chávez and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dawn</p> <p>-- Dawn Chávez (m): 828.712.0675 dawn.chavez@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:04:00 PM	Concerns on Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katherine Bernhardt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katherine Bernhardt</p>
6/8/2020 3:04:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lily Kight and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lily Kight</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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6/8/2020 3:05:00 PM	Please read!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cadence Wright and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cadence Wright</p>
6/8/2020 3:05:00 PM	On Today's vote	<p>I am writing to ask city council to defund the Asheville Police Department, as they have shown their true colors this week and their complete lack of concern for the wellbeing of Asheville's people. I also ask that they issue a formal apology for the destruction of water bottles and the medic station, and for having repeatedly teargassed crowds full of peaceful people and children.</p> <p>We are trusting you to follow in Minneapolis's footsteps and set a precedent for other cities to do the same.</p> <p>Thank you, Isabelle</p>



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		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amelia Latham and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amelia Latham</p>
6/8/2020 3:05:00 PM	Make public safety a priority	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Clark and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Clark</p>
6/8/2020 3:07:00 PM	***can i count on you?	



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 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:07:00 PM	Concerning the Budget	<p>My name is Ash Lounsbury and I am a resident of Asheville. I have a daughter who attends, in non-pandemic times, Claxton Elementary and Montford Recreation's after school program.</p> <p>I am in writing in support of Black Asheville Demands presented Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I strongly urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. The astronomical budget set aside for APD is a travesty and could be spent investing in long-term safety strategies, such as supporting Black businesses, eliminating racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable for their actions.</p> <p>I hope that this message is received and that the council will do its best to shift its previous policy into a more progressive, compassionate direction so we can start truly making reparations.</p> <p>Best, Ash Lounsbury</p>
6/8/2020 3:07:00 PM	In support of black avl demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Maddy Swims and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:07:00 PM	Redistribute Finances evenly	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Carter Layfield and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>The influence of the Police has far outgrown their necessity. They seek to gain authority through violence instead of peace through compassion. We have many other areas in need of funding that would benefit Asheville as a whole, as well as our poor communities and communities of color.</p> <p>I am asking for the Police Budget to be cut in half and the extra money to be distributed across other departments.</p> <p>I moved to Asheville because I felt this community had the potential to be a city of the future, a city where all people are truly treated equal, a city where small business is supported, the environment is cherished, and the education system is given high significance.</p> <p>The actions of the Police Officers this last week in Asheville have been unacceptable! We made national news for their barbaric treatment of the medical center. I do not pay taxes so that officers can misuse their power. I don't believe they are bad people, I think the system has brainwashed them into thinking they are part of the military. The only people they protect is themselves.</p> <p>Its time for Asheville to prove itself as a community of the future, as a place I want to raise my children.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Carter Layfield</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:07:00 PM	THE TIME IS NOW.DEFUND.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cooper Dalton and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Will you step up and into an equitable future?</p> <p>We're all watching. We're all waiting.</p> <p>----- Cooper F. Dalton Field Technician T 828.665.2307 D C 828.620.2314 1900 Hendersonville Road, Suite 10, Asheville, NC 28803</p> <p>ECS Southeast, LLP www.ecslimited.com</p> <p>Confidential/proprietary message/attachments. Delete message/attachments if not intended recipient.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>=====</p> <p>This message has been analyzed by Deep Discovery Email Inspector.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:07:00 PM	Consent Agenda Item D	<p>My name is Will Little and I am a resident of Asheville emailing about Consent Agenda Item D, regarding the Equinox Environmental Consultation & Design Inc. for the Swannanoa River Greenway – Phase II Project.</p> <p>I noticed that Equinox was unable to identify any local Minority & Women-Owned businesses for subcontracted services and that their current team on their public website appears to significantly lack racial diversity. Given that this phase of the project includes “surveys, greenway design, geotechnical engineering, permitting, public engagement, and other tasks needed for greenway design” which will presumably shape all future phases and have significant investment from our City budget, I ask the City Council to set a higher expectation of usage of MWBE service providers.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
6/8/2020 3:08:00 PM	Asheville Black Lives Matter	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is William Smith and I am a resident, a public school teacher, and a parent here in Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD’s budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city’s history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William Smith</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:08:00 PM	APD Budget	<p>Hello Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of the APD's nearly \$30 million, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>My name is Nick Brower and I've been living in Asheville for the past 5 years, and just recently graduated from UNCA.</p> <p>APD is using a large bulk of the budget, when much of this money could be reinvested in the black community and in health care services to help fight the spread of COVID-19. As we've seen in the protests downtown, the police force abused their authority over our Asheville civilians by destroying a medic station that was being used to help peaceful protesters that were injured by the tear gas and rubber bullets. This behavior is unacceptable, and the officers involved should be disciplined for what they did.</p> <p>Please do the right thing, and listen to what your community is advocating for.</p> <p>thank you,</p> <p>Nick Brower</p>
6/8/2020 3:08:00 PM	We can be better	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amanda, and I'm a life long resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Please stand up for the people that make Asheville the kind of place so many people want to visit. The disgusting displays of violence we've seen this past week is not what I think we deserve. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Amanda Kuykendall</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:08:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Thatcher Short and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Thatcher Short</p>
6/8/2020 3:08:00 PM	Racial Justice	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Juliet Creel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, A concerned citizen</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:08:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD Please!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Juliet Eirikis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I work as a nutrition educator for NCSU's SNAP-Ed Steps to Health, a public health nutrition education program where my work focused on low-income communities and guided by a social justice philosophy. I witness firsthand the impacts systemic injustices have on my community and am writing to you to consider amendments to the fiscal 2021 budget proposal, most notably divesting the \$400k to APD in favor of community investment.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. It is unacceptable to put most of the general fund budget into the Asheville Police Department while so many people don't have affordable housing, aren't making a living wage, and struggle with access to basic needs. COVID-19 makes this an even more critical time for the reallocation of assets to be invested into our community .</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. I would personally like to see more community investment in racial equity initiatives, mental health, and food access.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities, our black communities, and our communities of color. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Juliet Eirikis</p>
6/8/2020 3:08:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Charlie Ball and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Charlie Ball</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:09:00 PM	Consent Agenda Item J1 and J2	<p>My name is Will Little and I am a resident of Asheville emailing about *Consent Agenda Item J1 and J2*. Regarding the Budget amendment, in the amount of \$4,936,000, from the Federal Transit Administration, to amend the Fiscal Year 2020 Transit Multi-Year Fund budget.</p> <p>Per the federal bill subsection (a)(1) or (b) of section 5307 of title 49, United States Code, funds provided under this heading are available for the operating expenses of transit agencies, to maintain service and lost revenue, and for paying the administrative leave of operations personnel due to reductions in service.</p> <p>I urge the City Council to disperse these funds inclusive of the last category, i.e. paid leave for employees impacted by reductions in service and/or fee collections.</p> <p>Thank you</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:09:00 PM	Defund Avl's Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City,</p> <p>My name is Zoie Albrecht and I am a lifelong resident of Asheville, North Carolina. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's Fiscal Year 2021 budget proposal and asking for there to be a dramatic rethinking of current funding allocations. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that the council may find ways to redirect money away from the Asheville Police Department's already inflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from Asheville Police, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class-based inequities. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunities, and stable housing are FAR more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support to be directed to those areas.</p> <p>DO NOT forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that will put a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-- *Zoie Albrecht* (she, her, hers) The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Class of 2020 Advocate at the Community Empowerment Fund (828)-280-0024</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:10:00 PM	Redirect money away from APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cynthia Galli and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cynthia Galli</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 3:10:00 PM	Consent Agenda Item N	<p>My name is Will Little and I am a resident of Asheville emailing/calling about *Consent Agenda Item N*, regarding the contract with Ashewell Medical Group to provide FDA-approved COVID-19 antibody and PCR testing for City employees.</p> <p>I'd like to understand if a Request for Pricing (RFP) bid, or similar attempt at finding competitive pricing, was attempted. If so, would the city council publish the results?</p> <p>Thank you.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Stacey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Stacey Coleman</p> <p>(West Asheville Resident)</p>
6/8/2020 3:10:00 PM	Invest in a safer community for ALL residents	<p>Officer targets me at 0:22 while I've been walking away casually the entire time. I'm an average guy wearing blue jeans, grey and yellow T shirt, and a yellow breathing mask. I'm holding a very obvious professional camera, Canon Mark 5D4 at chest level while walking away from the scene the entire time. Rounds are seen flying past me at 0:36 onward. One struck my leg.</p> <p>APD and Asheville city council: Why was any use of force against me remotely 'necessary'?</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqf2GFjbl_g</p> <p>-----</p> <p>James Robinson james@jlr-photo.com http://jlr-photo.com/</p> <p>Why did APD fire pepper rounds on peaceful protesters complying with dispersal orders on June 2?</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:10:00 PM	2021 Budget: Divest and invest in the Asheville community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Savannah Purdy and I'm a resident of West Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I want to see the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards a reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them and reinvest in the well-being of our community.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Savannah Purdy</p>
6/8/2020 3:10:00 PM	Defund AVL Police	<p>Dear Asheville City,</p> <p>My name is Caleigh and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's Fiscal Year 2021 budget proposal and asking for there to be a dramatic rethinking of current funding allocations. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that the council may find ways to redirect money away from the Asheville Police Department's already inflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from Asheville Police, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class-based inequities. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunities, and stable housing are FAR more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support to be directed to those areas.</p> <p>DO NOT forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that will put a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Caleigh Sewell</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:11:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Xochilt Rodriguez and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Xochilt Rodriguez</p>
6/8/2020 3:11:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>My name is Kevin Forte and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this incredibly essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kevin Forte</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:11:00 PM	Demand for Defunding APD and Reallocation of Funds to Public Programs	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andreas and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andreas Kampouris</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:12:00 PM	Regarding tomorrow's budget meeting	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the Asheville community.</p> <p>I am writing to implore you as a longtime Asheville citizen, to please support and enact the demands of Black Asheville in this year's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Please divest from the police and invest in Black communities by supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Please remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>Please rename streets with the names of historic local black leaders; in particular, rename streets that are currently named after former slave owners.</p> <p>Please hold individuals *and* the entire APD accountable and end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>With gratitude, Courtney</p> <p>-- Courtney Fincher she/her/hers Director of Early Education Odyssey Community School www.odysseycommunity.org 828-777-7768</p>
6/8/2020 3:12:00 PM	In Support of Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Adam Torrey, and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Adam Torrey</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maya Swan-Sullivan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maya Swan-Sullivan</p>
6/8/2020 3:12:00 PM	DEFUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council and Leadership,</p> <p>My name is Jorja Smith and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jorja Smith</p>
6/8/2020 3:12:00 PM	Invest in Asheville's Black Communities	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:12:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tamara nd I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Tamara Gunn</p>
6/8/2020 3:12:00 PM	Stop the police from killing black people.	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jonah Wolfson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jonah Wolfson</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Bryce Carman-Hauri and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Bryce Carman-Hauri</p>
6/8/2020 3:12:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Chloe deBeus and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>CdB</p> <p>--</p> <p>-Chloe deBeus</p>
6/8/2020 3:12:00 PM	DEFUND APD	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:13:00 PM	Budget Changes in 2021	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Gavin Seraphim and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you kindly,</p> <p>Gavin Seraphim</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:13:00 PM	Concerns Over 2020-2021 Proposed Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Megan and I'm a resident of Buncombe County. I have been attending protests in downtown Asheville to show solidarity with Asheville demonstrators and I am writing about Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>According to the current Proposed Budget for 2020-2021, the proposed expenditure for the Asheville Police Department is \$30,057,325, an increase from the 2019-2020 figure of \$29,599,704. I urge you to divert some of these funds into areas that would directly benefit the community, such as community & economic development, planning & urban design, transportation, etc. By reallocating these funds, you will begin to take steps away from the over-policing of people of color and poor citizens of Asheville and moving towards improving the quality of life for all. (Source: The City of Asheville Proposed Budget 2020-21)</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Megan Hall</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:14:00 PM	Public Hearing Item D	<p>My name is Will Little and I am a resident of Asheville emailing/calling with comment on *Public Hearing Item D*, regarding the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget.</p> <p>I am calling to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance. Furthermore, I implore the City Council to adjust the budget so that it begins divesting from the Asheville Police and investing in social programs and Black communities.</p> <p>I'd like to see portions of the APD's budget invested in safety strategies including supporting Black businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and the individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
6/8/2020 3:14:00 PM	BLACK LIVES MATTER	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Petra Buan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:14:00 PM	DEFUND THE APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maya Swan-Sullivan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maya Swan-Sullivan</p>
6/8/2020 3:14:00 PM	Asheville City Budget - Citizen Input	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jessi Whitby and I'm a resident and homeowner in the city of Asheville. I am writing about Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am in full support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jessi Whitby 11 Holly Street Asheville, NC</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:14:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Erin and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thanks, Erin Hunt</p>
6/8/2020 3:14:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Casey Hilts and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Casey Hilts</p>
6/8/2020 3:14:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Hello, my name is Abigail Billanti and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that we're presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the city council to divest from police and invest in Black communities. 50% of APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including supporting black start ups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City schools and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:14:00 PM	Reallocating APD funds	<p>My name is Emily Miranda and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD;s budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black entrepreneurs/startups/businesses and eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city and nation's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, Emily</p> <p>--</p> <p>"You are your best thing." --Toni Morrison</p> <p>"I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own." --Audre Lorde</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:15:00 PM	Defund police, invest in community	<p>ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov, AshevilleCityCouncilJune92020@publicinput.com Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is George Schultz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>George Schultz</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:15:00 PM	Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chloe Rutledge and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chloe Rutledge</p>
6/8/2020 3:15:00 PM	Take action to make downtown safe for locals	<p>Last week I witnessed and participated in a number of demonstrations in this city that I've called home for more than a decade. I watched as thousands of local workers and community members came together to peacefully protest the police and those protests were met with increasing violence by the police. I urge you to reject APD's claim that they were reacting to violent protesters. This is patently false. The police showed up dressed for war and used countless rounds of weapons (tear gas, flash grenades, pepper bullets) on us. There was no conversation, no deescalation, and no attempt by APD to prevent violence. These should be the most prominent tools used by any public safety organization. Instead, they brought the violence to us. I urge you to follow the guidelines set forward by black organizers in Asheville to reallocate 50% of APD's budget to be put toward social programs that will make this city safer for everyone.</p> <p>On a lighter note. The City of Asheville's decision to close a number of intersections downtown at 5pm was a huge boon to demonstrators, cyclists, and pedestrians. As a long time advocate for making alternative transportation more viable here, I urge you to make these pedestrian corridors permanent and seek other parts of the city where we can divert traffic.</p> <p>Thank you, Pete McKelvey</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:15:00 PM	DEFUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maria Barbosa, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maria Barbosa she/her</p>
6/8/2020 3:16:00 PM	Budget - Shift funding priorities within Police Budget- June 9, 2020	<p>I am a resident of Asheville and have been for 14 years. My wife has been a resident for over 35 years. I developed and own a mixed use building within three blocks of the Vance Monument.</p> <p>Over the years, I have had a growing concern over the policing methods employed by our local department. In particular, the ever increasing attitude/culture away from service and respect for community members as a whole and to a dominating offensive one.</p> <p>I am speaking out today to express strong support for efforts to bring about a dramatic change in how we confront providing a safe community for all while showing tolerance, consideration, respect, and service equally across cultural groups. I am willing to accept the risk of reduced security to investigate and explore a better approach.</p> <p>Thus, I am in support of the "defunding the police" initiative and am NOT in support of an increase in the current police department budget.</p> <p>Peter Laine</p> <p>716-307-0037</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:17:00 PM	DEFUND AVL POLICE - show me a detailed budget by department, please!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Charlotte Stack and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>*Additionally, I would like to request access to a detailed copy of the budget showing line items by department. *</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Charlotte Stack 706-247-4361</p>
6/8/2020 3:17:00 PM	Asheville Black Lives Matter	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is William Smith and I am a resident, a public school teacher, and a parent here in Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William Smith</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:17:00 PM	Asking for Change	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Seline Biewer and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Best regards, Seline Biewer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:17:00 PM	Commit to supporting police reform	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Devin Asaro and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Devin Asaro</p> <p>-- *Devin Asaro* Content Strategist 949.439.3033 @copydev devinasaro.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Clare Beichler and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Clare Beichler</p>
6/8/2020 3:17:00 PM	Justice from police	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 3:17:00 PM	Support for Demands	<p>My name is Malorie Burden and I'm a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I'm writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-- Malorie Burden</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:17:00 PM	Support Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Lynn Fister and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing in the support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting black startups/business, closing the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City schools and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. APD especially needs more accountability on police brutality, as we have seen with the handling of Asheville protests this week.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lynn Fister</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:18:00 PM	Asheville City Council Budget Hearing Comment	<p>Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am a resident of Asheville. I am reaching out in full support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term community strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I would also like to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>City funds can be used in many ways besides APD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pay Asheville firefighters a living wage. Currently the City is in violation of it's own living wage policy because some firefighters make less than living wage. -Provide operational support for the Asheville Buncombe Community Land Trust. The need for the community land trust and community ownership of affordable housing opportunities has never been more apparent. The Asheville Buncombe Community Land Trust needs an investment in operational expenses to move this effort forward now. The City of Asheville should invest \$100,000 in operational support for the land trust. -Provide transparency in spending for the Asheville bus system. The City of Asheville is highlighting the costs of a full year of the route changes implemented in January 2020 as the major increase in the General Fund without transparency around the \$3.7 million dollars given to the City for transit from the federal CARES Act. Additionally, the City has postponed increased evening service hours (part of the first phase of the Transit Master Plan) and increased frequency to South Asheville (year 2 of the Transit Master Plan). -Stop hiring expensive consultants and do. your. job. <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. This is an election year and</p> <p>Sincerely, *Emma Hutchens*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:18:00 PM	Public Comment	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Abby Holmes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think that Asheville City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Thank you, -- Abby Holmes, MPH</p>
6/8/2020 3:18:00 PM	Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ryan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ryan Smith</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:18:00 PM	Racial Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Bea Brown and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 3:19:00 PM	Fund community outreach, not community violence.	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Laurel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Laurel Ippolito</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:19:00 PM	Per council meeting on 5/9	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Nicole Paladino and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nicole Paladino</p>
6/8/2020 3:19:00 PM	Reallocating APD funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Clancie and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Clancie</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:19:00 PM	Support Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Will Little and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday.</p> <p>With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
6/8/2020 3:20:00 PM	BLACK LIVES MATTER: DEFUND AVL PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jennifer Sellers and I'm a resident and registered voter of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jennifer Sellers</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:20:00 PM	Comment for Tuesday's City Council meeting	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Karissa Keen, a new homeowner in west Asheville but I have been a resident of Asheville for 12 years. I am calling to voice my unyielding support for the Black Asheville Demands that were publicly presented to the mayor, vice mayor, police chief and the hundreds of supporters on Saturday.</p> <p>With the budget up for consideration, I urge city council to divest from the police and invest in black communities. 50 % of the APDs budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting black start up. Businesses, eliminating racial opportunity gaps in Asheville city schools and funding an all civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support for this essential shift in the justice system of our city. We are a bubble in the south, let's pave the way. Let's start making Asheville's history.</p> <p>Karissa Keen</p>
6/8/2020 3:20:00 PM	2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katherine Lowe and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katherine Lowe</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:20:00 PM	Regarding the meeting tomorrow.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Colin Martin, and I have been an Asheville citizen for almost 10 years (I am originally from Sylva). I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>Asheville is widely regarded as a progressive oasis in a sea of red? Why then are APD cops making headlines for committing acts of wanton cruelty? Why, during my experience in the asheville public school system, were kids of color so often failed by every institution available to them? Asheville's greatest resource is its identity; I am begging you, do not let my home be another hollow shell where police serve only the interests of the breweries and hotels, not the people they were sworn to protect.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Colin E. Martin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:20:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City council,</p> <p>My name is Betsy Cline and I've been an Asheville resident for 10 years. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding all civilian oversight committees with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Betsy Cline</p>
6/8/2020 3:20:00 PM	Asheville City Accountability & Morality Check	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is J.K. Thompson and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing to you as a concerned resident regarding Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I ask that you, the Asheville City Council, make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice and moral accountability. I demand the budget vote be delayed for the purpose of exploring succinct, effective, alternative forms of policing and law enforcement.</p> <p>If you are unable to delay your budget vote for the benefit of Asheville citizens, then I urge you to divert 50% of the Asheville Police Department's existing budget into the Black community. The diverted funding to the Black community can be in the form of supporting Black startups and businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. There are undoubtedly many other ways to support the Black communities of Asheville, and delaying the budget vote will afford our citizens the time to explore those opportunities.</p> <p>I strongly request each and every Council member support this essential policy shift at this crucial moment in history.</p> <p>Do the right thing, J.K. Thompson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:21:00 PM	Divest for Justice and Invest for Equity	<p>Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Julia Sacco, and I am a five-year resident of Asheville, NC. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the 2021 budget up for consideration, City Council must divest from the Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget and invest in Black communities. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equitable reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Additionally, I urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>It is imperative that we have your support for these essential policy shifts at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Julia</p>
6/8/2020 3:21:00 PM	Please Consider Reinvesting in Community!!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Carmen Gerschutz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Carmen Gerschutz</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:21:00 PM	2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maia Shampo and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maia Shampo</p>
6/8/2020 3:22:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Stacy Johnson and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Stacy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:23:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Malandra and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauren Malandra</p>
6/8/2020 3:23:00 PM	Concerned mother	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Melinda Hopkins and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Melinda</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:23:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jacob Price and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jacob Price</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 3:23:00 PM	Defund APD to invest in community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Charlotte and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Charlotte Cleary</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:23:00 PM	APD	<p>Everything I have seen from the Asheville Police Department over the course of the last 10 days has been extremely disheartening. Almost without exception, protests over police brutality have been met with reactionary violence disproportionate to that of our citizens from Bowen Bridge to Pack Square to the wanton destruction of medical supplies, food and water. I never thought I'd see tear gas and rubber bullets fired in Asheville. I never thought I'd see a forced curfew. I don't see crowd control. I see forced suppression and silencing of our citizens. As far as I am concerned any trust I had in the APD doing the right thing for the people of our town is compromised. I strongly believe that the APD should be defunded-reallocating the funding to organizations that will uplift and actually support and keep our citizenry safe.</p> <p>-Ripley Sager Resident, West Asheville</p>
6/8/2020 3:24:00 PM	Racial injustice	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Jack Ryan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you.</p>
6/8/2020 3:24:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Holden Mesk and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Holden Mesk</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:24:00 PM	Defund Police, reallocate funds for the betterment of our city!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dulci Ellenberger, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dulci Ellenberger</p>
6/8/2020 3:25:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lillie Della Penna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lillie Della Penna</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:26:00 PM	Budget Meeting 2021 - Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal which takes place on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Hannah Flowers hannahflowers87@gmail.com (910) 280-3477</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:28:00 PM	Fiscal Budget 2021 ASHEVILLE POLICE!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rachel Pagán and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rachel Pagán Asheville, NC</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:28:00 PM	DEMAND TO DELAY BUDGET VOTE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sophie Miller and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? This is incredibly important. Please, do this for the betterment of our community.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sophie</p> <p>--</p> <p><http://www.themikemillerteam.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/TheMikeMillerTeam/> <https://twitter.com/SophieMiller> <https://www.instagram.com/themikemillerteam/></p> <p>Sophie Miller REALTOR/Broker/Manager • Town and Mountain Realty 8282307800 sophie@townandmountain.com 315 Haywood Rd., #119 www.themikemillerteam.com</p> <p>Important information regarding Working with Real Estate Agents in NC http://www.ncrec.gov/Brochures/WorkingwAgents.pdf</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:28:00 PM	Letter to Council Members	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Anna and I'm a resident of Asheville for the past 7 years. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. As a member of the community who has worked in mental health, I feel that more funding could be allocated towards those endeavors.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Anna Hazen</p>
6/8/2020 3:29:00 PM	Asheville Student Calling For Change	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maddy Philips and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maddy Philips</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:29:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dowell Gandy and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dowell Gandy</p>
6/8/2020 3:29:00 PM	[***REALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURES***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Judith Wilber and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Judith Wilber</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:30:00 PM	2021 budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ren Cook and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal!!</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. I want APD defunded and abolished.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591647921292000&sa=D&ust=1591647921315000&usg=AFQjCNHSIC8pkwAGnC5t90d8H3HZ8s-Ww>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are abolished, and this will not be possible until we defund and abolish them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ren Cook</p>
6/8/2020 3:30:00 PM	Defund and disband our police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am only one of many voices in Asheville demanding the immediate defunding of the APD, and the allocation of those resources to the black communities in Asheville who built our city.</p> <p>I also demand a detailed plan on disbanding the police force and focussing on community support and funding for the poor and homeless. We do not want or need a police force. See http://criticalresistance.org/abolish-policing/ for further information into putting abolishing the police into practice.</p> <p>The tear gassing and attack on a medical tent are only recent attacks on residents. This city has a history of oppression against black people that needs to be made right.</p> <p>Thank you, Madeline Lafferty, Asheville resident.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:30:00 PM	The Community's Wishes	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sid and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sid</p>
6/8/2020 3:30:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>My name is Alexa Feldman and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Alexa Feldman</p>
6/8/2020 3:31:00 PM	Agenda item V. - D. Public hearing to consider the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget.	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Scott Thompson and I am a resident of Asheville (District 2). I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be cut and reinvested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Scott Thompson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:31:00 PM	Budget Concerns	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Gentry Hamrick and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Gentry Hamrick</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Hello all. I felt compelled today given the City Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow to share some responses to recent events within our community. I want you to know I appreciate your vow in your given roles to represent, protect, and serve the people of this community. As an Asheville native, I love this town so much and understand the need to grow and adapt in a manner which serves ALL our residents, not just rich investors in real estate. Especially given the recent scandals regarding rampant misuse of public funds within Buncombe County, I optimistically anticipate that current governmental response will be driven by the community, for the community.</p> <p>The following is an outline articulated and brought to my attention by local black leadership. I have added my own touches where I felt personally drawn to.</p> <p>Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>Therefore we make these demands:</p> <p>City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors. 2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invest in affordable housing b. Invest in underprivileged schools c. Invest in mental health treatment d. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacity e. Invest in drug treatment facilities f. Invest in public transit 3. End no-knock raids. 4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds. 5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary. 6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly. 7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually. 8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment. b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcement c. Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoing d. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online. 9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: if an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The over- seeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. Officers



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:32:00 PM	2021 APD POLICE BUDGET	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Margaret Murphy and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Margaret Murphy</p>
6/8/2020 3:34:00 PM	City Council Budget	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Hello, I'm Tim Hussin and I am a resident of West Asheville. I am urging the City to adjust next year's budget. We need to begin divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I urge every Council member to support this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tim -- *Tim Hussin * this land films / thislandfilms.com personal website / www.timhussin.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:34:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>As a white citizen of Asheville, and a proud member of the Asheville community, I am advocating to see local leaders support and honor our black Ashevilleians.</p> <p>I am using my voice to defer to local black leaders. Please click the following link to read their demands, including defunding of the police, removal of confederate monuments, and installations honoring black Ashevilleians throughout history.</p> <p>https://www.blackavldemands.org/</p> <p>Sincerely, Kate Davis</p>
6/8/2020 3:36:00 PM	Support for Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council (or staff member name),</p> <p>My name is Debra Hass and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Debra Hass</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:36:00 PM	Please consider	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michael Christopher and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Michael Christopher</p>
6/8/2020 3:37:00 PM	Defunding Police and Assisting our Community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Wren Cullen and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Wren Cullen</p>
6/8/2020 3:37:00 PM	Please delay budget vote	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:38:00 PM	PRIORITIZE YOUR CITIZENS	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Daniel Secor and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Daniel</p>
6/8/2020 3:39:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:39:00 PM	Y'all need to make a real commitment to saving Black lives	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eliza Heath. I'm a resident of Asheville and my husband and I are homeowners here. My mother also bought a house in Asheville and moved here recently. I'm writing on behalf of all three of us, all avid and vocal voters, about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>The Asheville City Council must make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police have been defunded and completely restructured. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? If you want our support in the future, you will push for this.</p> <p>Thank you, Eliza Heath</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:39:00 PM	Divest in APD, invest in black communities	<p>Dear City of Asheville,</p> <p>My name is Ursula Gullow and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I would also like to express my support in dismantling the Vance Monument and Robert E. Lee Monument in downtown Asheville. I propose that a diverse committee that includes black, latinx and female participants be established to assess ways the space can be used in the future.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ursula Gullow</p> <p>*Ursula Gullow* Painting Instructor A-B Tech Community College Artist www.ursulagullow.com Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/ursabear/></p>
6/8/2020 3:39:00 PM	Fund reallocation for the good of Asheville.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jacob Wiegman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jacob Wiegman</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:39:00 PM	Asheville Budget Reform	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amelia Brown and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amelia Brown</p>
6/8/2020 3:39:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amber and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amber I Reed</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:39:00 PM	Public Comment for June 9th Budget Meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Nia Hollister-Bernier and I am a long time resident of Asheville. I recently started graduate school in Durham, but I grew up in Asheville, attended Asheville City Schools (Claxton, Asheville Middle School, and Asheville High School class of 2013), have a lot of family and friends in Asheville, and still spend a lot of time here. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities.* I believe that AT LEAST 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies that will benefit Black communities, and in turn the Asheville community as a whole*, including (*1*) supporting Black startups/business, (*2*) eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and (*3*) funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. While ALL of these strategies are necessary, as a previous ACS student, I've seen first hand how bad the racial opportunity gap is throughout the ACS system and how pervasive racism is in the schools. Efforts to address these issues are personally important to me and are imperative for any progress to occur. I also believe that (*4*) investing in public and affordable housing is extremely important and timely given the recent boom in the Asheville housing market that disproportionately affects local residents, especially those of color.</p> <p>I love Asheville. It is the one place I know I will consider "home" for the rest of my life, no matter where I am. While I am generally proud of Asheville's caring community and progressive policies, I have been *extremely* disappointed with the recent response to the demonstrations in Asheville, including the harmful actions towards protesters by the APD and the city's request for National Guard presence. Further, I have been disappointed and angered by the responses to, and statements about, those actions made by Chief Zack, a non-native who does not seem to be remotely familiar with the community. His statements were full of inappropriate excuses and seemed to lack empathy and appropriate knowledge of the community and its needs. Naively, at the start of the demonstrations, after a friend told me he saw a post from a mutual friend stating that tear gas and rubber bullets were used, I said, "No way. Not in Asheville. He must have gone somewhere else like Atlanta or Charlotte." I acknowledge that I am privileged to be ignorant enough to assume that this wouldn't happen here. The way policing works in our current society is not only harmful to those it aims to protect, but is also ineffective at its core, and traditional police reform is not adequate to address these issues. This has been shown via the past and current actions of law enforcement officers throughout the US, including the APD, despite efforts at reform such as the revision of the Early Intervention System (EIS), the institution of body cams, and community policing. Asheville needs to look inwardly and think critically in order to examine the systemic racism ingrained in our community and improve our approach to law enforcement. That starts with investing in our community where it matters. That starts with the reallocation of these funds.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nia Hollister-Bernier</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Katrina Griffin and I am a resident of Asheville and I work with a local nonprofit, Democracy NC. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>- Katrina Griffin</p>
6/8/2020 3:40:00 PM	City Council June 9th Budget Meeting	<p>-</p> <p>My name is Illiana Wineinger and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Illiana Wineinger</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:40:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amber and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amber I Reed</p>
6/8/2020 3:40:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amber and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amber I Reed</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:40:00 PM	Reallocate Budget Funds Proposed for APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jared Hooker and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jared Hooker</p>
6/8/2020 3:40:00 PM	Asheville Demands	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Maxine Eng and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>
6/8/2020 3:40:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>My name is Savannah Bindas and I am a resident of Asheville. I am commenting on the proposed budget increase for the APD. My comment is directly from the Black AVL Demands, as I stand with the Black Community of Asheville and support their demands 100%.</p> <p>"We demand divestment from the police and investment in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable". Please do not allow the budget increase for the APD.</p> <p>Thank you, Savannah Bindas</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:41:00 PM	BLACK LIVES MATTER	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amber and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amber I Reed</p>
6/8/2020 3:41:00 PM	Black Lives Matter Everywhere	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ella Chancey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[Ella Chancey]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 3:41:00 PM

City Council: Budget spending, Black Asheville Demands

Dear Asheville City Council,
My name is Jayne Carpenter and I am a resident of Buncombe County. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.

Thank you,
Jayne Carpenter



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Morgan Marshall-Clark and I have been an Asheville citizen since 1996 - I grew up here, played in the streets of Asheville (safely since I'm white), attended and graduated in the top 20 of my class at Asheville High (where I benefited from the privilege of being white), and decided that Asheville was and is the place I want to live, work and raise a family. I am on the board of the Junior League of Asheville and the Blue Ridge Carolina Club. I care deeply about this city and community and have been disappointed over the past few years in the ways that the city council has valued the needs of the wealthy and tourists over the crucial needs of our Black and POC communities, as well as the working and middle class citizens as a whole who feel undervalued and pushed out by purely economic development for the few at the cost of many.</p> <p>As I'm sure you're well aware, the nation appears to finally be waking up - in unison - about systemic racism against Blacks and POC within our governments and municipal bodies, particularly our police departments. Public police forces began around the mid-1800s, and they were born out of slave patrols in the south and industry policing in the north - mass incarceration of Black bodies was the intended outcome from the start. This is a fact. This is about the multi-generational criminalization and incarceration of Black people...This is about the fact that Black people are still incarcerated in state prisons at a rate that is 5x more than the rate of whites. In 5 states (Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Vermont, and Wisconsin), the disparity is more than 10 to 1...This is about the fact that Blacks, who only make up about 14% of the US population, represent more than half of the prison population in 12 States: Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, *North Carolina*, South Carolina, and Virginia. Maryland's prison population is over 72% Black...This is about stopping an endless cycle of Black families needlessly being torn apart and Black children growing up without parents or a safe environment...This is about the fact that criminal convictions have collateral consequences beyond prison time and those consequences are disproportionately being shouldered by Black people...</p> <p>*The police have had their proverbial knee on Black peoples' necks for more than almost 8 generations. *</p> <p>On top of all this the APD showed us yet again that they do not care about the rights of our citizens. As a strong defender of our Constitution and a proud patriot of an equitable America, I am disgusted with the actions of the police department over this last week and throughout the history of this city. As a direct result of your approval and the excuses made for this violence against protesters, I demand (as an Asheville citizen) that the city not approve the \$400k budget increase, and further defund the Asheville Police Department budget at this Tuesday's council meeting. I am aware that police benefits are the cause of this increase. I also am aware that the money which purchases heavy artillery for use by the APD could easily be divested into personnel salaries. However, no money should be given to increase police salaries until drastic changes are made within the police department. EVERY officer who was involved in the use of force on Sunday, May 31, Monday, June 1, and Tuesday June 2 must be disciplined and if necessary dismissed from the police force. The chief of police must also apologize to the Black community for years of targeting Blacks (expressly or implicitly). My mom works at Vance Elementary School - she has not seen a raise in over 7 years, nor have the many other dedicated and hardworking staff members working to educate the children of this city - our public school budget should at least match if not far out pace our police budget. The APD currently has a \$29.6 million budget. Shifting significant funds from that budget toward funding action steps and goals in strategic plan could quickly create viable alternatives to such of the</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:41:00 PM	city council vote	<p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. Fifty percent of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black start ups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on Asheville City for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Alisa McCloud, MA, CCC-SLP, ITFS Asheville Resident Early Learning Partners phone: 828.230.5464 fax: 828.225.2761</p> <p>CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is intended for the use of the individual(s) to whom it was addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail and are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies of the original message and contact the sender by reply e-mail.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:41:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kerry Robinson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>*Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.*</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kerry Robinson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>My name is Miles Olson and I've been a citizen of Asheville for 20 years.</p> <p>Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the violent and prejudiced behavior, that has resulted in the deaths of so many black Americans locally and nationally, from police in our community ever again. Our black citizens are not targets or punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>Therefore we make these demands:</p> <p>City leaders must vote against the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget AND commit to using existing budget resources for viable alternatives to policing as well as allocating funds to begin resourcing action steps in this plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completely overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams - i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors.2. Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Invest in affordable housingb. Invest in underprivileged schoolsc. Invest in mental health treatmentd. Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacitye. Invest in drug treatment facilitiesf. Invest in public transit3. End no-knock raids.4. Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing including all restrictive chokeholds.5. Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary.6. Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed quarterly.7. Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted bi-annually.8. Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. If an officer has been dismissed due to habitual complaints of violence, they shall not be permitted to relocate to another county, state, or federal law enforcement agency for employment.b. Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcementc. Establish a Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoingd. Implementation of an anti-policing registry that can be viewed by the public online.9. Penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: if an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The over-seeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. Officers on the scene that do not intervene when lethal use of force is utilized, are also considered to be accomplices for legal purposes in the offense. The charges and penalties to each responsible officer shall be judged by their level of involvement in the offense. Level of involvement shall be judge by a third-party review board dedicated to investigating such offenses.10. Implementation of mandatory body camera footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if the camera is manually turned off, disabled, or altered by the officer. Black lives matter. As our local leaders, you can't just say it anymore, you must start acting on it with real policy moves and police accountability. <p>Miles Oscar Olson Program Director/On-Air Personality 98.1 The River Asheville Radio Group 1190 Patton Ave ♦ Asheville, NC 28806 C: 828-772-4453 O: 828-210-8593</p> <p>[cid:bec4ed6a-2f35-4704-889d-aa692707b9c0]</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:41:00 PM	2020 is the year for accountability and change.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Daniel Franklin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Daniel Franklin</p>
6/8/2020 3:42:00 PM	FY2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amy Dangelico and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amy</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:42:00 PM	Support dismantling racial & class inequality	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mary Grace Blake and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mary Grace Blake</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:42:00 PM	Please Consider	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Justin Mays and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Justin Mays</p>
6/8/2020 3:43:00 PM	Defund APD - Budget 2021	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Phillips. I have been a resident of Asheville for 6 years. I am writing to ask that you divest funds from the inflated police department budget and reallocated them to community funding. Public schools need more funding as education is extremely important to building a safe healthy community. I believe that if you invest in underfunded community building sectors, that the police will not be necessary. Many of the jobs that APD is tasked with would be better for other areas of the community to handle. I do not support increasing their already highly inflated budget and I would much rather see their budget decrease significantly in the future. The police violence against citizens of Asheville is unacceptable and we will not tolerate it.</p> <p>Thank you, Hannah Phillips</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:43:00 PM	Budget 2020	<p>Dear Asheville City Council</p> <p>My name is Sonja Palmer, and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sonja Palmer</p>
6/8/2020 3:43:00 PM	June 9 Asheville City Council Meeting Comments	<p>My name is Vanessa Nowik and I have been an Asheville local for the last 8 years. I would like to make a formal public comment on my belief of how the Asheville City council should proceed now and in the future. I demand a divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. The events of APD teargassing the citizens of Asheville on May 31st, 2020 while protestors were peaceful is heinous and they should be held responsible for any mental or health damage. I have been diagnosed with chemical pneumonitis since being tear-gassed and have had to pay out of pocket for treatment and reimbursement should be made available. I Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community. I demand that Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. I demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders. I demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. The events on June 2, 2020 when APD destroyed the civilian made and run medic/triage station was tragic and inhumane. The officers and the person who gave the order to destroy it should be held accountable and I think that reimbursement should be made from those individuals or APD to any of the organizations that support Black Lives Matter. Lastly, I demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people) as well as any and all POC.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and have a blessed day.</p> <p>Sent from Mail for Windows 10</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Thatcher Short and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Thatcher Short</p>
6/8/2020 3:43:00 PM	MAKE A CHANGE	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Sydney Jones and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Sydney Jones</p> <p>--</p> <p>*S. Sydney Jones University of North Carolina at Asheville Class of 2021 International Studies Major Marketing Supervisor, Outdoor Programs Director of Internal Affairs, Blue Echo*</p> <p>*Vice President Amnesty International She/Her/Hers*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:44:00 PM	Support Black Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jacob Bartlett and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jacob Bartlett</p>
6/8/2020 3:44:00 PM	BLACK ASHEVILLE DEMANDS	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>My name is Carolyn Meyers and I have been a resident of Asheville for the past 5 years.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the city council to divest from the police and invest in the Black community. 50% of APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including but not limited to supporting Black startups and businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Crime is not static in society. It is a result of the lack of resources for a community.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:44:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Zoe Reddig and I am a resident of Asheville, NC.</p> <p>I am aware that city council and the budget department have received multiple emails regarding the upcoming budget and allocations to the Asheville Police Department within it. As an Asheville resident, I would like to include my voice and advocate for the reallocation of police funding to services such as education, healthcare, community projects, affordable housing and a living wage.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. I urge city council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black start-ups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>The police have lost sight of their "responsibilities". They are not trained social workers or mental health counselors. We ask police to not only respond to violence, but to illness and homelessness. We ask them to treat the products of our broken society as crime, which only exacerbates the problem. The police currently DEAL WITH the outcomes of homelessness, drug use, etc, but they do not help PREVENT them. For this we do not need the police to become more powerful and more militarized; we need a smaller presence to make room for community based initiatives.</p> <p>This change in Asheville starts with city council. We can lead the way in North Carolina and rework our budget to minimize APD's presence where they are not needed. Let's work to rebuild our city's infrastructure and assure every resident has safe housing, clean water, and does not live in fear.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zoe Reddig</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Asheville needs to be vocalling ANTIracist, no longer quietly racist. We not only demand to deny the budget increase for the APD, but also to CUT their total funding by 50% or more. We are not aiming for reform, that has not been fast enough to save lives. We want APD to be disarmed, and eventually disbanded. Not allowing the increase will only allow us to stay where we are, which has proven to not be good enough.</p> <p>Disbanding APD can be replaced with community organized safety work, social workers, nurses, and other things to address safety as well as community disparities that result in crime. By addressing the root cause of the crime, the need for APD can shift resources to supporting these starving communities. Do not ignore them any longer.</p> <p>The budget for the APD is \$30,057,325, which is the single largest expenditure and a 4% increase from last year, despite cuts due to COVID 19. We are aware that this is beyond the community efforts that money is used for by the followed numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Equity & Inclusion: \$454,999- Parks & Recreation: \$10,665,622- Sustainability: \$769,193- Planning & Urban Design: \$1,272,206 <p>*This is unacceptable. *Defunding the police, so make sure we focus on more equity and inclusion is important. Defunding the police to make sure students in the school district have up to date books instead of building a new middle school for predominately white students is important. Defunding the APD to give PPE to medics serving COVID patients is important. Defunding the APD to give money to improve low income housing for BIPOC and other minorities in Asheville is important. Defunding the APD can send money to training more social workers in place of APD to answer calls. We can make shifts, positive shifts, for our community without sacrificing the "tourism" this city is built on and clearly prioritizes over our failing communities.</p> <p>I have met many BIPOC and other minority people move here, and move away because it is not the liberal mecca the rest of the country claims it to be. Encourage more community development to uplift our city, not destroy it with more violence.</p> <p>Asheville is suffering and needs community investment more than ever. It is unacceptable to put most of the general fund budget into the Asheville Police Department while so many people don't have affordable housing, aren't making a living wage, and struggle to access transit options.</p> <p>*Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons *(Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>Show us you actually represent us, or voting will occur differently.</p> <p>--</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:44:00 PM	Please Support Black Asheville in the tomorrow's budget meeting!	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Melissa Down and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Melissa Down</p>
6/8/2020 3:44:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is clayton ledbetter and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:44:00 PM	Police policy	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Daniel Shaneyfelt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Daniel Shaneyfelt</p>
6/8/2020 3:45:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>My name is Lindsay Chewning and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Lindsay Chewning</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:45:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 3:45:00 PM	Concern of the egregious APD budget	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Parker Pace and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you -Parker Pace</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:45:00 PM	Budget Hearing	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rachel Taylor and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rachel</p>
6/8/2020 3:46:00 PM	APD Budget Increase	<p>It is in our community's best interest that you do NOT grant the APD their requested budget increase this year, nor expand their budget at any point in the future.</p> <p>The city of Asheville also needs to convene an all-citizen oversight committee & work to remove police protections so officers who abuse their positions may face consequences for doing so.</p> <p>A truly just future lays outside of the scope of our modern policing tactics. Asheville needs to immediately begin the defunding & disbanding of the APD & use those funds for a variety of new social departments that can implement non-violent justice in the community.</p> <p>While this process is ongoing, offer our law enforcement officers opportunities to retrain, as there will be a need for workers in these new departments. It is crucial to dissolve the APD, but these public servants should be given the opportunity to succeed in another manner.</p> <p>Thank you, Thomas Mims</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:46:00 PM	Defunding and budgeting for Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Noah Benbow and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Noah Benbow</p>
6/8/2020 3:46:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Katie Hunter and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thanks, Katie Hunter</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:46:00 PM	2020-21 Budget (Scott McKibben)	<p>Hello, this is Scott McKibben and I am a resident and home owner of Asheville. I am calling to urge the City to adjust next year's budget. We need to begin divesting from the militarized police, fund police racial equity classes led by a black leader of the community and investing in the Black communities as a whole. 50% of the Asheville Police Departments budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting black startups/ business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I urge every Council member to support this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, SM</p> <p>-- (678) 469-9133 scottmckibbenphotography@gmail.com</p>
6/8/2020 3:46:00 PM	Defund the police, invest in our communities!	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members, My name is Anthony Cozzarelli and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Anthony</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:47:00 PM	AvIPD Funding	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Davis and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools and finding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. Because black lives matter.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Lauren Davis</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

To Asheville City Council members,

My name is Carmelo and I've been a resident of Asheville for over a decade. I am writing to you about Mayor Esther Manheimer's FY2020-21 budget proposal.

There are many beautiful things about Asheville, but the longtime economic priorities/disparities and racial injustices are coming to a head. Throughout the past years, and especially over the past week, our city has done embarrassingly little to uphold its image of being a "progressive", "inclusive", and community-oriented city.

The Asheville Police Department's overinflated 2020-21 Proposed budget of \$30,057,325 would account for 22.33% of the city's total proposed budget of \$134,557,345. As the city's highest expenditure, there is no evidence that its cost is proportional to the community services & resources that it provides.

This point is bolstered by the staggering discrepancies between the APD budget and vital expenditures:

- Community & Economic Development: \$2,805,687
- Equity & Inclusion: \$454,999
- Sustainability Trans.: \$769,193

I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial and economic justice, to prioritize liberation and the hard-earned respect of community members, and to step up and be a guiding voice in this worldwide movement bring about radically positive change.

I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.

Just recently, the actions of Asheville's Police Department reached national and international news, being reported in CNN, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, New York Daily News, The New York Times, The Hill, Associated Press, NBC News, The Washington Post, Jacobin Magazine, Huffington Post, Snopes, and more. When considering this budget proposal, I would like to remind the Council members that Asheville Police destroyed over \$700 of medical supplies such as bandages and sutures, as well as water and food at a volunteer medical tent — pushing the doctors and EMT workers to the ground and out of the way in the process.

Human Rights Watch has called for the United States to address its human rights violations and structural racism underlying the protests (Source <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/06/02/us-address-structural-racism-underlying-protests>>).

UN experts condemn modern-day racial terror lynchings in the United States (Source <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1065722>>).

Agnes Callamard, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions as well as the director of Global Freedom of Expression at Columbia University, has advised that the US may be violating international law in its response to protesters (Source <<https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-06-05/us-may-be-violating-international-law-its-response-protesters-un-expert-says>>).

In this release, the UN started their statement by saying that "The origin story of policing in the United States of America starts with slave patrols and social control, where human property of enslavers was 'protected' with violence and impunity against people of African descent. In the US, this legacy of racial terror remains evident in modern-day policing".

Americans have had enough. There are protests in all 50 states and 10



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:47:00 PM	June city council meeting request	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Jana White and I am a 22 year resident of Asheville, which I now call my home. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to adjust the city's considerable investment in funding the police and invest a portion of this funding in Black communities. A portion of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting Black startups/businesses and eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools. With all the wealth that pours into this city, the racial opportunity gap here is one of the most profound in western NC. This inequity is unconscionable. I would especially urge the funding of an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jana White</p>
6/8/2020 3:48:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>I am writing in support of Black Asheville Demands that we're presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge city council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including support of Black businesses and start ups, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools and to find an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>With great hope that the city council represents an anti racist Asheville,</p> <p>And not the alternative,</p> <p>Kelly Morrow 19 Robinwood Ave Asheville, NC</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:48:00 PM		<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Westmoreland. I am a resident of Asheville. I am commenting on the proposed budget increase for the APD. My comment is directly from the Black AVL Demands, as I stand with the Black Community of Asheville and support their demands 100%. "We demand a Divestment from the police and Investment in Black Communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. Please do not allow the budget increase for the APD. Thank you, Lauren Westmoreland</p>
6/8/2020 3:48:00 PM	Regarding 2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sara Mills and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sara Mills</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:48:00 PM	IMPORTANT	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kate roe and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kate Roe</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:48:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kyle Clechenko and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591642543263000&sa=D&ust=1591642543276000&usg=AFQjCNFej71V3iHCa_N4q85F0epJJaVYg>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kyle Clechenko</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:48:00 PM	Community investment = community care!!!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Siena and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Siena Argimon</p>
6/8/2020 3:49:00 PM	On the 2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Taylor Thomas and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Taylor Thomas</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:49:00 PM	petition to remove David Zack as Chief of Police	<p>Please take the time to look at this petition, which calls for the removal of David Zack from his position as Chief of Police, due to his mismanagement of the police response to the Asheville protests, particularly with regard to the raiding of a medical tent in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>Over 3,500 people have signed, and many, many have left comments.</p> <p>https://www.change.org/p/mayor-esther-e-manheimer-remove-chief-zack-as-asheville-chief-of-police</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amie Tracey Asheville Resident, 28803</p>
6/8/2020 3:49:00 PM	Calling for racial justice!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily and I'm a lifetime resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, this is so important. Emily</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jay and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jay</p>
6/8/2020 3:49:00 PM	Need for change	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 3:50:00 PM	Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Erin Dennis and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I request that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I request that more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Erin Dennis</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:50:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Walker Farrell and I am a resident of Asheville for the last fifteen years. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. *At least *50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Walker Farrell</p>
6/8/2020 3:50:00 PM	June 9th Public Hearing	<p>Dear Asheville City Council-members,</p> <p>My name is Marissa. I'm a restaurant manager at a local hotel, a Buncombe County homeowner, and I have lived in Asheville since 2012. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>It is essential that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I am asking that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from the Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from the APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, we the citizens of this community, in the spirit of love and inclusivity, demand that more substantial financial support be directed to those areas. Please do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be possible when police are no longer agents of violence and suppression; this essential change can only happen if we restructure and redirect our resources toward programs that promote peace, mental health and physical well-being among ALL of our citizens.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Marissa Howard</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:51:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Brittany Garrett and I am a resident of Swannanoa. I am a former resident of Asheville (for over 14 years, and very well may be again some day) and am employed in Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Britt Garrett</p>
6/8/2020 3:52:00 PM		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andy and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not allow our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionately targets of police violence to be forgotten. In order to have justice rightfully served, we will need to be actively defunding the police force, and reallocate those funds towards services that actually help the community.</p> <p>Can you be held accountable and consider an alternative budget whose primary focus is on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:52:00 PM	Reallocation of APD's funds towards	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>Hi this is Allie Larkin. I am a resident of Asheville, NC. I am writing to you about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I urge the Asheville City Council to make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I urge you to not only deny the APD's budget increase but to redirect money away from the APD's budget and instead reallocate this money towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that educational opportunity, stable housing, living wages, and access to holistic health services are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. With this in mind, we must make our communities safer by divesting from policing, and instead investing in community-led solutions. Concrete legislative action must be taken. I urge the reallocation of the APD's budget be the first in a long list of these actions.</p> <p>I am in full support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. To reiterate those demands: it is for 50% of the APD's budget to be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>-Allie Larkin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Thalia Tovar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Thalia Tovar</p>
6/8/2020 3:53:00 PM	Do A Better Job for Your Constituents	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Walters and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including supporting Black Startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah</p>
6/8/2020 3:53:00 PM	Budget concerns/requests	<p>I am an Asheville resident and I implore you to reallocate funds from the Asheville police department into black communities. Support black owned businesses and eliminate race opportunity gap in Asheville public schools. We are calling on you to do your part for change and to raise the standard of equality in our city. Please take action.</p> <p>Sincerely, Anson Merithew</p>
6/8/2020 3:53:00 PM	Asheville Improvement	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:53:00 PM	CITY Council on Police Funding	<p>My name is Erica Deaton. I am a resident of Asheville, NC. I ask that Asheville city council make better use of the funds they intend to use toward the police force in our city. These funds should be used to support black business owners and black business start ups. They can be used to create a committee that holds the Asheville Police Department accountable and oversees their actions. These funds can be used to train emergency response teams to ensure safety, help, and resources for individuals that are faced with adversity such as drug addiction or mental illness. The city needs more resources for people of color, individuals effected by substance abuse, and people affected by mental illness. We do not need more of a police presence to instill fear into our underprivileged citizens in the community. We need to invest funds into helping our community rather than investing in a very false sense of security by expanding the police force.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Erica Deaton</p>
6/8/2020 3:53:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Christopher C. Johnson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Christopher C. Johnson II</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:54:00 PM	Concerns for Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Andy and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not allow our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionately targets of police violence to be forgotten. In order to have justice rightfully served, we will need to be actively defunding the police force, and reallocate those funds towards services that actually help the community.</p> <p>Can you be held accountable and consider an alternative budget whose primary focus is on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:54:00 PM	Listen to the demands of our Black citizens	<p>In addition to the defunding of APD, please also do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - REPARATIONS - We demand the repair for the past and continuing harms inflicted on Asheville's Black community. We demand that the city of Asheville City Government to remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace the monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. Those statues mark the place where slaves were sold, and honoring slave owners. This is offensive and distasteful, why represent these in a "liberal city?" We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders - END THE WAR on BLACK PEOPLE - We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for the accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. We demand an end to systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (INcluding Black trans, queer, and gender non-conforming people.) - INVEST - DIVEST - 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in the long-term safety strategies including supporting Black star ups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD and individual officers accountable. <p>--</p> <p>*Maura Hartzman*</p> <p>*Doctoral Candidate of Chinese Medicine and **Acupuncture*</p> <p>Creative Design & Illustration @Knotwoods</p> <p>(c) 336-509-8945 <(336)%20509-8945></p> <p>(e) maurahartzman@gmail.com</p>
6/8/2020 3:54:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Caroline and I'm a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the city Council to divest from the police and invest in black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested safety strategies including supporting black start ups/businesses, eliminating the racial inequality gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding and all-civilian oversight committee, with the power to hold the APD and individual officers responsible.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>blackavldemands.org</p> <p>Caroline</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>Our names are Aryelle Jacobsen, Elizabeth Leonard, and Jessica Villatoro and we are some of the head organizers of the 2018 March for Our Lives Asheville rally. We received an influx of support from the community and local government in response to our fight against gun violence. We had, and still do deeply appreciate the positive responses to our activism. Now, however, we would like to draw attention to the fact that similar youth advocates for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement have not received the same amount of support. It is our personal belief that within this dichotomy of responses, there is an evident preference for deracialized politics and white privilege—perhaps even indicative of white supremacy—within our community and government structures.</p> <p>It is important to acknowledge that we have benefited from white supremacy not only in our activism, but also personally. However, this only proves how our society must resolve this inequality that plagues our society on both a local and national level. In Asheville, we have a history of slave ownership, and it is seemingly celebrated by public memorials such as the Vance Monument and the downtown plaque dedicated to Robert E. Lee. These are only a couple of the countless memorials and statues that memorialize slave owners and Confederate figures in the South. We do not hide our racist past, but downplay the effects that this past has had on racial relations, and we ignore the continued mistreatment of black communities not just in the South, but within the United States as a whole. Most recently, this systemic and societal bias against black and brown communities has manifested in the unjust and horrendous murder of George Floyd</p> <p><https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html> (please note that all linked articles and videos may contain graphic and potentially triggering material; however, we believe that it is important to remind people of these instances, and provide additional support for our claims). This is not the first time that a black man has been choked to death by the police, either. In 2014, Eric Garner was murdered <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2014/dec/04/i-cant-breathe-eric-garner-chokehold-death-video> in New York City in the exact same way. Two different black men, in two different states, police jurisdictions, and six years apart, were killed in the exact same way. It is our fear that, if uncorrected, our own police and justice system could allow a similar murder in the future, or a murder akin to Breonna Taylor <https://www.nytimes.com/article/breonna-taylor-police.html>, Tamir Rice <https://www.gq.com/story/tamir-rice-story>, Philando Castile <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40357355>, Trayvon Martin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngCHxik_ZuY>, and countless others <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/06/07/black-lives-matters-police-departments-have-long-history-racism/3128167001/></p> <p>.</p> <p>These fears are not unfounded, either, considering the Asheville Police Department's (APD) own history with police brutality and accountability. Notably, in August 2017, Johnnie Rush <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2019/01/22/asheville-police-beating-transcript-johnnie-rush-arrest-resist-jaywalking-delay-obstruct-charge/2552601002/> was harassed and beaten by a white police officer, Christopher Hickman. After being tackled by Hickman, Rush is forcibly held to the ground. Rush then repeats "I can't breathe," over and over again, without Hickman acknowledging Rush's words. While Rush was able to walk away from this encounter with the police, George Floyd and Eric Garner weren't as lucky. Moreover, a black person surviving a police encounter should not be considered "luck," and yet, this is a standard that has been set by both our own police department, as well as too many others all across the United States.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:54:00 PM	Divest from the police now.	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Hanna Norell and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>HCN</p>
6/8/2020 3:54:00 PM	City Council Meeting Comments	<p>To the Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am a Buncombe Country resident and I would like to urge the Council to reallocate funding from APD and put funds towards resources that allow all Asheville residents to thrive and to be safe and feel welcome. APD has shown gross negligence in its treatment of black Asheville residents, as seen in the last weeks where protesters peacefully asking for justice for black lives have been met with rubber bullets and tear gas. The whole nation is asking for their cities to defund the police because it has been shown time and again that they do not make for safer communities. I urge the council to instead put funds toward infrastructure, toward better transit and affordable healthcare, transit, public spaces, and education. I ask that this include the removal of the Vance Monument, which is a dangerous symbol to our community as it glorifies a history of slavery and racial intolerance. These are not Asheville's values. The space ought to be repurposed to honor our black community. Overall, I ask that you use the budget plan to invest in real community safety, which means more resources and less police.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Mary Vance</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:54:00 PM	for today's council that could change the tide forever!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Morgan Overby and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Minneapolis already announced they will be dismantling the police force altogether in an attempt to have the community police themselves with methods that have been thoroughly researched and tested! Now is not the time to be behind the curve!</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Morgan Overby</p>
6/8/2020 3:55:00 PM	Defund the Racist and Escalatory Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Reina Corcoran and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's already overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Reina Corcoran</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 3:55:00 PM

Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,

My name is Reid Carpenter and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.

Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.

Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.

Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?

Thank you,

Reid

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Carolyn Reid Carpenter (she/her)

828-577-0810



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:55:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mariah Cassum and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mariah Cassum</p>
6/8/2020 3:55:00 PM	Asheville City Council Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council (or staff member name),</p> <p>My name is Rebecca Gibney and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rebecca Gibney</p>
6/8/2020 3:56:00 PM	Asheville Fire Fighter pay	<p>To whom it may concern: I support the increase of Asheville fire fighter pay to a minimum of 15\$/hour. Our family has had many friends and family who have been career fire fighters all over the United States. We feel they deserve more pay than what they are receiving due to the risk they face on the job each and every shift. Thank you. Sincerely, Alex Sarka</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:56:00 PM	Proposed Budget Increase for the Asheville Police Department	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>My name is Emily Baker, and I am a resident of Asheville. I am emailing in regard to the proposed budget increase for the Asheville Police Department. My comment is directly from the Black AVL Demands, as I stand with the Black Community of Asheville and wholeheartedly support their demands:</p> <p>"We demand a divestment from the police and investment in Black Communities. 50% of the APD'S budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups and businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable."</p> <p>I implore you, please DO NOT allow the budget increase for the Asheville Police Department.</p> <p>Thank you, Emily Baker</p>
6/8/2020 3:56:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>My name is Samuel Sprinkle and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history and potential to progress and grow.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Samuel "Landon" Sprinkle</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:57:00 PM	Defund the APD in the 2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Noah Hall. I'm an Asheville resident, a small business owner, community volunteer, co-chair of Asheville Democratic Socialists of America, and a father. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more visible and courageous commitment to racial justice. Delay the budget vote so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality, and towards community control.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Furthermore I ask that in assessing these changes, we look beyond what may have the greatest impact on crime rates, and pay attention to initiatives and policy changes that will specifically reduce the rates of violence and abuse of power by our police and carceral system.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that reduces our reliance on violent enforcement and punishment, and instead puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Noah Hall</p>
6/8/2020 3:57:00 PM	Budget increase apd	<p>Sent with [ProtonMail](https://protonmail.com) Secure Email.</p> <p>I am writing to urge council to not increase the APD's budget. If there is 400,000 dollars available in the budget, especially during this economically stressed times, I should hope that money towards the growth of local people, especially black citizens, who have been disenfranchised from the jump. Especially during the last 15 to 20 years of unfettered gentrification all over the city. One only need to stroll down Eagle St. to observe the gutting of black business and culture in our town. It wasn't that long ago that the whole neighborhood was barricaded from Bele Chere, if you will recall. But that was when there was a whole block of thriving black businesses.</p> <p>I would hate to see the the precious few resources we have be wasted on the police. We need to rethink the whole system and do better as a city.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Allie Morris 123 Lookout Rd. Asheville, NC 28804</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:57:00 PM	FUND THE ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY, NOT THE POLICE DEPT.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Isabel Mendía, and I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget Asheville's poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Isabel Mendía isabelmendia96@gmail.com (305) 322-4390</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:57:00 PM	Take bold action now!	<p>I'm a citizen of Asheville. In light of the recent atrocities against people of color, I urge Asheville City Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vote AGAINST the \$400,000 budget increase for APD in this year's budget. - Overhaul local 911 systems to convert them into smart systems that divert calls to specialized teams -- i.e. mental health, substance use, children and family, etc. that are largely staffed by non-police professionals, such as social workers and trauma doctors. - Divert funds from police budgets and invest resources into community-based programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest in affordable housing - Invest in public education - Invest in mental health treatment - Develop 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response capacity - Invest in drug treatment facilities - Invest in public transit - Ban police tactics that are meant to impair peoples' breathing, including all restrictive chokeholds. - Change use of force standard from reasonable, which is nebulous, to necessary. - Implement mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police and law enforcement officers to be completed annually. - Implement mandatory de-escalation and non-violent communication training for all law enforcement officers to be conducted annually. - Implement dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them. Habitual shall be defined by 3 complaints that are either verified by body cam, security camera, or eyewitness. - Establish civilian oversight committees with subpoena powers over law enforcement with powers to investigate and discipline acts of police abuse and killings independently of current law enforcement. - Establish Police Accountability Unit that will review police misconduct and discipline officers for wrongdoing. - Establish penalties for associated officers and the overseeing officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If an officer commits an offense, the overseeing officer is to be held directly accountable. The overseeing officer will not be charged but may be penalized or demoted based on a yearly review of their department. - Officers on the scene that do not intervene when lethal use of force is utilized are also considered to be accomplices for legal purposes in the offense. The charges and penalties to each responsible officer shall be judged by their level of involvement in the offense. Level of involvement shall be judged by a third-party review board dedicated to investigating such offenses. - Implementation of mandatory body camera footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if the camera is manually turned off, disabled, or altered by the officer. <p>Black lives matter. I urge you to move forward with real policy changes that increase police accountability.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>David Ackley</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:58:00 PM	Redirection of funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Naomi Schindler and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Naomi Schindler</p>
6/8/2020 3:58:00 PM	City Council Budget to support Black communities	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is Morgan Dickie and I am a white, 25 year old woman. I have been a resident of Asheville for 7 years. I have loved living here and am excited about some positive changes I see in our future.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. I have read over them and urge you to consider supporting them all. With the budget up for consideration tomorrow, I ask City Council to divest from the generous police budget and invest in Black communities. 50% or more of Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including plans to support Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>While I see the good intentions of the police, I believe that if we want to see real, good change and positive impacts on our community, we need to lean into transformative justice. Redistributing this budget out of the APD and into Black communities will eliminate some of the issues and violence used by the police. If this money can be used to support individual Black businesses, Black children in schools, and Black communities struggling with our housing crisis, there will be less need for the police to intervene. We cannot reach justice and peace by keeping things the same, we have to get to the root issues.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. I will be so proud to continue living in Asheville with these changes and knowing the city's budget is supporting and representing all communities, especially Asheville's Black communities to take a step towards justice and equality in our city.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Morgan Dickie</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:58:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Leif Zikade and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Leif Zikade</p>
6/8/2020 3:59:00 PM	Budget improvements proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nate Senna and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nate Senna</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:59:00 PM	Support all of the Black Asheville Demands	<p>My name is Stacey Smith and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Stacey Smith</p>
6/8/2020 3:59:00 PM	Concern for Our Community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kierra and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kierra</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 3:59:00 PM	We need change	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Aida Courtenay-Smith and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Aida Courtenay-Smith</p>
6/8/2020 4:01:00 PM	June 9 City Council Meeting	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Joe and I'm a lifelong Asheville resident and I am emailing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented Saturday.</p> <p>I urge the council to divest a portion the Asheville Police Department's budget and reinvest those funds into Black communities. 50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be diverted into long-term community safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding the creation of an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>-Joe</p>
6/8/2020 4:01:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Laura Holst and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Laura Holst</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:01:00 PM	Demand to Delay Budget Vote	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sophie Miller and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? This is incredibly important. Please, do this for the betterment of our community.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sean Mack</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:01:00 PM		<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Melissa Summers and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The demonstrations that have swept our nation are explicitly about police brutality and violence against black people at the hands of police officers. However, just as important, these demonstrations are about the 400 year long struggle of systemic racism and white supremacy that black people have been forced to negotiate and fight against.</p> <p>With that said, while strict control and accountability of the APD must be enacted, we as a city must do a lot more to repair the structural and racist harms enacted by our city and our country against black people.</p> <p>As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>Specifically, to give full credence to the brutal history of white supremacy in this city, I demand that: (1) the city of Asheville remove the Robert E. Lee and Vance monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many black Ashevilleians that built this city, and (2) all street names in Asheville named after slave owners are replaced with names that honor black leaders.</p> <p>By replacing these monuments and street names with tributes to black Ashevilleians, the city of Asheville can begin the long journey of repairing the past and continuing harm of Asheville's black community. These actions should be coordinated and managed by a committee of black and POC leaders from our Asheville community.</p> <p>Sincerely signed,</p> <p>Melissa Summers</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:02:00 PM	DON'T Defund The Police	<p>Please understand, There is a lot of hate and misconception going on in the world right now and I understand the frustration of the people. But, whatever you do, do not defund Asheville's law enforcement. I believe they are good people who are working to make things right and protect the people of this city. Media is skewing a lot of opinions and making people think that because one police officer did something terrible, that means all police officers are racist killers. That is wrong. If you can do anything, step up the guidelines and regulations that it will take to become an officer. Create more in depth background checks and psychological screenings. Make the academies and schooling more difficult. Do what you can to sift out the people who aren't fit to protect us and to keep the people who are. This city and this nation needs strong and caring leaders to protect its people, defunding the police will only harm us. Do what you can to abolish the racism and hate while building up good officers to protect us. Thank you for taking the time to read this.</p> <p>Shylee Stocks</p>
6/8/2020 4:02:00 PM	Defund the APD in the 2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chad Kletschka and I'm a resident of Asheville's Oakley neighborhood. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice.</p> <p>I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Chad</p> <p>-- Chad - via mobile</p>



THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 4:02:00 PM

Adjust the budget

Dear Asheville City Council,

My name is Robin Landy and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.

I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.

Thank you,

Robin Landy

Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Good Afternoon</p> <p>My name is Christopher Menjivar, and I am a concerned and, frankly angry, citizen of Asheville. While I only made Asheville my permanent home 4 years ago, I have been coming to Asheville and the surrounding area for 17 years, beginning with my freshman year at the University of North Carolina. I met my fiancé there, an Asheville native, and while we spent time in New York after graduation, we always knew we wanted to make North Carolina our home. We thought North Carolina was a great place to live and raise a family, and we wanted to do our part to make it better.</p> <p>You may not know this by looking at me, but I am the proud son of a single mother - a hardworking, strong willed, and determined undocumented immigrant from El Salvador. The reason you may not assume this of me is because I am 6 feet tall and light skinned, much like my father, a Puerto Rican man who was never in the picture. Depending on the scenario, I can be the darkest or the lightest man in the room. Depending on the scenario, I can be seen as a threat, maybe because my hair is a little puffy that day, I'm running with a hood on, or what have you. Depending on the scenario, I may not be treated equally to my fellow citizens. Depending on the scenario, I HAVE been treated unequally to my fellow citizens. Life as a minority is more difficult than most can imagine.</p> <p>Due to my being light skinned however, I can avoid a racially charged situation by saying my last name is "Mason" and not "Menjivar." I don't have an accent, and so hearing me speak won't set off any alarms that you're necessarily dealing with a minority.</p> <p>But, you know what? A Black man cannot hide the fact that he's Black (not that he should EVER feel that he needs to hide it, but that's a whole different issue). The second one of our Black brothers and sisters steps outside of their home, they are a target. Having graduated from UNC with a degree in Political Science & History, none of this is very new to me.</p> <p>Nonetheless, I never in my lifetime thought I would see the actions of our police department, empowered by our mayor, that I saw last week. In response to a national movement to bring about much needed racial change in this country, our mayor tried to not only shut us all up, but also put peaceful protestors - HER CONSTITUENTS - in harm's way. It raised a lot of questions - but the one thing it made clear is this:</p> <p>The police have had their proverbial knee on Black and minority peoples' necks for far too long - and we have had enough.</p> <p>I am disgusted with the actions of the police department over this last week and throughout the history of this city. As a direct result of the mayor's actions and the unending number of excuses made for this violence against protesters, I demand that the city not approve the \$400k budget increase, and further, I demand that you defund the Asheville Police Department budget at this Tuesday's council meeting. I am aware that police benefits are the cause of this increase; I also am aware that the money which purchases heavy artillery for use by the APD could easily be divested into personnel salaries - unless of course you all plan on using the police to attack your constituents again and are in dire need of military grade supplies.</p> <p>To be clear, no money should be given to increase police salaries until drastic changes are made within the police department.</p> <p>I demand that EVERY officer who was involved in the use of force last week against peaceful protestors be disciplined, and if necessary, dismissed from the police force. The chief of police must apologize to the Black community for years of targeting Black (especially queer) citizens. My con</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:03:00 PM	Urgent: moving towards a better future	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kurt Thaessler and I've been a resident of Asheville since 2005. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice.</p> <p>I demand that the *budget vote *be* delayed *so that Council may find ways to* redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.* I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a *living wage*, access to holistic* health services and treatment*, *education*al opportunity, and stable *housing* are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <http://populardemocracy.org>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kurt Thaessler</p>
6/8/2020 4:04:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ophia and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ophia (nee Jaclyn Horn)</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Daniel O'Grady and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-Daniel</p>
6/8/2020 4:04:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Kelly Freeman and I am a resident of Asheville. As a therapist and social worker in the community, I feel very strongly that investing in proactive mental health, economic, and social welfare services, as opposed to reactively increasing police budgets will work to address the root of the needs of our city. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Kelly Freeman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:04:00 PM	Please stop teargassing peaceful protesters- and more	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Madalyn wofford and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madalyn</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:05:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chloe Moore and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am also a member of Sunrise Movement Asheville, and a Black and Latina woman. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I cannot tell you what it means to be a Black person and to be over policed. I cannot tell you what it feels like when I have gone to my place of work, the Shiloh Community Garden which I love deeply, and to be regarded with suspicion and distrust from white police officers, who have questioned me or simply sat and watched me until I leave. I cannot tell you how damaging this treatment is in the long-term because it is unspeakable--and it is through both my privilege and luck that nothing worse has happened to me at the hands of the APD. Not everyone has my privilege or my luck. But you have an opportunity to do something about it.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chloe Moore</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:05:00 PM	Meeting Code 8958, Public Hearing Item D	<p>As a fellow firefighter from a different municipality I would like to voice my support for increasing Asheville Fire Fighter pay to a minimum of \$15/hour. Paying these men and women any less is atrocious. Compare the pay in other cities around the state and the nation and you'll find you are paying way below market value. Factor in the cost of living for the Asheville area and it's criminal the lack of compensation for AFD. This encourages young firefighters to get hired, get trained to Asheville's high standards, then leave for a higher-paying city. AFD is becoming a stepping stone department. From the conversations I've had it sounds like City Council has ignored these men and women for decades and given countless empty promises to take care of them. They are now the lowest paid hourly employees in the city, while being on the front lines of a pandemic and civil unrest. They should not be forced to work second and third jobs to put food on the table when they are already putting in a minimum of 56 hours a week. Their rest days should be dedicated to time with their families and properly resting after busy nights and sleep deprivation. There are countless studies that show the long term health affects firefighters face from sleep deprivation, exposure to countless carcinogens, PTSD and work-related stress. They should not be forced into long commutes just to afford cheaper housing in a different city, county or even state. The City of Asheville should be paying a wage that allows them to actually live within the community they serve.</p>
6/8/2020 4:05:00 PM	On Defunding the Police	<p>Hello, My name is Ciaran Leavy, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I'm writing in support of the demands presented by a collective of Black leaders in our community. We demand a divestment from the police and an investment into Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Thanks, Ciaran</p>
6/8/2020 4:05:00 PM	Defund abusive, lying and for profit police force.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you</p> <p>In my personal experience, your police force believed since I was riding a scooter I MUST have a DUI. They dragged me around after a car accident saying they couldnt help me walk because I was bleeding too much. After discovering I didnt lie, I had no previous charges, they came up with a bogus blood test leaving me with a DUI for the rest of my life to avoid getting sued.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:06:00 PM	DEFUND THE APD	<p>My name is Saskia Baden and I am an Asheville native now living on the West Coast.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, Saskia Baden</p>
6/8/2020 4:06:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Will Baker and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and finding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Terrapin Schulte-Hilton and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Although this is not written in my own words, I, Terrapin Schulte-Hilton, fully support every idea within the above text and I hope you will listen to every person who shares my sentiments by sending this email. We need equality NOW.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Terrapin Schulte-Hilton</p>
6/8/2020 4:07:00 PM	PLEASE HELP BLACK COMMUNITIES	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 4:07:00 PM	APD Budget	<p>My name is Courtney and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Courtney McCracken</p>
6/8/2020 4:07:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Operating Budget	<p>Hello, my name is Alex LeSueur and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. I am emailing to urge the City to adjust the subject fiscal year budget.</p> <p>We need to begin divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the Asheville Police Department and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I urge every Council member to support this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Alex LeSueur</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:07:00 PM	City Council Meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Philip Treutel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. A \$400,000 budget increase is not what this department needs.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>-Warm Regards,</p> <p>Philip Treutel, MM Asheville, NC 28801 205-237-1995</p>
6/8/2020 4:07:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>My name is Stephen Petoniak and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday, June 6th, 2020. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. Fifty percent of the Asheville Police Department (APD)'s budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including the support of Black startups/businesses, elimination of the racial opportunity gap in Asheville Public Schools, and funding of an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable for their actions.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Stephen Petoniak</p>
6/8/2020 4:08:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council (or staff member name),</p> <p>My name is Nadea and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:08:00 PM	Alternative Solutions for Addressing Crime	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Abigail Gregson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Abigail G.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:09:00 PM		<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Melissa Summers and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The demonstrations that have swept our nation are explicitly about police brutality and violence against black people at the hands of police officers. However, just as important, these demonstrations are about the 400 year long struggle of systemic racism and white supremacy that black people have been forced to negotiate and fight against.</p> <p>With that said, while strict control and accountability of the APD must be enacted, we as a city must do a lot more to repair the structural and racist harms enacted by our city and our country against black people.</p> <p>As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>Specifically, to give full credence to the brutal history of white supremacy in this city, I demand that: (1) the city of Asheville remove the Robert E. Lee and Vance monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many black Ashevilleians that built this city, and (2) all street names in Asheville named after slave owners are replaced with names that honor black leaders.</p> <p>By replacing these monuments and street names with tributes to black Ashevilleians, the city of Asheville can begin the long journey of repairing the past and continuing harm of Asheville's black community. These actions should be coordinated and managed by a committee of black and POC leaders from our Asheville community.</p> <p>Sincerely signed,</p> <p>Melissa Summers</p>
6/8/2020 4:09:00 PM	Defund Police	<p>My name is Dillon Bailey and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that we're presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. Fifty percent of APD's budget should be invested in the long term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:09:00 PM	Support Black Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Alexandra and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Sebastian Collett, and I've lived in Asheville for 22 years, where I am also a home and business-owner.</p> <p>The actions of the Asheville Police Department have once again brought violence and unrest to our city, not to mention nationwide embarrassment. This past week alone, APD launched tear gas at unarmed peaceful protesters, and destroyed medic stations that were supporting everyone's safety. That behavior is not what this city represents, and we will not tolerate it. There has been a long-standing pattern of injustice within our city police department, and changes must happen immediately to allow Asheville residents to move forward in a relationship of trust with those who are hired to protect us. The Asheville Police Department needs to be reminded that they, too, are not above the law.</p> <p>We hereby demand a moratorium on the proposed budget increase to Asheville Police Department. With some of the highest racial disparities in traffic stops and enforcement in North Carolina, and ongoing outright discrimination and violence towards Black residents, that department has not even remotely earned a budget increase. Those funds should instead go to meet community needs such as affordable housing, transit, mental health services, mediation and crisis intervention. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons.</p> <p>The Minneapolis City Council has already paved the way, demonstrating that the goal of replacing the police with more just and humane community-based solutions is entirely within reach, when the political will exists. Numerous community groups are already creating these alternatives to policing, but they are drastically under-funded. It's time to bring these groups to the table, and let the residents of Asheville decide who can make them more safe. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality, and create real safety for our communities.</p> <p>Until we reach that goal, we demand the following reforms:</p> <p>Demands for the Reform of Law Enforcement Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police officers and law enforcement to be completed every 6 months.• De-escalation training and non-violent communication mandatory for all law enforcement officers annually.• Dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them.• Accountability and traceability; if an officer has been dismissed he/she is not allowed to move to another county or state to get a new law enforcement job. They will also be placed on an anti-policing registry that can be viewed online.• Penalties for associated officers on the scene are also considered to be accomplices or legal purposes in the offense.• Mandatory body cam footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if it is turned off manually.• End no-knock raids.• Ban police tactics that impair breathing including all chokeholds. <p>In addition, as a white resident of Asheville, and as someone who benefits daily from the many contributions made by people of color in Asheville, I feel it is the least I can do to put my full support behind the demands of Asheville's Black Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• INVEST-DIVEST:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We Demand a Divestment from the Police and Investment in Black Communities• 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable• REPARATIONS<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We Demand Repair for the Past and Continuing Harms Inflicted on Asheville's Black Community.• We demand that the Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.• We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.• End the War on Black People• We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department.• We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people). <p>We ask you, the city council, to help reunite our city and demand immediate reallocation of our tax dollars to invest in the safety of our community.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:09:00 PM	DEFUND ASHEVILLE POLICE AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lourdes Stone and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Lourdes Stone</p>
6/8/2020 4:11:00 PM	Asheville needs change.	
6/8/2020 4:11:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Meagan Scroggs and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Mayor Manheimer and Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>The past three months have dealt us unprecedented challenges that will drastically transform the landscape of our community. However, in the past couple of weeks, with the tremendous outpouring of support, compassion, creativity and vigor I have no doubt the soul of Asheville will survive.</p> <p>We can do so much more than just hope that this time in our history marks the ear-piercing wail and the earth-quaking death rattle of unfettered, patriarchal capitalism decaying. We can choose to put every ounce of energy and love for humanity in the kitchen we build for the future.</p> <p>We cannot continue to have our imagination limited by capitalism and the old ways of doing things. The fountain of knowledge is right before us, in our youth. They possess the wisdom and burden of imagining navigating a life in a future where we don't exist. Their climate must take precedence.</p> <p>We cannot continue to uphold or tolerate the patriarchal ways of oppression, discrimination and genocide. We need to follow the lead of our neighbors in our Black and communities of color. They have clarity and a torrent of visions for what transformational change looks like. Their ideas will build a stronger, more resilient and humane city and future.</p> <p>I really want to be in Asheville, I'd love to grow old here, and I so want to help and be part of the rebirth. We have this moment, let's take advantage of it and, together dig deep into our own local resources and craft the community we want to become:</p> <p>I stand behind Black leaders of Buncombe County in their demands <https://www.blackavldemands.org/> for changes to our police department, budget investments, renaming streets and tearing down the confederate monuments.</p> <p>I stand behind CoThinkk's recent letter <https://mailchi.mp/4ab176344847/this-moment?e=ddc40ad7e0> and their vision <https://cothinkk.org/our-values/> for a better community.</p> <p>I would love to see Just Economics work and requests for living wages and access to transit <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H3KJBFARQDQH1jimYDkM7vS2ntwStCG9LDnQFZNqa9U/edit?fbclid=IwAR0-q6QAPanb1OPeYkvaI9ykF-WTgsqw7vm7EqStqu7Y-dL5SjfkfHY3UuSI> be supported.</p> <p>The past few months have proven the impossible can suddenly become very possible. You're not in this alone, you have an amazing community behind you, in front of you and beside you. I know your work isn't easy, let us all help.</p> <p>Thanks to each of you for the love you give to our community.</p> <p>Warmly, Franzi</p> <p>-- *Franzi Charen* *Director*</p> <p><http://ashevillegrown.com/survey> <http://ashevillegrown.com/survey>Resources on the COVID-19 crisis <https://ashevillegrown.com/covid-19></p> <p><https://www.instagram.com/ashevillegrown/></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:11:00 PM	Redirect Money away from Asheville Police Department's Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rachael Kara and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rachael</p> <p>-- Rachael Kara, M.A. CCC-SLP CarePartners Home Health Asheville, North Carolina</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:11:00 PM	Delay the budget vote and reduce the APD budget.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Greg Bonin. I've lived in Asheville for 13 years. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>I expect you to fulfill your duty to consider an alternative budget that significantly reduces the Asheville Police Department's budget and puts a focus on social service programs.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Greg Bonin</p>
6/8/2020 4:12:00 PM	Defund Police	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Jenna Geltman, and I live in Asheville North Carolina. I am writing to show my support for the movement to defund the Asheville Police Department. In light of recent events, it is clear that our police department has become far too powerful and has been free to act destructively with little to no consequence. I stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in the fight for equality and abolishment of racist institutions. I would like to see a change for the better, and I firmly believe that that change can be made by defunding the police and directing funds to our school systems and impoverished areas of need. Thank you for taking the time to consider the overwhelming pleas of our community.</p> <p>Regards, Jenna Allison Geltman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:12:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Taylor Allen and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Taylor Allen</p>
6/8/2020 4:12:00 PM	APD	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is Emily Pauley and I am a resident and small business owner in Asheville, NC. I am writing this email to please ask that you defund the APD, and do not further increase their budget. It has become very clear that our mayor and chief of police value their own property and business more than the citizens of our city that they are supposed to be protecting. APD should be embarrassed that they used tear gas and the destruction of supplies against protesters that were nothing but peaceful. Throwing an empty water bottle doesn't not excuse the extreme force that has been implemented by the APD. Mayor step down. Police chief resign. Game over. Get fucked.</p> <p>Thanks so much for your time,</p> <p>Emily Pauley</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Leslie Rojas and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Leslie Rojas</p>
6/8/2020 4:12:00 PM	400K IS TOO MUCH	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 4:12:00 PM	Asheville needs change.	
		<p>Hi my name is Bryan Thompson and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in black communities . 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups /businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>
6/8/2020 4:12:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:13:00 PM	Budget Perspectives for Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>I hope you are well! My name is Jackson and I'm a resident of Asheville, as well as a local to Brevard/Appalachia as a whole. I am writing about Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>After taking a look at the proposed budget, a few red flags were raised in my mind. For that reason, I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund and reallocate resources from the force.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jackson Van Horn</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:14:00 PM	Fwd: Much Needed Budget changes	<p>----- Forwarded message ----- From: *Chris Hughes* <crshues@gmail.com> Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 Subject: Much Needed Budget changes To: AshevilleCouncil@ashevillenc.gov</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is chris hughes and I'm a 20 year resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? It's the right thing to do and we as a community must do better. This is but one necessary step. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the good news that you have heeded this community's cries for immediate change.</p> <p>Thank you, chris hughes</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:15:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Allani Dye and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Allani Dye</p>
6/8/2020 4:16:00 PM	In support of Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Zoe Linn and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zoe Linn</p>
6/8/2020 4:16:00 PM	Defund APD and TOURISM	<p>\$400,000 absolutely does not need to go into APD. Their spending does not need to increase, we do not need more funding for an institution that works against black communities instead of along side them. This money 100% needs to go into real public safety efforts such as better educational programs, better public transits, mental health health care, and local jobs that will actually hire black people and support local communities instead of HOTELS that worsen it. Stop working against Asheville and start working with it please. Also, tear down the Vance memorial and change the name of Spooks Branch Rd! This is ridiculous!</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:16:00 PM	Request	<p>Dear City Manager Campbell,</p> <p>My name is Jordan Witteveen and I am a former resident of the Asheville area, and now grateful tourist of your beautiful city. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in Asheville's and our country's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jordan Witteveen, concerned citizen and tourist</p>
6/8/2020 4:17:00 PM	Fund Public Safety, not Police Increases!	<p>Colorado Springs, CO</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Selina Kelly and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Selina</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:17:00 PM	Budget Reallocation due to Systemic Racism	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eva Church and I'm a former resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Eva Church</p>
6/8/2020 4:18:00 PM	Tomorrows Meeting RE: Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council and Staff,</p> <p>My name is Grace Engel and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Grace Engel</p>
6/8/2020 4:19:00 PM	2020-2021 Budget	<p>Hello City Council,</p> <p>I would like more funds allocated to asheville city schools, and see a decrease in funds directed to law enforcement. I believe our community should help lead the nation to advocate for education, and let our lawmakers amplify our voices of collaboration, compassion, and citizen-centered policies.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ian Quate 352 depot st #250 Asheville, NC 28801</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:19:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kelsey Arjona and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kelsey Arjona</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:20:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sierra Weavil. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sierra Weavil</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:20:00 PM	Reallocations for Equality	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lindsey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lindsey</p>
6/8/2020 4:21:00 PM	Asheville 2021 Fiscal Year Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Madelyn Ruck and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing to you concerning Mayor Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I have been fortunate to live in many different cities and towns around the world over the past decade, but Asheville is the first place that has felt like home in a long time. It was with great disappointment that I saw this city get national recognition this week. Not for our vibrant art scene, amazing natural scenery, or lively restaurants and breweries, but for an upsetting display of force by the Asheville police department. Asheville police department was completely out of line destroying medical supplies and water bottles and terrorizing protesters.</p> <p>Please take a stand against this unacceptable behavior by significantly reducing funding to the police department. I urge you to redirect funding to invest in poorer and minority communities. It is time to dismantle racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Madelyn Ruck</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:21:00 PM	writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands-please divest from the police	<p>Dear Members of the Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Savage and I live, work, and pay taxes in Asheville. I am writing to say that I support the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities in Asheville. I believe that at least 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. There are so many better, more community minded, ways to spend our tax dollars compared to continuing the excessive outfitting and militarizing of our police.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. Please do the right thing. Please divest from the police.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lauren Savage</p>
6/8/2020 4:22:00 PM	BLACKAVLDEMANDS	<p>My name is Jessica Spiers and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank You, Jessica Spiers</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:22:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Liza Williams and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Liza</p> <p>-- Liza Williams, M.S., CCC-SLP Speech-Language Pathologist (828) 337-5183</p>
6/8/2020 4:23:00 PM	Public Input	<p>Hello City Council members of Asheville,</p> <p>In response to the Mayor's proposed budget, I advocate that funds Policing funds be reduced and redistributed considerably. The police presence and budget in this town does not reflect the needs of its citizens.</p> <p>I presume the current budget proposal is designed for the security and safety of vacationers and out-of-towners. As a citizen and worker in Asheville, this is a clear misstep and oversight by the mayor and council.</p> <p>Our budget should reflect Asheville's civilian population, of all colors. I look forward to the correction of this mistake.</p> <p>Sam Abel Asheville, NC</p>
6/8/2020 4:23:00 PM	APD budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council and Asheville City staff members,</p> <p>My name is Justin Hall and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Justin Hall</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
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Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:23:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Joseph Herbst, and I've been living in and working as a professional musician in Asheville on and off for the past few years. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Joseph Herbst *Composer, Arranger, and Saxophonist* *864.525.2767* *https://www.josephherbstmusic.com <https://www.josephherbstmusic.com> * *Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JosephHerbstMusic/> Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/josephherbstmusic/>*</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:23:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>My name is Jessanna and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am calling in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in black communities. At least 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups and businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I Hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jessanna</p>
6/8/2020 4:24:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [YOUR NAME] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, [YOUR NAME]</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:24:00 PM		<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Melissa Summers and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding.</p> <p>With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police.</p> <p>Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies.</p> <p>This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees.</p> <p>This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community.</p> <p>Sincerely signed,</p> <p>Melissa Summers</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:24:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, [x]</p>
6/8/2020 4:24:00 PM	Disgraceful Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council, & City Management,</p> <p>My name is Robyn Kick and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to *divest from the police and invest in Black communities*. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and *funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. *</p> <p>*The amount of money going to the police in this city is deplorable. The people do not want to live in a police state, or a city where sustainability, equality, education, mental health & transportation take a back seat to armed & dangerous people calling themselves peace officers. As we have clearly seen in the last week, they are anything but that.*</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. Do what's right so we can move forward together at this critical moment.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Robyn Kick</p>
6/8/2020 4:24:00 PM	Budget	<p>My name is Andy and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting black startups/business, elimination the social opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Andy Lukacs-Ormond</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:25:00 PM	Budget Perspectives for Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>Hoping this message finds you in good health. My name is Madison and I'm a resident of Asheville and feel so much love for this city and these mountains. I am writing about Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>After taking a look at the proposed budget, a few red flags were raised in my mind. For that reason, I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund and reallocate resources from the force.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madison Samuels</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:25:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Cassie and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cassie Butler</p>
6/8/2020 4:25:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Justin Watson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Justin Watson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:25:00 PM	BLM	<p>My name is Samuel Stanley and I am a resident of Asheville, I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Regards, Sam</p>
6/8/2020 4:25:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Ezra Maille and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Ezra Maille</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:25:00 PM	Public Comment Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Emily Aderman and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. In addition to the long history of negative police activity in the black community, as seen with the events over this past week, (tear gas and rubber bullets on peaceful protestors, the act of destroying medical supplies, and harassment of community members being of service) our police are not engaging appropriately in their civic duty to serve and protect the city/community. I will be holding all of you accountable for more than speeches, apologies, or your good intentions. I want to see actions and I want to know the action steps you plan to take. Transparency and accountability are crucial at this time where trust is not high and the people are not settling for anything less than genuine actions.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you for your time on this matter and your service to our city.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Emily Aderman</p> <p>8282755864</p> <p>eadermanbell@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:25:00 PM	Defund the Asheville PD	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my opinion concerning the Asheville City Council vote on the 2021 budget. In light of recent events, *it is absolutely unacceptable that the Asheville Police Department is slated to receive the majority of funds in the budget.* Instead, I urge you to consider following in the footsteps of Minneapolis city council members, who are taking steps to dismantle their police department and reorient it to become a program dedicated to public safety.</p> <p>Though it will take time, it will be difficult, and mistakes will inevitably be made, the Asheville Police Department has demonstrated a heinous disregard for the lives of citizens and the rights of protestors and *cannot *be allowed to receive such a gross proportion of the city's budget. Instead, a public service dedicated to safety—wherein participants receive training on de-escalation tactics, nonviolence, and racial equity—is what the citizens of Asheville need and deserve.</p> <p>Defund the Asheville Police Department. Appropriate critical funds to feed and house the homeless. In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, funds regularly used to promote the tourist industry can and should be used to instead take care of the people who live here year-round and suffer at the hands of gentrification.</p> <p>I beg you to make the right choice in this critical time. "Be the change you want to see in the world."</p> <p>Sincerely, Molly Howard 251-554-5612 32 Old Camby Road Asheville, NC 28805</p>
6/8/2020 4:26:00 PM	Please rethink budgets!!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Shaban and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Shaban Ayala-Torres</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:26:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is William Reeves and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, William Reeves</p>
6/8/2020 4:26:00 PM	Law enforcement budget	<p>My name is Sara Alford and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing to urge the city council to take action when evaluating budgetary needs and divest from a traditional law enforcement model. Investing in much needed other resources for black and minority communities would greatly benefit all who love our city.</p> <p>We keep imagining that officers of the law can become social workers that can deal with domestic violence, mental illness, sexual assault, hate crimes and elder abuse. In reality police feel under assault because they do not have the right resources, training and education.</p> <p>We've tried police community dialogue sessions, implicit bias training, and body cameras. It didn't work!</p> <p>Please divest finding for law enforcement and invest in better lives for our community!</p> <p>Sara Alford 307. 690.6754</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 4:27:00 PM	Redirect the 2021 budget	Sent from my iPhone
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kendra and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kendra</p>
6/8/2020 4:27:00 PM	Ethical allocation of tax-payer money	Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:27:00 PM	Monuments	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Begin forwarded message:</p> <p>> From: Gertrude Loverbot <zygote55555@gmail.com> > Date: June 8, 2020 at 4:09:03 PM EDT > To: "Restoreallautobody@gmail.com" <Restoreallautobody@gmail.com> > Subject: Fwd: > > > > > ----- Forwarded message ----- > From: Gertrude Loverbot <zygote55555@gmail.com> > Date: Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 4:01 PM > Subject: > To: ashevillecitycounciljune92020@publicinput.com <ashevillecitycounciljune92020@publicinput.com> > > > To whom it may concern, > My name is Jordan Garmon and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The demonstrations that have swept our nation are explicitly about police brutality and violence against black people at the hands of police officers. However, just as important, these demonstrations are about the 400 year long struggle of systemic racism and white supremacy that black people have been forced to negotiate and fight against. > With that said, while strict control and accountability of the APD must be enacted, we as a city must do a lot more to repair the structural and racist harms enacted by our city and our country against black people. > As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville. > I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials. > As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands. > Specifically, to give full credence to the brutal history of white supremacy in this city, I demand that: (1) the city of Asheville remove the Robert E. Lee and Vance monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many black Ashevilleians that built this city, and (2) all street names in Asheville named after slave owners are replaced with names that honor black leaders. > By replacing these monuments and street names with tributes to black Ashevilleians, the city of Asheville can begin the long journey of repairing the past and continuing harm of Asheville's black community. These actions should be coordinated and managed by a committee of black and POC leaders from our Asheville community. > Sincerely signed, > Jordan Garmon</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:27:00 PM	Defund the Police- Budget Hearing 6/9/2020	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Grace Anixter and I am a lifelong resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. As our elected officials, I urge you I urge you to use you power to fight for critical systemic change and work to ensure that Asheville remains a place where lifelong residents, like me, are proud to call home.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Grace Anixter</p>
6/8/2020 4:27:00 PM	June 2020 Budget	<p>FOOD FOR THOUGHT-Spending MORE on schools/education naturally allows you to spend LESS on law enforcement.</p> <p>BETTER OUR CHILDREN- BETTER OUR PEOPLE-BETTER ASHEVILLE-BETTER NC</p> <p>WE CAN DO BETTER</p> <p>Amanda L</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:27:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am writing today to urge you to defund the Asheville Police Department and reinvest those funds into community care programs.</p> <p>With recent protests, police have proven that they cannot be trusted to protect and serve citizens of Asheville. On Wednesday, May 3, I heard a noise on my balcony and went to see what the issue was. What I saw was a line of police meeting up with protesters on Haywood and immediately deploying tear gas. The tear gas wafted onto my balcony and that of my 74-year-old neighbor, who also came out to see what the trouble was. After they had subdued and arrested protesters (one of which sat cuffed in a wheelchair, one who sat with her arms cuffed above her backpack at a very uncomfortable angle,) they congratulated each other. "Good job, team!" I know their orders were to disperse a crowd, but what they really did was weaken the faith I had in this city and prove that police will quickly go to extreme measures when it's Black voices that are calling for freedom.</p> <p>Earlier in the week, I saw photos of police slashing water bottles at a medic station set up to aid protesters. I continue to see that image reposted by friends and strangers from all over the country -- people who probably don't have much of an idea of what Asheville is about. Now they do. Now, Asheville is on par with LA and New York City in its brutality in its response to peaceful protesting.</p> <p>To destroy resources that citizens provided -- with their own dollars in a time of struggle -- to tear gas and arrest demonstrators simply as a means of enforcing an arbitrary curfew -- that's not something I thought I'd see when I moved to this beautiful and vibrant mountain town.</p> <p>I am not asking you to defund the police as a punishment, but because it clearly does not work. Aid workers, community organizers -- the city employees we need most -- those folks don't destroy resources. They don't meet peace or chaos with brutality, and they don't escalate incidents, forcing protesters to act out of fear and confusion. Asheville is a city with heart, full of good people. Its police practices do not reflect that. Asheville is also a city where homelessness is rampant, a clear indicator of a lack of resources for those struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, and chronic homelessness. Police do nothing to combat that. Community aid workers would.</p> <p>Police forces were built to be violent and to be racist. We have an opportunity in Asheville to take a stand and say "We care about our city." We care about all of its people, and we're going to do everything we can to combat federal, state, and local systems that are built to care only about white people.</p> <p>I hope you heed this call. I hope that those injured, arrested, traumatized, and let down by police did not march in vain. I hope this is the city I thought it was. If not, we will not be silent. We will keep on fighting, using our voices, and using our votes.</p> <p>Thank you, Jordan Haeger</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:27:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Chanel Kaminis and I've been a resident of Asheville since 2008. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chanel Kaminis</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:27:00 PM	And that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>A budget that serves the interest of the few is not a budget that we can accept. Directing funds away from an ineffective punishment-based system and towards service that promote the community is an evidence-based way to support the city. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Supporting the people of your city is the best and most direct way to improve the city. Funding a militarized police department that aims to instill fear and control with force can only lead to a divided and, ultimately, city of destruction. This will no longer be a city that tourists want to visit, where parents want to raise their children, or where the elderly dream of retiring.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Other countries warn their citizens of our police when they travel here in the same ways the State Department warns our citizens of the cartel, rapist, and murders when traveling. This cannot be how our country is viewed and change must start locally.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them and individuals are held accountable for their actions in and out of uniform.</p> <p>Please, consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs. This is in the best interest of the people and the community of Asheville.</p> <p>"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."- Ida B. Well</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Robin Ellege</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:28:00 PM	Proposed Budget Increase for the APD	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I hope this email finds you well. My name is Casey Brown, and I have grown up in the Asheville area the past 14 years of my life. I am commenting on the proposed budget increase for the APD. I, amongst many other, stand with the black community of Asheville and support their demands 100%. We demand a divestment from the police and investment into the black communities of our city. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested into long-term safety strategies, including supporting black startups and/or businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap that is present in the city of Asheville and the schools of Asheville, and finding an all-civilian oversight committee with the ability to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I, along with the people of Asheville, ask that you please DO NOT allow the proposed budget increase for the APD.</p> <p>Sincerely, Casey Brown</p>
6/8/2020 4:29:00 PM	APD funding	<p>I do not support the APD receiving any additional funding. In this climate it would benefit the city far more to spend this money on non oppressive programs.</p> <p>Thanks Joseph Crawley</p>
6/8/2020 4:29:00 PM	Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Christina Hughes and I am a resident of Asheville and a 1st grade teacher with Asheville City Schools. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Christina Hughes Christina Hughes 1st Grade Teacher Claxton Elementary</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time

Subject

Text

6/8/2020 4:29:00 PM

Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,

My name is Kamiel Strongheart and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.

Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <<https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.

Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.

Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?

Thank you,

Kamiel Strongheart



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dorothy Allen and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dorothy Allen</p>
6/8/2020 4:29:00 PM	End Support of Oppressive Police	<p>Asheville is a community that expects morality, respect, and decency from the police department. Especially now, the Asheville Police Department has felt like an outside force and not a part of the Asheville community, which NEEDS to change. If the role of police is to protect the people it is working for, then reform must happen here.</p> <p>Within the past week, the militarized response of the APD is very heavy handed and unacceptable, including attacking a medic station.</p> <p>Taxpayer dollars should be helping community members, NOT funding the tools and materials in which police use against us. Divest the APD and invest in the community, specifically the black community. A \$30 million dollar proposed budget for the APD could be redirected and serve Asheville in a revolutionary and powerful way.</p> <p>One way to be a leading city in our nation is to reimagine public safety. We can do this by moving money away from the police force and into other areas that focus on education, affordable housing, economic security, and mental health. Many social service agencies and community organizations can serve as alternatives to policing. Let's support our community members who are experts in human connection rather than being controlled and brutalized by our police. We can be a better Asheville.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Ariana Lindsay</p>
6/8/2020 4:30:00 PM	Defund the APD	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:30:00 PM	A budget proposal that supports Asheville citizens	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Tatiana and I am a proud Latina resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tatiana Arturo</p>
6/8/2020 4:30:00 PM	Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Hayley and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Hayley Elliott</p>
6/8/2020 4:30:00 PM	Defund AVL Police	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Carly Jernigan and I am an Asheville resident. I'm writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge you to divest from the police and invest instead in our local Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be directed to long-term safety strategies including supporting black startups & businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support for this essential policy shift. Help our city to live up to the ideals that we're known for!</p> <p>Thank you, Carly Jernigan</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:30:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Ethan and I'm a resident of Burnsville NC. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Ethan</p>
6/8/2020 4:31:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Mefford Williams and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mefford</p>
6/8/2020 4:31:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Matt Winship and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Matt Winship</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:31:00 PM	Asheville Deserves Racial Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah Hooker and I'm a resident and small business owner in West Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah Hooker</p>
6/8/2020 4:31:00 PM	We need a change: Budget redirection and a way to move forward	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Taylor Fitzgerald and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Taylor Fitzgerald</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:31:00 PM		<p>My name is Marilyn Whitche and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Balck Asheville that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Conil to divest from the police and invest in Blac communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating racial opportunity gaps in Asheville City Schools and funding an all civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can coin on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. Thank you *"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom" Anais Nin*</p>
6/8/2020 4:31:00 PM	Law enforcement budget	<p>My name is Tyler Alford and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>>></p> <p>>> I am writing to urge the city council to take action when evaluating budgetary needs and divest from a traditional law enforcement model. Investing in much needed other resources for black and minority communities would greatly benefit all who love our city.</p> <p>>></p> <p>>> We keep imagining that officers of the law can become social workers that can deal with domestic violence, mental illness, sexual assault, hate crimes and elder abuse. In reality police feel under assault because they do not have the right resources, training and education.</p> <p>>></p> <p>>> We've tried police community dialogue sessions, implicit bias training, and body cameras. It didn't work!</p> <p>>></p> <p>>> Please divest finding for law enforcement and invest in better lives for our community!</p> <p>>></p> <p>>> Tyler Alford >> 336-655-8025 >> >></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:31:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Bana Haffar and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591651104973000&sa=D&ust=1591651105004000&usg=AFQjCNFpaoCGjif9CFo9JmPg_cCfp4SPjQ>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Bana</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p>
6/8/2020 4:31:00 PM	do what's right	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 4:32:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>My name is Ashley and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:32:00 PM	Fund the community, not the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Laura Hopkins and I'm a resident of Swannanoa. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Laura Hopkins</p> <p><http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail> Virus-free. www.avg.com <http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail> <#DAB4FAD8-2DD7-40BB-A1B8-4E2AA1F9DF2></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:32:00 PM	Re:	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>> On Jun 8, 2020, at 4:23 PM, Gertrude Loverbot <zygote55555@gmail.com> wrote:</p> <p>></p> <p>></p> <p>> To whom it may concern,</p> <p>> My name is Melissa Summers and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>> I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>> As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>> Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding.</p> <p>> With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police.</p> <p>> Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies.</p> <p>> This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees.</p> <p>> This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community.</p> <p>> Sincerely signed,</p> <p>> Melissa Summers</p>
6/8/2020 4:32:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katarina Brown and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Katarina Brown</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:33:00 PM	Public Comment for City Council	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lily Martin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lily Martin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:33:00 PM	Please defund the Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alena Ross Becker and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alena Ross Becker</p>
6/8/2020 4:33:00 PM	Next year's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council</p> <p>My name is Emily Carmona and I am a resident of Black Mountain. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Emily Carmona</p>
6/8/2020 4:33:00 PM	June 2020 Meeting	<p>Hello members of Asheville City Council,</p> <p>How are you all planning on addressing the Black Lives Matter movement in Asheville? This is an extremely important subject and I have sadly not seen much change in Asheville other than the implementation of curfews meant to restrict protests, rather than address the real issue at hand here: racial inequality. It is sickening and sad that an entire group of people is living in fear and in an unfair society which is biased against them from the start. As a high schooler from Asheville, my peers and I are calling for you as adults to take measures to implement change in the system, starting with the defunding of police forces in Asheville. This would help to eliminate police brutality. I hope that you speak about this during the June 2020 meeting and your additional plans for a better future when it comes to eliminating discrimination and racial bias from Asheville.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lauren Subramaniam</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:33:00 PM	DEFUND POLICE AND REINVEST IN COMMUNITIES	<p>Hello, my name is Lollipop and I'm a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>In the wake of the police's killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and countless Black Americans before him, I'm asking that the Asheville City Council make a commitment to racial justice by delaying the budget vote, and using this time to find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget into community programs.</p> <p>Please follow 8toabolition.com <http://8toabolition.com>'s recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defund Police 2. Demilitarize Communities 3. Remove police from schools 4. Free people from jails and prisons 5. Repeal laws that criminalize survival 6. Invest in community self-governance 7. Provide safe housing for everyone 8. Invest in care, not cops. <p>Please fix the damage you have caused with your racist system, your targeting of Black Asheville citizens, and your violence committee against protestors. Justice is long overdue. Commit to abolition and defunding.</p> <p>Lollipop</p>
6/8/2020 4:34:00 PM	Budget Recommendations	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Jeremy Jones and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jeremy Jones</p>
6/8/2020 4:35:00 PM	Asheville Defund Demands	<p>My name is Tessa Snyder and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:35:00 PM	Asheville City Budget	<p>My name is Jamie Gandron and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the Asheville Police Department and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Jamie Gandron</p>
6/8/2020 4:35:00 PM	Abolish the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>Our current system of policing is violent and racist. Abolish the police and redistribute their funding to underserved communities. Create a radically new and different system for public safety.</p> <p>Sincerely, Brent Hartmann Asheville Resident</p>
6/8/2020 4:35:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Harrison Sytz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Harrison Sytz</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:35:00 PM	Re: petition to remove David Zack as Chief of Police	<p>In addition to my earlier email, I wanted to append a PDF with the signatures and comments, for your easy reference.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Amie Tracey</p> <p>On Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 3:48 PM Celestina <celestinaadams@gmail.com> wrote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Please take the time to look at this petition, which calls for the removal> of David Zack from his position as Chief of Police, due to his> mismanagement of the police response to the Asheville protests,> particularly with regard to the raiding of a medical tent in downtown> Asheville.>> Over 3,500 people have signed, and many, many have left comments.>>> https://www.change.org/p/mayor-esther-e-manheimer-remove-chief-zack-as-asheville-chief-of-police>> Thank you,>> Amie Tracey> Asheville Resident, 28803>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Mayor Manheimer and Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Claudette Silver and I've been an Asheville resident for almost thirteen years.</p> <p>As you undertake the budget process, I am writing today to specifically share my alignment and full support of Black AVL Demands <https://www.blackavidemands.org/>, as well as CoThinkk's recent letter <https://mailchi.mp/4ab176344847/this-moment?e=ddc40ad7e0> and their vision <https://cothinkk.org/our-values/> for a better community. I also support Just Economics work and requests for living wages and access to transit <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H3KJBFARQDQH1jimYDKM7vSZntwStCG9LDnQFZNqa9U/edit?fbclid=IwAR0-q6QAPanb1OPeYkvaI9ykF-WTgsqw7vm7EqStqu7Y-dL5SjKfHY3UuSl> be supported.</p> <p>I have lived in many places in our country and can honestly say that Asheville continues to show me why I live here, and while I love it here. I will also help realize these visions to the best of my abilities and ask you each leverage your leadership to do the same.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Claudette Silver</p> <p>Claudette Silver Silver Muse Productions web // silvermuse.net <http://silvermuse.net/> cell // (828) 318-3233</p>
6/8/2020 4:36:00 PM	Public Comment for Budget Process	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Phoebe Krisinski and I am a UNC Asheville graduate who has lived in Asheville for eight years. I am emailing today on the topic of the Mayors 2021 budget, and asking that the city of Asheville make an overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I urge you to pressure the City Managers Office toward an ethical reallocation of ADP funding.</p> <p>Research has demonstrated that investment into social programs is more effective in reducing crime than police or prisons. (Source: Popular Democracy)</p> <p>The budget vote must be moved back so that City Council can take more time to plan for the reallocation of funds from the Asheville Police Department and into social support programs such as living wage programs, educational opportunity, stable housing, and other supportive programs.</p> <p>The city of Asheville has historically placed the importance of tourism revenue over the equality of its Black citizens. During multiple urban renewal projects, Black Ashevilleian homeowners were disenfranchised and their personal property was taken away under the principals of public domain. In this process, black homeowners were forced to become renters, and their generational wealth was decreased or completely lost. (Source: https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/wcu/f/Nickollof2015.pdf)</p> <p>DO NOT leave your citizens behind. Black communities in Asheville deserve attention and support. Show them that you are committed to equity by re-allocating funds from ADP and into social support.</p> <p>Thank you, Phoebe Krisinski</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:36:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kelsey Arjona and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kelsey Arjona</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:36:00 PM	City Budget Comment	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>As you know, the police department is the largest expenditure in our city budget. Budget session after budget session we hear proposals to increase a department that is already bloated and demonstrably inhumane. This communicates a lack of imagination from you, our representatives, about how to keep Asheville safe and a lack of concern for the welfare of our black and poor residents who continue to suffer for the comfort of rich white tourists.</p> <p>Black leaders of Asheville call on you to divest from the police and invest in black communities. To repair past and continuing harms inflicted on Asheville's black community. To end the war on black people through increased accountability. These motions are imperative. Especially now.</p> <p>Especially as the senseless murders of black people at the hands of the police incite an international rebellion. In the midst of a pandemic wherein dead bodies are piling up as the result of a serially underfunded and racialized public healthcare system. As the world watches on and condemns the conduct of APD in response to Black Lives Matter protests. As Asheville jails are unequivocally the greatest threat to public health in this city. We will not allow you to trade away vital funding for public education to better arm a department that unabashedly tear gasses children.</p> <p>We have not forgotten Jerry Williams. And we will not forget your names if you choose to move forward with this budget. If you sign on to throw more money at APD, expect to lose your jobs. Expect to lose your dignity in this community. Some of y'all responded to calls to empty our city jails during COVID-19 by claiming that, while you sympathize, it is not in the council's jurisdiction to do so. Well it is your job to decide the budget. Not only should you vote against the proposal to expand APD's budget, you should make a pledge right here, right now, to defund the police department in this session. A pledge that we, your constituents, will hold you to.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Kato Shelledy</p>
6/8/2020 4:37:00 PM	Community focused Reform	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Dennis and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Dennis Byrne</p>




June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michael Thomas and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Michael Thomas</p>
6/8/2020 4:37:00 PM	Decision about the 2021 budget	<p>Enviado desde mi iPhone</p> <p>My name is Lynn Dingle and I am a resident of asheville.</p>
6/8/2020 4:37:00 PM	Asheville defend demands	<p>I am writing in support of the black Asheville demands that were presented Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge city council to divest from the police and invest in black communities. 50% of the APD's budge thinks be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in asheville city schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that u can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:37:00 PM	URGENT: Re Our AVL Annual Budget 	<p>Dear City Council and Mayor Manheimer,</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> Leadership is not easy. So before I make a request, I want to thank you for doing your best to steward our community. You have hard decisions to make and a huge responsibility.</p> <p>>>> We must address systemic and institutionalized racial inequality in our city.</p> <p>>>> Racism is a public health crisis.</p> <p>>>> It's going to take courageous and humane leadership and new action.</p> <p>>>> While I appreciate the steps Mayor Manheimer and Chief Zack have taken to apologize for the actions of the APD earlier this week, it is clearly not enough and I suspect you know that.</p> <p>>>> To that end, I implore you to take additional and courageous next steps regarding our city budget and policing policies on TUESDAY.</p> <p>>>> Not only will these steps outlined below rebuild trust, but beyond that they are sensible and humane approaches to creating safety, equality and unity for our community.</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> I am writing to request and strongly encourage each of you to take action on the following requests:</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> 1. VOTE NO on the \$400,000 budget increase that APD is requesting.</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> 2. Reduce APD's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget AND to reallocate funds that are cut to take action on reforming racial and social inequality within Asheville.</p> <p>>>> \$60,000 to "recruit minority businesses" in our \$190 Million 2019-2020 budget does not demonstrate commitment and effort towards combating institutionalized racial and social inequity.</p> <p>>>> I urge you to consider reallocating from what appears to be an overly funded police department towards community-oriented, non-violent public safety and outreach programs. Research has shown they work.</p> <p>>>> PREVENTION IS ESSENTIAL. Please consider reallocating funds from the APD annual budget create a well-funded (\$1.5 Million = 5%) coalition of leaders, organizations, and allies from the Black and LatinX communities in the Asheville area. Through that coalition, develop a 1- and 5-year strategic plan to enact local programs and initiatives that work to reverse the racial and social inequality that still exists in our community. Ignorance breeds fear, fear breeds hatred, hatred breeds destruction. Attitudes and actions can change. Mutual trust, appreciation, respect, care and even love can emerge when people really listen, share their vulnerability and get to know one and other.</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> 3. Each of you, as Mayor and City Council, sign the pledge to address and reform our "police use of force policies", and include these 8 policies outlined by Campaign Zero to reduce police violence by up to 72% - aka 8 Can't Wait.</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> 4. Additionally, Mayor Manheimer, I call on you to sign the pledge to address and reform our police use of force policies in order to demonstrate your commitment to addressing the issues around police use of force.</p> <p>>></p> <p>>>> My name is Morgan and I would love to see a change here in Asheville. I relocated here a few years ago, but have been involved in the Asheville community through summer jobs long before then.</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> We have the opportunity to use this crisis to take action that is congruent with the values of our city and home.</p> <p>>>> Please stand up courageously to offer real solutions that the people most affected feel are needed and want to work on together with you.</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> Sincerely,</p> <p>>>></p> <p>>>> Morgan Shuler</p> <p>>></p> <p>>></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:37:00 PM	2021 Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katie Drennan and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget, which makes up the majority of the funds. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katie Drennan</p>
6/8/2020 4:37:00 PM	<p>AIN'T NO POWER LIKE THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE WONT STOP</p>	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Madison and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Madison</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:38:00 PM	Asheville 2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hattie Padgett, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hattie Padgett</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:38:00 PM	Divest from the police	<p>My name is Eric Heveron-Smith, and I have been a resident of Asheville for the past 3 years, and part of the music community for longer. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands, asking City Council to divest from the police force and invest in black communities.</p> <p>I am incredibly disturbed by police actions over the past week. Largely peaceful protestors have been tear gassed, fired upon with rubber bullets, and indiscriminately brutalized. This includes members of the media and street medics, both of whom have been approved legally to operate past the curfew. I was particularly disgusted by the Police Chief's two-faced statement about the officers who slashed water bottles and destroyed medical supplies at a fully legal medical station.</p> <p>The irony of police brutality at a protest against police brutality towards black and brown people should not be lost on you. So I believe we need a massive change in how Asheville's police operate, especially as the over-policing and overuse of force falls hardest on our communities of color.</p> <p>Luckily, we have an opportunity to change. At the upcoming budget meeting, turn down the requested additional \$400,000 per year for the police force. We have seen that, instead of making our community more safe, that money goes towards military equipment entirely inappropriate and unnecessary for our town. In fact, I believe that drastically dropping the level of funds our police force receives would be healthy for our community. I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups and businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools (I write this as the white parent of two white children in the City School district), and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>For some good reporting and hard data on the concept of defunding the police, please read this article at The Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/31/the-answer-to-police-violence-is-not-reform-its-defunding-heres-why</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Eric Heveron-Smith</p> <p>musician, producer, gardener www.eric-hs.com eheveronsmith@gmail.com 585-734-3383</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:38:00 PM	Public Input	<p>Hello, my name is Elizabeth Calderon and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Elizabeth Calderon</p>
6/8/2020 4:39:00 PM	City Budget Vote	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Jeff Horner. I tutor English at A-B Tech, and I live on Alexander Street in East Asheville.</p> <p>Please vote to re-allocate funds that aim less to police our community and more to invest in our growth. I can assure you we're worth it.</p> <p>Thank you, Jeff</p>
6/8/2020 4:39:00 PM	Defund the Asheville Police Department	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing in regard to the budget public hearing scheduled for June 9, 2020.</p> <p>I was born and raised in Asheville and I support defunding the Asheville police department. I believe the justice our community needs would best be placed with activists, educators, social workers, and healthcare providers.</p> <p>Further, I believe the Vance monument should be removed and replaced with a monument designed and constructed by Black artists in Asheville.</p> <p>I am available for further comment or questions should you have them.</p> <p>Sincerely, Hannah Buie</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:39:00 PM	Harry Reaching Out To Asheville City Council	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Harry and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Harry Malesovas</p>
6/8/2020 4:40:00 PM	Black Lives Matter	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jonathan Kirk and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jonathan Kirk</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:40:00 PM	Divesting in Police	<p>Hi I'm a former Asheville resident, my family all lives in Asheville. I am writing to urge the city to divest from the police, beginning w/ next year's budget.</p> <p>Divest from police and invest in black communities. 50% of APD's budget should be reallocated to black start ups, to eliminating the racial opportunity gap in AVL public schools, and towards funding for an all-civilian oversight committee with power to hold APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>So many people I know in Asheville have had traumatizing experiences with APD. So many people I know in Asheville need the support of their city council to flourish. I hope that you will do what's right, and use your positions of power to make the changes the public is begging you to make. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>All my best, Emily Jo Coady</p>
6/8/2020 4:41:00 PM	Considerations	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Myriam Rehberg and I have currently relocated to Sylva, but have been a lifelong resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Myriam Rehberg</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:41:00 PM	Redistribution of funds is needed!!!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Giorgio Dante Campanaro and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Giorgio Dante Campanaro</p>
6/8/2020 4:41:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Kate Wilson and I am a resident of Black Mountain.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that we're presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>
6/8/2020 4:42:00 PM	Please Help!!	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:43:00 PM	Questions for the City Council meeting	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Molly James and I live in North Asheville. Here are my questions regarding the events that occurred in Asheville during the protests.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who specifically on the police force ordered the police to take the extreme actions of using rubber bullets, flash grenades, and Tear Gas against our citizens who were trying to peacefully protest? 2. Who specifically on the police force or elsewhere issued the order for the destruction of the medical station? This also happened in Raleigh (almost exact scenario) so was this an order at a higher level? 3. If this was rogue behavior, the police who destroyed the Asheville medic station had tattoos visible so they could be identified. Will they be fired? 4. Is there access to an itemized list of the police department budget? Specifically, the cost of the rubber bullets, flash grenades, and tear gas, the shields, and the riot gear worn by the officers. How can I obtain that information? 5. When the Mayor says she doesn't understand much about policing, is she aware that this is part of her job? And what is the plan for her to educate herself on this topic? <p>Thank you.</p> <p>*Molly James* President Drug Safety Navigator</p> <p>Molly@DrugSafetyNavigator.com <Kristina@drugsafetynavigator.com> www.drugsafetynavigator.com</p>
6/8/2020 4:43:00 PM	Asheville budget - divest from the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Molly Anderson and I am a resident of West Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Molly Anderson 46 Madeline Ave. Asheville, NC 28806</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:44:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>My name is Kate Wheeler and I am a resident of Asheville and the Market Manager for the East Asheville Tailgate Market. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Best, Kate Wheeler Market Manager *She/Her/Her's*</p>
6/8/2020 4:44:00 PM	People's budget in asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Haley Hyden-Soffer. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Haley Hyden-Soffer.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:44:00 PM	DO NOT FUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Aurora Gantz and I'm a member of the Asheville community. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I ask to not have an increase to the budget. Further more, I ask to decrease the current budget. I ask to direct any budget that would be used for APD to community care instead. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Aurora</p>
6/8/2020 4:44:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eliana and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Eliana Rodriguez</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:45:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Julia and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Julia</p>
6/8/2020 4:45:00 PM		<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michael Hill, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Michael Hill 36 Emory Road</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:45:00 PM	Budget public hearing	<p>My name is Dava Berrong and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budge up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
6/8/2020 4:46:00 PM	Defund APD, fund social programs	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Regan Buchanan, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Regan Buchanan</p>
6/8/2020 4:46:00 PM	AVL DEFUND DEMANDS	<p>My name is Hana Paulsen and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding and all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individuals accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for the essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hana Paulsen</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:46:00 PM	DEFUND AVLPD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Marlee Maultsby and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marlee Maultsby</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 4:46:00 PM	Hear us out:	<p>Hello, my name is Leo Coffey and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Peacefully, Leo Coffey</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:47:00 PM	Asheville 2020/2021 Budget Public Hearing	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Thomas Schambach and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>When I moved to Asheville from San Diego in 2018, it was an utter shock to learn about Wanda Greene and other corrupt Buncombe County officials. The behavior of Officer Chris Hickman and the ADP's compliance with such actions has given me second thoughts the integrity and values coming from Buncombe County and the city of Asheville.</p> <p>Now's your chance to make things right. Now is your opportunity to earn the trust of your community.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Thomas --</p> <hr/> <p>* THOMAS SCHAMBACH *828.719.1515 CREATIVE DIRECTION // DESIGN // PRODUCTION N I G H T W A T C H C R E W . C O M <http://nightwatchcrew.com/></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:47:00 PM	APD Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I am a resident of Asheville, NC. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday, June 6th 2020. I advocate for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million budget, with NO additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive de-escalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, police brutality targeted against Asheville's Black community members persists in this city.</p> <p>In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas and rubber/pepper bullets. APD also needlessly destroyed medical supplies while protests were peaceful. In response to public outrage at this destruction, APD Chief David Zack released a superficial "apology." His response has made it all the more clear that the entire APD do not understand the harm they have inflicted, and continue to inflict.</p> <p>We cannot continue to invest in this department. We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. We demand to end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people). This includes reparations to the Black Community. We demand repair for the past and continuing harms inflicted on Asheville's Black Community.</p> <p>With the budget up for consideration, the only sufficient action moving forward is to divest funds from the Asheville Police Department and to invest those funds into Asheville's Black Community for long-term emergency response programs, community-led health and safety strategies, supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and MUCH MORE.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter. Defund Asheville Police.</p> <p>Sincerely, Forest O.</p>
6/8/2020 4:48:00 PM	Budget	<p>My name is Jamie and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:48:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brian Clarke and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p>
6/8/2020 4:49:00 PM	Defund police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Mary Grace Bigelow and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mary Grace</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:49:00 PM	Defund, Divest, and Abolish Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Paul Shaver and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Minneapolis city council recently voted to dismantle their police force entirely in favor of investing in community building initiatives. If they can do it, we can do it. The ultimate goal should be disbanding the police department and divesting those funds to proven community resources that actually improve the safety of your constituents.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591278452034000&sa=D&ust=1591278452048000&usg=AFQjCNEmig35_qSpX5YofED7bTeXenIFFQ>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Paul Shaver</p> <p>-- *Paul K Shaver* Multimedia Production Asheville, NC 336.906.7949</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:49:00 PM	Support Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Bethany and I am a resident of the Asheville area. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Bethany Root</p>
6/8/2020 4:49:00 PM	Budget Allocation	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sarah, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>SR</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:49:00 PM	APD Budget Input	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Cat Kessler and I am writing to you as a resident of Weaverville who—like most in this county—depends greatly on what happens in Asheville. Asheville is where my son goes to school, where our family goes to church, and where we do much of our shopping, dining, visiting the library, enjoying DTAS, etc.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I too urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. Black Asheville Demands suggest 50% of the APD’s budget be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I spent the last decade of my career working in the tourism industry, so I am well aware that Asheville has some unique needs in terms of public safety and emergency response. What I hope to see in this year’s budget consideration would also include creative ways to address the impact of Asheville’s visitors—besides an increased police budget. What could Asheville do with docents/ambassadors in the central business district? What about unarmed street medic teams (that don’t draw on the otherwise full schedules of firefighters)? How might improved public transit lessen the need for DUI teams and traffic enforcement?</p> <p>Asheville is a creative place full of creative people, and this is the opportune moment to call on that creativity as you help craft what our city will look like in the coming months and years. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city’s history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cat Kessler</p> <p>Weaverville, NC</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:49:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Esme Wessel and I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591638627473000&sa=D&ust=1591638627485000&usg=AFQjCNF-vOwl_9jYWZdqj_HKJley5-5Ghg). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Esme Wessel</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:49:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>My name is Rachel Clay and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rachel Clay</p> <p>--</p> <p>Rachel Clay *Southeast Regional Coordinator, Campus Vote Project* Appalachian State University Alum *919.271.9167* *CVP is a Project of Fair Elections Legal Network*</p>
6/8/2020 4:50:00 PM	My comment for the council meeting	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>Please strongly consider diverting funds from the police budget to invest in resources into community based programs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - affordable housing - mental health treatment - public school education - drug/addiction treatment facilities - 24-hour non-police mental health crisis response <p>Thank you for your consideration. #blacklivesmatter thanks, Eric</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:50:00 PM	Defunding Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ivy Hageman and I'm a resident of and small business owner in Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ivy Hageman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maggie K and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maggie K</p>
6/8/2020 4:50:00 PM	Fight racism in Asheville	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ryland Mettee and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ryland Mettee</p>
6/8/2020 4:50:00 PM	Defund APD	Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Dan Hitesman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dan Hitesman</p>
6/8/2020 4:50:00 PM	Changing Tide in Asheville Policing	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Zachary Sarvis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Zachary sarvis</p> <p>Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone</p>
6/8/2020 4:51:00 PM	Ashville Citizen Budget Proposal Demands	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:51:00 PM	Happy to share my voice as an Asheville citizen for 4 years	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Shari Brown and I'm a resident of Asheville. I have lived here since 2016 and am originally from the area. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? "Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe."--Frederick Douglass</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Shari Brown 52 Old County Home Rd. Asheville, NC 28806 Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>
6/8/2020 4:51:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Karoline Jumper and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do NOT forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?? Thank you.</p> <p>Best, Karoline Jumper</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:51:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is uma and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>uma Bronwyn Wallis-Johnson</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 4:51:00 PM	Vance monument opposition	<p>I am vehemently opposed to the removal of the Vance memorial plaque & the obelisk in downtown Asheville. These historical markers should be preserved and maintained, presented in the context of this shameful and painful part of America's past. Slavery was not America's original sin, nor is it Asheville's. The word "slavery" comes from the Slavic language because, further back in history, most slaves came from Eastern Europe.</p> <p>As a fifth generation Appalachian-American, I know that most of the men who fought in the Civil War did so to protect their homes and families. While the rich, including generals and governors, may have had slaves, very few common people did. Just like today, the people who fought were poor people fighting a rich man's war. Things haven't changed... However, if Asheville and it's city Council elect to remove the Obelisk, Vance memorial plaque, or any of the other historical monuments in Pack Square, I would like the opportunity to have them to place them on public or private land where they can be properly preserved and appreciated for their place in our history.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Leita Cash</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:52:00 PM	Please Fund Social and Economic Equality Instead of Tools for APD to Terrorize Your Asheville Constituents	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Lindsey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office toward an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and toward sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Sources: Popular Democracy; any professor of economics). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lindsey Bnadad</p>
6/8/2020 4:52:00 PM	THIS IS YOUR CHANCE	<p>My name is Ryan McCauley,</p> <p>I am a citizen of Asheville, NC and I writing you today to encourage you to put OUR tax dollars toward PROACTIVE programs for homelessness, youth, community services, and SCHOOLS to name just a few example! I strongly urge you to dramatically limit spending on Police services. We the people are fed up with the current form of policing across American and Asheville is no different. Let's put our money into building each other up instead of demonizing our own people for petty and often arbitrary "crimes". We are sick of it. We need "Police 2.0". A forward thinking public service centered around de-escalation, community and unity. No more are the days of unwarranted suspicion. No more are the days of unaccountability. No more are the days of Police killing citizens. We need a highly trained, level headed, well paid but limited force. WE DON'T WANT "TOUGH GUYS" SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. WE DON'T WANT ANYONE ON OUR POLICE FORCE WITH MULTIPLE WRITTEN OFFENSIVE OR A TROUBLED PAST.</p> <p>This is your chance to lead by example. This is your chance to be on the right side of history. This is your chance to allocate funding to truly help lift your people up. This is your chance to truly improve the quality of life for the people of Asheville. MUCH LESS FOR POLICE, MUCH MORE FOR EDUCATION.</p> <p>This is your chance</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ryan McCauley</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:52:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is William Harris and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William Harris</p>
6/8/2020 4:53:00 PM	APD Budget	<p>As a white resident of Asheville, I've enjoyed too much advantage while my neighbors of color have watched their homes removed in the name of progress, their family members brutalized by police, their pregnant mothers and babies dying at higher rates, and their children subjected to one of the worst achievement gaps in the country.</p> <p>Enough. The city we love cannot be a true home to any of us until it becomes a welcoming home for all of us. I strongly urge you to completely rethink the way we invest in our neighbors and ourselves. As you consider the upcoming budget, allocate more funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expanded law enforcement training in use of force policies and de-escalation training housing stability and home ownership for black and brown residents programs to support and strengthen black and brown families investments that provide extra support for black and brown children's education - from cradle to college or career (especially ages 0-5!) specific investments to help Asheville City Schools close the achievement gap investments in black- and brown-owned businesses <p>If you set the policies, I am willing, as a citizen, to do my part to pay for them. I will support any tax increase, bond effort, or other means of funding to support racial equity in Asheville.</p> <p>In addition, I urge you to turn a racial equity lens on every aspect of City government operations, so that our government can be on the leading edge. Organizations like RaceForward and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) are good starting resources for this. And CampaignZero offers a number of tools and measures for shifting policing from authoritarian force to community asset.</p> <p>This is a challenging time for our City. It has been 400 years in the making. We are on the brink of great change. Let's be bold.</p> <p>Luke</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:53:00 PM	Demanding Cuts to APD Budget	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Aspen. I write to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$30 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>I recently graduated from Warren Wilson College with a BA in History and Political Science. During my four years in Asheville, I watched the unrest with the police department wondering what I could do to help. I stood by. Now I am speaking up.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive deescalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. APD chose to destroy the supply of medics on site. This approach comes after a public overhaul of use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, demonstrating a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department. We expect this reduction in budget to be the first step of many to end systematic racism in Asheville.</p> <p>Imagine what we could do if we invested instead in the Black community, in social workers, in mental health professionals, and in support for other marginalized groups.</p> <p>Sincerely, Aspen Reynolds</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council and Mayor Manheimer, My name is Maddie Shuler and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing regarding the June 9th budget meeting in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to decrease funding for the police and invest that money into black communities.</p> <p>Police officers are NOT healthcare workers, mental health counselors, substance abuse experts, or private security guards. So why are they dispatched for situations where these issues are at the front? I demand that funding cut from the APD be reallocated toward healthcare, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, education and job training.</p> <p>Please consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. VOTE NO on the \$400,000 budget increase that APD is requesting.2. Reduce APD's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget AND to *reallocate funds that are cut to take action on reforming racial and social inequality within Asheville. * - \$60,000 to "recruit minority businesses" in our \$190 Million 2019-2020 budget does not demonstrate commitment and effort towards combating institutionalized racial and social inequity. I urge you to consider reallocating from what appears to be an overly funded police department towards community-oriented, non-violent public safety and outreach programs. Research has shown they work. PREVENTION IS ESSENTIAL. Please consider reallocating funds from the APD annual budget and create a well-funded (\$1.5 Million = 5%) coalition of leaders, organizations, and allies from the Black and LatinX communities in the Asheville area. Through that coalition, develop a 1- and 5-year strategic plan to enact local programs and initiatives that work to reverse the racial and social inequality that still exists in our community. Ignorance breeds fear, fear breeds hatred, hatred breeds destruction. Attitudes and actions can change. Mutual trust, appreciation, respect, care and even love can emerge when people really listen, share their vulnerability and get to know one and other.3. Each of you, as Mayor and City Council, sign the pledge to address and reform our "police use of force policies", and include these <https://8cantwait.org/>8 policies outlined by Campaign Zero <https://8cantwait.org/> to reduce police violence by up to 72% - aka 8 Can't Wait.4. Additionally, Mayor Manheimer, I call on you to sign the pledge to address and reform our police use of force policies in order to demonstrate <https://www.obama.org/mayor-pledge/> your commitment to addressing the issues around police use of force. <p>Over the past week especially, the Asheville Police Department has lost the trust of this community. Their careless and violent response to the peaceful protests is telling of how the APD is run. Accountability is more than just words and empty promises, accountability is direct action.</p> <p>Can we count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history?</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:53:00 PM	2020 Budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>This is Jessica Drury. I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina.</p> <p>I am writing to urge the city to divest from the police, beginning with next year's budget.</p> <p>I think City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including supporting Black start-ups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap within Asheville City Schools, and funding an all civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Will you stand up at this pivotal point in history and support these crucial policy changes within our city?</p> <p>Sincerely, Jessica Drury</p>
6/8/2020 4:53:00 PM	Significant change that isn't about your car's warranty.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Elizabeth DeMers, but you can call me Liz, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Elizabeth.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:53:00 PM	Comment for June 9 budget meeting	<p>Dear Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong support in the movement to defund the APD, and it is clear that a budget increase for APD is not what is needed at this time. Learning that APD abused members of a medic staff and displayed their disdain for we the citizens of Asheville by destroying a medic tent during last week's protest, shows that drastic steps are needed to divert funds and resources in order to support Black Ashevilleians and communities of color.</p> <p>I also suggest that funds be identified for the removal of Vance monument from Pac Square, as its existence is an egregious symbol glorifying the enslavement of Black Americans.</p> <p>This is a moment for brave and drastic action, and I encourage each of you to meet that call.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Matthew Parkinson</p> <p>-- Matthew Parkinson, LCMHC 828-407-0434 206 Merrimon Ave Suite #2 Asheville, NC 28801 matthewparkinsonlpc.com</p> <p>Notice of Confidentiality: This email, and any attachments, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) and may contain privileged or confidential information. Any distribution, reading, copying or use of this communication and any attachments by anyone other than the addressee, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify me by email (by replying to this message) and permanently destroy or delete the original and any copies or printouts of this email and any attachments.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:54:00 PM	In Support of Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Gillie Roberts and I own Ware - a sustainable lifestyle store Downtown. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Gillie Roberts *owner*</p> <p>51 College St, 1A Asheville, NC 28801</p> <p>store 828.658.5588</p> <p>www.wareavl.com @ware.avl</p>
6/8/2020 4:54:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maddie Kendrick and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maddie Kendrick</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:55:00 PM	JUSTICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maggie Rothenberg and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maggie Rothenberg</p>
6/8/2020 4:56:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Armanda Lee and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Armanda Lee</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:56:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: the APD inflated budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rena Dietrich and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways* to redirect money away *from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Rena Dietrich East End / Valley Str. resident</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:56:00 PM	AVL City Council Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Christine Mariskanish and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality such as Planning and Urban Design, Equity and Inclusion, and Sustainability.</p> <p>Research shows that investing in mental health, housing, youth development and living wages are far more successful at reducing crime than police. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Poor communities and communities of color are disproportionately targeted by police. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Christine Mariskanish</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:56:00 PM	2020/2021 Proposed Budget - DEFUND THE APD, INVEST IN PEOPLE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Stephanie Mergelsberg and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2020/2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591650087234000&sa=D&ust=1591650087253000&usg=AFQjCNFM71A7xiDrkzfQrb1tTLAmX1ryYQ>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Stephanie Mergelsberg</p>
6/8/2020 4:56:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Tina Madison White and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday.</p> <p>I urge City Council to free up funds in order to invest in our Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Tina White</p> <p>Get Outlook for iOS<https://aka.ms/o0ukef></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:56:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Corrine Hertz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Corrine Hertz</p>
6/8/2020 4:57:00 PM	Asheville Proposed City Budget 2021	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jordan Siegel and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jordan Siegel</p>
6/8/2020 4:57:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	Sent from my iPhone
6/8/2020 4:57:00 PM	Change it up, now.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashley Maynes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ashley Maynes</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:58:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sara Grace Dalton and I'm a resident of Asheville and a high school student at Carolina Day Schol. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591652960875000&sa=D&ust=1591652960893000&usg=AFQjCNFywF78i1PXjChMdfykhrnTRn_Pjg>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sara Grace Dalton</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:58:00 PM	Regarding 6/09 Budget Hearing	<p>Esteemed Member of Asheville's City Council,</p> <p>My name is Ricardo Tejada, and I have been a resident of Asheville for the past six years. This is an open letter to express my misgivings with the proposed budget for the fiscal year of 2021.</p> <p>I have been witness and victim to irresponsible and unjust law enforcement practices for the entirety of my 35 years on this earth. When I was 14 years old, I was the victim of stop and frisk for the first time in my life. Made a public spectacle while my white friends, who I was obviously with, were free from the dehumanizing feeling of prying fingers. When I was in my mid 20s, I would have to watch while four police officers brutally beat my friend until he was unconscious. I was arrested for not letting that beating go without resistance, but the example was made, again, very publicly. I can go on and on about stories like these that I was personally affected by, but the one truth that remains is that in the 35 years since my birth, nothing has changed. This last week has proved that. Not in my hometown of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where I first encountered this brutality, and not in Asheville, NC, where there are countless stories that all end the same.</p> <p>In the six years I've lived in Asheville, we have made national news for police brutality, and we have seen police chief after police chief make our city look like a turnstile. That has happened while increasing the police budget year after year, as if throwing enough money at the problem will somehow hide the leak. In any other professional realm, people would be fired, structures would be reevaluated, and spending would be frozen until the issue is resolved once and for all. The purpose of the letter is to do just that - to implore you to stop the proposed increase in police spending and reallocate that money to other areas that are in dire need of support.</p> <p>If you vote to increase the police budget, you are telling your citizens that their cries and pleas for help are not important. You will be telling Asheville that their voices are easily drowned out by the beating of batons on shields. You will let Asheville's citizens know that they are, yet again, bound by the cuffs of archaic and restrictive old world policing values. Everything else that has been tried has failed. This is our last chance to be the bastion of values that we claim to be. We can be imaginative and safe. We can change what has been without losing sight of what we should be, and that is something we must do, because if not, I fear we will most certainly lose sight of hope.</p> <p>Thank You, Ricardo Tejada</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:58:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Devyn Vasquez and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591653030814000&sa=D&ust=1591653030838000&usg=AFQjCNFT3xNuCCquU6mL5KYUD0gEJw6T3Q>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Devyn Vasquez</p>
6/8/2020 4:58:00 PM	Public Comment on 20-21 Budget	<p>Members of the Council,</p> <p>My name is K. Bryan Smith, I reside in WAVL at 51 Vandalia Ave. I want to voice my opposition to increasing the budget of APD for during discussion of item V. D. Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget. I believe this is the first step in examining how to move forward in the light of the way APD handled itself in the past two weeks.</p> <p>Sincerely, K. Bryan Smith</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:59:00 PM	Please redirect funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashley Peck and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ashley Peck</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:59:00 PM	Budget Meeting Input	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Kathryn Wallster and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina-- specifically the Burton Street Community. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding.</p> <p>With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police.</p> <p>Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies.</p> <p>This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees.</p> <p>This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community.</p> <p>Sincerely signed,</p> <p>Kathryn Wallster</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 4:59:00 PM	The violence against black people in our community has to end	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emily Homolka and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emily Homolka</p>
6/8/2020 5:00:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>WE, the citizens of Asheville, in the wake of the recent glaring of our need for reform as a necessity for public safety and well-bein, raise our voices to encourage The City Council to</p> <p>Vote NO for ADP funding! We call for a freeze in police hiring! Defund, decrease presence of, then abolish the police- opting for a community-led public safety model.</p> <p>Let's honor and truly protect all of our citizens. The outcry will only build in chorale- we must take action now, and at long last, give all unalienable rights, allowing for what it means to be a free American.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter, Olly Pennington</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:00:00 PM	2021 Asheville city budget	<p>Dear city council members,</p> <p>I am shocked and appalled by the recent events taking place in our city. The amount of unnecessary force by the police is astounding and unjustified. The curfew put out by the mayor was also reckless and unnecessary. Many local businesses who were already struggling through the COVID crisis were hit even harder by having to shut down early to accommodate the curfew.</p> <p>In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the city of Asheville is seeing a dramatic reduction in tax revenue and financial generation. In an effort to accommodate this change every department is accepting the reality of a decrease in budget funding. Despite this, the police department is expecting an increase in funding. This is unacceptable. The APD chief recently said in a statement that he's been in this business for a long time. Let me make this clear, the police is not and should not be a business, it is a service, in which officers serve, and in turn serve the community. The police sought to placate the protesters by knelling with them once, and when realized with the fact it would take far more, they served the community only with more and more tension and force. Asheville is better than this.</p> <p>We are in the midst of a growing epidemic. Before phase one of reopening Buncombe County had less than 80 COVID-19 cases, one month later we have almost 400 cases. Our county cases are increasing almost twice as fast as the state, which is also increasing dramatically in case number. We will have to spend more on this crisis and the businesses it affects. For every police officer fully decked out in riot gear, we could have provided full PPE to 50-60 people. In the last 16 years we've had 5 police chiefs. And approximately 2 years of that was without a police chief at all, if you add up the time spent looking for replacements. How much has been spent on this insane rate of turnover, and more importantly why is this going on? What are the underlying issues within the APD that have led to this point. The answers will not come with increased funding to the APD. Please do not allow this increase, if anything, decrease their budget until this can be sorted out.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>- Matthew Kearney</p> <p>-- Matthew Kearney Very Good Photographer Asheville, NC</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:00:00 PM	2020-21 Budget	<p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>I write to you today as a concerned community member and public health professional. I feel our city budget does not align and prioritize our community values. My husband, a physician, and I moved to this area because it is a loving, inclusive and peaceful community. Recent events have brought to light the over-policing of black and brown communities that stem from systemic racism, I am saddened that I'm only coming to learn of this now, but alas, we have to work to make changes *now*.</p> <p>I propose that one of the first steps we do is to start realigning our budget with our priorities of health, education, affordable housing, and sustainable energy. The police budget does little to support these priorities and currently makes up ~22.4% of the city's overall budget, is the police budget really 2x more important than educating our next generations? I'm unfamiliar with the breakdown of public health spend, but I challenge the group to review how much of the police budget could be repurposed for priorities like public health in addressing social determinants of health that often leave black and brown communities more susceptible to poor health outcomes like COVID19 has shown us.</p> <p>I urge city council to consider drafting a budget that reconsiders spend in ways that align with health, education, affordable housing and sustainable energy, with adjustments in the current budget and gradually increasing the proportion of budget in future fiscal year budgets.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and I hope you will make the right decision to align budget with our community priorities.</p> <p>Best, Kaitlin McCormick and Kyle Judkins</p> <p>-- *Kaitlin McCormick, MPH* Research Product Owner McKesson Technology Solutions- Oncology 919-418-3704 kemccorm@gmail.com http://www.linkedin.com/in/kaitlinmccormick</p>
6/8/2020 5:01:00 PM	Fund Transit; Defund & Transform the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers-</p> <p>I am writing to encourage you to follow the lead of the Minneapolis City Council in defunding the police department and instead fund specialized response teams; and to increase transit funding.</p> <p>I do not think that training and body cameras, while an improvement, will be sufficient. I was shocked to see that Asheville City police involved in an orgy of stabbing water bottles-- a petty, vicious action that served to further reduce public trust in the police department.</p> <p>While defunding the police is currently an unexplored journey, not a completely detailed roadmap; I think this is what is needed.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jim Barton PO Box 768 Asheville, NC 28802</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Hi there, Please consider reallocating some of the funding for the police force to use for community services instead. Thanks for your consideration,</p> <p>Jessie Crews</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone --</p> <p>*Blue Ridge Community College empowers individuals with knowledge and skills to enrich our communities and build a competitive workforce.*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*E-mail correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law. (NCGS.Ch.132)*</p> <p>**</p>
6/8/2020 5:02:00 PM	Budget concerns	<p>Dear Asheville City Council, My name is Matt Townsend and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. Thank you, Matt Townsend</p>
6/8/2020 5:02:00 PM	Defund the police	Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:02:00 PM	Shifting APD's budget into the community	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Ryland Mettee and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ryland Mettee</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 5:03:00 PM	Asheville is better than this.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Claire and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Claire</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:03:00 PM	Protect Black Lives	<p>Over the years, our city has seen what happened in Minneapolis happen here. As citizens, voters, tax payers and basic human beings, we will no longer tolerate the behavior that has resulted in the deaths of so many black americans locally and nationally by police to EVER happen in Asheville again. Our black community are not targets nor punching bags for inept and poorly trained officers to terrorize. Black Asheville is ASHEVILLE.</p> <p>I'm an Asheville native. I've lived and worked here my whole life. I'm a member of the service industry. I've seen what's happening. The destruction of the medic tent made national news and I'm glad. Hopefully it will hold Asheville accountable to do better. The police chief's statement was utterly unsatisfactory and untrue. Unacceptable. Police officers have a duty to protect and serve the community. They aren't. Their budget should be cut.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah Ray</p>
6/8/2020 5:03:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>My name is Vivian Campbell and I am a Asheville resident and native.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>
6/8/2020 5:06:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Tessa Frank and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Tessa Frank</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:09:00 PM	Asheville City Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council and Mayor Manhiemer,</p> <p>Firstly, I would like to say I am grateful for the lifting of the citywide curfew and state of emergency, as well as the de-escalation of APD's response. Excessive and inappropriate, these actions served not to protect but to traumatize the community. They sent an especially potent message of disregard for the wellbeing of Asheville's Black residents.</p> <p>In light of these events, coupled with the nationwide and local histories of police brutality--especially towards Black residents, I urge you not to increase the APD's budget at tomorrow's council meeting. We do not need a more fortified police force with the resources and brazenness to indiscriminately lash out as they did these last few days. Rather, I would urge you to decrease funding to the Asheville Police department and direct that money instead to non-police social workers and Black-led community initiatives who can serve and protect our communities via holistic and preventative measures, well before matters come near law enforcement hands. To reach an equitable future for Asheville, we need fortified, deeply funded communities, not a fortified, deeply funded police force.</p> <p>With hope, Stephen -- Stephen Gifford-Bell Poet Organizer Dork Asheville Resident 43 Ravenscroft Dr. # 8 Asheville, NC 28801 (941) 993-5457 safgb22@gmail.com @steve_energia</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:11:00 PM	What is going on???	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Heather and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Heather</p>
6/8/2020 5:11:00 PM	police funding	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>City Council,</p> <p>While I am not for taking money away from the police force, it does seem that money should be allocated differently.</p> <p>It strikes me that police are being asked to wear so many different hats: police, community outreach, drug counselors, mediators, etc. Would it be possible to put part of the allotted money to hire and train (or train some existing officers) in these areas? Then, for example, on certain beats or in certain situations, perhaps a regular enforcement officer can go out with a counseling officer, which may result in less violence, hopefully.</p> <p>Or that there would be a separate group of community folks trained to be deployed in those types of situations. Not being a police officer or involved in government, I don't know how that would work, but it seems clear that some money needs to go towards the types of training and hiring and accountability measures necessary for modern policing. In particular dealing with the drug/opioid problem in Asheville -- we need more attention (money, people, training, programs, resources) paid toward how to help in that area.</p> <p>Amy S. Gerald</p> <p>***Nevertheless, she persisted.***</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:13:00 PM	2021 budget proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Laurie Harris and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Best, Laurie Caffery Harris</p>
6/8/2020 5:14:00 PM	Allocation of APD budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Scott Middleton and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Scott Middleton</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:16:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Krisann Polito-Moller and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Krisann Polito-Moller</p>
6/8/2020 5:17:00 PM	Asheville City Council Budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I hope this email finds you well. My name is Miranda and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I know this is an incredibly difficult time for our community and our country, and I respect the position that you hold in our beloved community. I simply ask that you consider your children, your family, and your loved ones. What if Breonna Taylor was your daughter? What if George Floyd was your brother? What if Ahmaud Arbery was your cousin? What will it take for us to recognize that BLACK Lives not only matter, but deserve to THRIVE?</p> <p>Thank you so much for your willingness to read this email and listen to the Asheville community. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at such a critical juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>All the best, Miranda</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:19:00 PM	Reforming our city	<p>Dear Council members,As you know, Asheville made national news this week. And not for being beer city USA.It is disgraceful the violence that has taken place in our streets, by uniformed officers whose job is to serve and PROTECT. Protect who? Protect what?Asheville is not a lone wolf in this regard, it is happening and has been happening, across our country for far too long. And while countless folks have worked to reform the police and its 'bad apples', it has been shown time and again that the money pumped into the police departments across the nation do exactly the opposite; our police force is more militarized than ever. We must make sure, YOU must make sure, that all people are safe in our communities, with access to a decent standard of living in all respects: physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. And you only need to look at our most marginalized communities, our most suffering community members, to know if we are meeting that mark. And we are not.For this reason it is drastically important that we listen to those voices, hear their demands, and act on their behalf. I urge you to listen to the voices of intergenerational black voices and leaders as we make steps forward towards a system that protects and defends and supports ALL of us.Those voices have made clear their first demand. That we divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.Any less is unacceptable.Thank you,Len Hyde</p>
6/8/2020 5:21:00 PM	Racial Justice Reflected in our City's Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Virginia Hill and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Virginia Hill</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:21:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Charlotte Surface and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Charlotte Surface</p>
6/8/2020 5:22:00 PM	Official comment for Budget Public Hearing	<p>My name is Melanie Merenda and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, elimination gun the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:23:00 PM	Considering Defunding Asheville PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sydney and I'm a student in the Asheville area. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Defunding the department can lead to tremendous changes not only in Asheville's community but spur change in others as well.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sydney Lail</p>
6/8/2020 5:25:00 PM	Redirect funding to Asheville Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Michael Canino and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Michael Canino.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lillian Bellamy and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lillian Bellamy</p>
6/8/2020 5:25:00 PM	Defund APD for the sake of humanity.	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Annie Rudolph and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Annie</p>
6/8/2020 5:26:00 PM	Defund Polive	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:28:00 PM	Defund the police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nuria Juliette and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nuria Juliette</p>
6/8/2020 5:30:00 PM	DEFUND	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Madelyn Strutz 5903 N Mississippi Ave <> Portland, OR 97217 <> Madelynstrutz@gmail.com <mailto:Madelynstrutz@gmail.com> 6309476663 <tel:6309476663></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council Members and whomever this may concern,</p> <p>My name is and I am a resident and local business owner in Asheville. I am calling in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I would also like to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you and I look forward to voting in our next and every single local election. Anna Johnson Anna Johnson Jewelry 704-763-4761 40 Blackstone Ave Asheville, NC 28804</p> <p>--</p>
6/8/2020 5:32:00 PM	A Business owner and resident for Defunding Asheville Police Force	<p>Inline image</p>
6/8/2020 5:32:00 PM	Budget and Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Harvest Clark and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jerry H Clark</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:35:00 PM	Official comment for budget public hearing	<p>My name is August Alba. I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, elimination of the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>August</p>
6/8/2020 5:39:00 PM	CHANGE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alyssa Watson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:41:00 PM	Reallocate Budgets	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sadie Sondgerath and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sadie Sondgerath</p> <p>Think globally. Act locally.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:42:00 PM	20-21 Budget Hearing	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Abby Shuler and I am a resident of Asheville, North Carolina. The unrest within our country is not without due cause as those oppressed continue to be murdered and attacked by those who are sworn to serve and protect their constitutional rights. Asheville, NC has its own unique relationship with historical atrocities, abuses, and systemic racism. As we call for action, it is imperative that you respond to the demands put forward by our local black leaders during Saturday's (June 6) demonstrations in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>I saw our black community leaders directly communicate these demands to Asheville Police Chief David Zack and Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, among other city officials.</p> <p>As our City Council, I demand you follow through with our black community's demands.</p> <p>Currently, the APD 2020 budget is \$29,646,505, meaning the APD budget accounts for 22.4% of the entire city's budget, which stands at \$132,262,266. To put that in perspective, the Asheville City Schools 2020 budget is \$12,626,196, or only 42.5% of what the APD receives in funding.</p> <p>With this in mind, I demand that the city of Asheville unequivocally deny additional funding to the APD, in alignment with our black community asking for a defunding of the police.</p> <p>Furthermore, in alignment with our black community's demands, I demand that 50% of the APD budget be put under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process and should be invested in long-term safety strategies.</p> <p>This means that much of the APD budget should be reallocated to support our black and POC community. Per our black leaders' requests, this reallocation should include an investment and reallocation of funds to support; (1) Black startup businesses, (2) Workforce development, (3) Efforts to eliminate the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and (4) investment into civilian oversight committees.</p> <p>This reallocation of funds should include direct input from our black community through a committee, and this committee should be developed under the guidance of Asheville's black community.</p> <p>Sincerely signed,</p> <p>Abby Shuler</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:42:00 PM	DEFUND THE POLICE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nuel Lee and I'm a resident of Hickory, NC. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nuel Lee</p>
6/8/2020 5:43:00 PM	\$400,00 for APD	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Please consider reallocating at least some of the \$400,000 currently being allocated to the APD to non-profit organizations in Asheville that would address the issues of police violence, turnover within the APD, including the chiefs, and work within the community and with the APD to develop more effective means of addressing public safety within Asheville.</p> <p>Thank you, Cathy Walsh Asheville, NC 28804</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:44:00 PM	Suggestion for Council Meeting	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jessie Butler and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am here to implore that the Asheville City Council make a more intentional and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>I am sure you are aware of the police that destroyed medical supplies recently at a medical tent that was pre-approved to be there, directly affecting the health and wellbeing of the citizens of this community.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jessie Butler</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:44:00 PM	2021 Budget Comments	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Michael Eck and I am a resident of Asheville. This letter has been written in regards to the 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>Over the past few days, I have watched the protests that have formed over the abhorrent ways that our nation's police force treats people of color. I've also seen the appalling way in which local police departments have responded to these gatherings across the country with excessive use of force and outrageous displays of power.</p> <p>The Asheville Police Department is no different. I have seen them wear riot gear and wield shields to confront peaceful protesters. They have deployed flash bangs and tear gas on people that were attempting to have their voices heard. I have seen them callously destroy medical supplies that were meant to assist the protesters. And I have seen them attempt to prevent the press from reporting on what they were doing. These actions demonstrate that they have no interest in making changes to the ways in which they treat people of color or in improving their response to our community.</p> <p>The 2021 Budget includes *\$30,057,325*for the Asheville Police Department. This is the largest expenditure and is a 4% increase from last year, despite cuts to other areas due to COVID-19. Their actions have shown that they are unable to put the budget afforded them to good use. Because of this, I am demanding that the budget vote be delayed and that more financial support be redirected to areas that could make a better use of the funds and improve our community as a whole. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from the Asheville Police Department, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Thank You</p> <p>-Michael Eck</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:45:00 PM	Police Reform and Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Matt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. Please delay the budget vote so that Council may find ways towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, more aggressive financial support must be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our low wealth communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Matt Lee</p>
6/8/2020 5:45:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Cox and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauren Cox</p>
6/8/2020 5:46:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:47:00 PM	Tomorrow's Vote	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Emma Lenderman and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emma Lenderman</p>
6/8/2020 5:47:00 PM	Defund the Police!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elizabeth Wilson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-Elizabeth</p>
6/8/2020 5:48:00 PM	REDIRECT AVL BUDGET	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Suha Alam and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Suha Alam</p>
6/8/2020 5:48:00 PM	RELOCATE FUNDS PRODUCTIVELY	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elle Chestnutt and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Elle Chestnutt</p>
6/8/2020 5:49:00 PM	The police need restrictions, not the opposite.	Sent from my iPhone



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:52:00 PM	Defund The Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sydney Coggiola and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sydney Coggiola 864-237-1239</p>
6/8/2020 5:53:00 PM	Racial Justice with City Budget	<p>Sent from my cell please excuse any typos.</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alyssa Melton and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alyssa Melton</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 5:55:00 PM	Defund APD now	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Susanna. I identify as a white, AFAB non-binary or gender-nonconforming person (they/them). I grew up in WNC and as an adult have lived in Asheville for the past 6 years, where I work as a Physician Assistant in primary care community health. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Susanna Kivette, PA-C (they/them)</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:00:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Samantha Nance and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Samantha Nance She/They</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:00:00 PM	The Future of Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Barclay Boyd and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Barclay Boyd</p>
6/8/2020 6:00:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>My name is Devin Fairchild and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, -Devin Fairchild</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:00:00 PM	Meeting Comment	<p>Hello Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Justin Riederer. I am a resident of Asheville having recently relocated from Virginia to continue my medical training.</p> <p>I am writing to encourage the council to adjust the allocation of funds in the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget. APD represents the largest percentage of the proposed budget. Please divest from APD and into programs that actually help our community. Invest in housing, public health, transportation, economic development, fire department - investments that will make a true difference in the lives of our neighbors. Please also take a moment to address the scope of policing. It needs to be limited so that police are not addressing situations for which they are not trained.</p> <p>Please also use provisions within Executive Order 143 to begin to address public health inequity that has become so apparent during the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p> <p>Please help Asheville live up to its progressive identity, prove that the city cares about its neighbors and, most importantly, that our city believes that Black Lives Matter.</p> <p>Thank you, Justin Riederer</p>
6/8/2020 6:04:00 PM	City Council Vote	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Matt Dawson and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in ourcity's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Matt Dawson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:05:00 PM	Take action to defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katie Kaminkow and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katie Kaminkow</p>
6/8/2020 6:06:00 PM	please support the Black community by shifting funding priorities	<p>Hello, this is Melissa Lemoing and I am a resident of Earthaven Ecovillage. I am writing to urge the City to adjust next year's budget. Leaders in our Black communities have made very clear demands about shifting funds from law enforcement into community development and support.</p> <p>Many studies show that this kind of budgeting actually reduces crime more effectively than strengthening police forces. This is not a call to abolish the police, but rather to invest in the needs of our communities, so that we can all thrive.</p> <p>50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I urge every Council member to support this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, Melissa Lemoing 2 Salvation Lane Black Mountain, NC 28711</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:07:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>My name is Haley Yeager and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Haley Yeager</p>
6/8/2020 6:08:00 PM	In support of Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Jill Fromewick. I am a resident of Asheville and a public health researcher. Systemic racism is the most important root cause of black-white disparities in health, from infant mortality to life expectancy - and including COVID-19.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jill Fromewick</p> <p>--</p> <p>Dr. Jill Fromewick, Sc.D., M.S. jill@sparrowresearch.com www.sparrowresearch.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:08:00 PM	Budget vote tomorrow	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is James and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's already inflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Programs that support a living wage, access to wellness services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, more aggressive financial support should be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our marginalized communities who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Respectfully, James Foote</p>
6/8/2020 6:09:00 PM	Calling on your humanity	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Merideth Huff and I'm an Asheville resident. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Merideth</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:10:00 PM	Fund Allocation	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I have tried to dial in the number using code 8958 and voicemail feature for that code is not an option.</p> <p>I am writing because I would love to see the some of the funds allocated to police department to go to the community. Important causes are environmental, shelters, rehabilitation.</p> <p>I hope you consider that so many of us here in asheville are passionate about this and want equality for all human beings on this planet, as well as for the earth.</p> <p>we appreciate you continuing to consider what is best for the community!</p> <p>We love Asheville. Thank you! -- Shirin Eshraghi B.S. In Psychology University of Georgia Shirini3@uga.edu 770-880-2829</p>
6/8/2020 6:13:00 PM	Defund Demands	<p>My name is Dylan Stokes and I am an Asheville resident.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest into black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville city schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>



THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:13:00 PM	Change	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Alex Scherma and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Alex Scherma</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:14:00 PM	Time for change is NOW	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the Asheville community.</p> <p>I am writing to implore you as a longtime Asheville citizen, to please support and enact the demands of Black Asheville in this year's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Please divest from the police and invest in Black communities by supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Please remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>Please rename streets with the names of historic local black leaders; in particular, rename streets that are currently named after former slave owners.</p> <p>Please hold individuals *and* the entire APD accountable and end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>With gratitude, Alex Eren -- Alex Eren (she/her) 5-8th Science Teacher IS Homeroom & Advisor Odyssey School <http://www.odysseycommunity.org/> 90 Zillicoa Street Asheville, NC 28801 (410) 693-0876</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:14:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jake Allen and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jake Allen</p>
6/8/2020 6:16:00 PM	Redirecting Funds from the Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sovah Woydak and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Sovah Woydak</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Erin Silva and I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/8/2020 6:21:00 PM	2021 Budget Proposal	Erin Silva
6/8/2020 6:22:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Puck Askew and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I strongly urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. I agree that 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I would like to see Asheville supporting all it's citizens equally.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Puck Askew</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:26:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]Alexis Allen</p>
6/8/2020 6:26:00 PM	Right side of history	<p>Sent from my iPhone Mayor Manheimer,</p> <p>My name is Jesus Mendoza. I am a resident of Asheville, NC and I am emailing today to demand steps are taken immediately to instate policies to end police violence.</p> <p>Campaign Zero has provided 8 policies that, at your discretion, could be enacted today. These 8 policies have demonstrated the ability to decrease police violence by 72%. The 8 policies are as follows: ban chokeholds and strangleholds, require de-escalation, require warning before shooting, exhaust all other means before shooting, duty to intervene, ban shooting at moving vehicles, require use of force continuum, and require comprehensive reporting. For more information, you can visit https://8cantwait.org/.</p> <p>This is one of the many pathways toward reforming our broken systems. Please don't choose between this and your efforts to defund, prosecute, etc. This is not an "either/or," but a "both/and." Whatever it is you are doing at this time, do this too.</p> <p>There is a role in the good fight for everybody. I urge you to act today.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jesus Mendoza</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:29:00 PM	I support Black Ashevilles Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council</p> <p>My name is David Matters and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, David</p>
6/8/2020 6:29:00 PM	Annual Operating Budget Proposal 2020-2021	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Good Afternoon, My name is Benjamin Quinlan, I have lived in Asheville all my life. I would like to comment on the Public Hearing Item D: Annual operating Budget Proposal 2020-2021.</p> <p>As indicated on page B-11 under the Expenditures of the General Fund Summary, the Asheville Police Department is receiving roughly \$400,000 increase from the previous years budget. And the APD is proposed to spend a whole 22% of the cities proposed 134.5 million dollar budget. In these past weeks the people have cried out demanding change in the way we protect our community, and have noted the inexcusable harassment, abuse, and murder by our APD towards our Black-Ashevillian neighbors.</p> <p>Increasing the APD's budget is only a bandaid covering the symptoms of deep problems present in our community. I ask that the council reevaluate our budget with less resources given towards the APD and more resources going into research and new efforts not only protect our community and prevent crime, but more importantly to cultivate our lower income communities and to fulfill the basic needs of our neglected neighbors, the needs which presently are egregiously neglected, causing inter-community crime. We owe it to our people.</p> <p>Thank you, Benjamin Quinlan</p>
6/8/2020 6:32:00 PM	Defund the Asheville PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jenna and I'm a concerned citizen. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jenna</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$2.5 million budget, with no additional additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>My name is Erica La Lopa, I am a 28 year old white female who has lived in the Asheville area as of November 2017. I work for Biltmore Estate as a supervisor at The Inn. I am a concerned citizen who feels that it is not acceptable or permissible for our police to attack first and ask questions after. I believe that police practices must change for the sake of public safety. Practices must specifically change for the safety of people of color.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive deescalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/2019/01/30/asheville-resisting-arrest-police-department-investigation-findings-racial-disparity/2708467002/> in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, and in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>Please consider allocating funds to programs that close the gap between those in the community who are well off and those who are systematically disadvantaged. Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Public transportation-Affordable housing-Education-Equal opportunity employment-Homeless aid <p>If you're not going to hold back the budget, it needs substantial revision to ensure the trust of the people who do not feel properly protected by their police.</p> <p>As a concerned citizen, I have wondered if our officers are required to attend personal counseling. It must be frightening to go to your job every day knowing you may be injured or killed. Does this internalized fear become part of the reason why some police officers are often so quick to attack with brute force before assessing a situation? Does the job become so traumatic, that our police will even view a table of water bottles at a medic station as a threat they must attack? Do our officers have physiological assessment before getting the job? Do they have continual check-ins with mental health professionals?</p> <p>Do our police have quarterly or yearly job reviews? Do our officers attend bias awareness training? Is fair and impartial policing made a part of continual education?</p> <p>Do they have to take any kind of continued testing in order to stay on the job?</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:36:00 PM	CDBG	<p>Hello, this is Elizabeth Evey and I am a resident of Asheville. I am calling to urge the City to use the full amount of the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think City Council needs to adjust the budget so it begins divesting from the police and investing in black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and finding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 6:37:00 PM	PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Marisa and I'm a native of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marisa Bowers</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:38:00 PM	Time for change!!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jessica Davidson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Jessica Davidson</p>
6/8/2020 6:38:00 PM	Reallocation of Police Funds to Social Service Programs	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>As a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you.</p>
6/8/2020 6:39:00 PM	Police funding	<p>I have lost faith in the ability of our police force to put the needs and safety of the people of Asheville above their own goals. I believe the money spent on weapons and armor being used against our city's own citizens would be better used caring for our people with housing, support, and education.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:39:00 PM	No Justice, No Peace	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mary Lawson Cox and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mary Lawson Cox</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:39:00 PM	Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Wes Thurman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons. As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you</p>
6/8/2020 6:43:00 PM	City Budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a citizen of Asheville, emailing to express my concern over the proposed budget increase of the APD. I feel that, especially in the wake of the protests around the country and the use of excessive force by APD (tear gas, rubber bullets, and flash bangs, on peaceful protestors), the budget of the APD does not need to be increased. Rather, that money should be allocated to improve community services and resources.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Nicole Brewer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:44:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Ritter Paulin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1591659390820000&sa=D&ust=1591659390839000&usg=AFQjCNFxoDZae23HDLFOaSxIQOTkphZ1w>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hannah Ritter Paulin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:45:00 PM	Reallocate egregious police budgets	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Savannah and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Savannah Sowers</p>
6/8/2020 6:45:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Tami Flaum and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Tami</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:47:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is James and I'm fond of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, James Betts</p>
6/8/2020 6:48:00 PM	Racial justice in our beautiful city	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Laura and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Laura</p> <p>Envoyé de mon iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:49:00 PM	Budget Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ashlen Smith and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Ashlen Smith</p>
6/8/2020 6:52:00 PM	<p>[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE***]</p>	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Amanda Jones and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Amanda</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:52:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kelly O'Hara and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kelly O'Hara</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 6:54:00 PM	Police Budget Concerns	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Katherine Shaw and I am a resident of Asheville. I have lived in Asheville for 12 years, I work as a nanny, educator, and healthcare provider in the community. I am writing in regards to the Mayors 2021 fiscal year budget proposal.</p> <p>It is evident that unjust police brutality is a systemic issue and not just a few bad apples. It is evident that police will use unnecessary force against those protesting for social justice on the streets, in reaction to a couple water bottles being thrown when they are in full riot gear. This is unacceptable state violence.</p> <p>It is unacceptable that so many of our black and brown community members are terrified that their children will be victims of police brutality and/or death, if they have a tail light out, or commit a minor violation.</p> <p>Will you stand with us? So many of us, trying to reform this system?</p> <p>I am asking the Asheville City Council to make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I am asking that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money towards social programs that have been shown to reduce crime. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services, education, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than policing or prisons</p> <p>Please represent the majority of citizens who want reform. I urge you to pressure the City's Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Can I count on you to vote with the majority of your constituents that want reform, want social justice in Asheville? Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and work. Be well, Katherine Shaw</p> <p><http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail> Virus-free. www.avg.com <http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail> <#DAB4FAD8-2DD7-40BB-A1B8-4E2AA1F9FDF2></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Leigh and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Leigh</p>
6/8/2020 6:55:00 PM	#georgefloyd	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Hello, my name is Hannah Price and I'm a resident of Asheville. I'd like to leave a comment about the proposed 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>In the wake of the police's killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and countless Black Americans before him, I'm asking that the Asheville City Council make a commitment to racial justice by delaying the budget vote, and using this time to find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget into building programs to make the city of Asheville more environmentally conscious, funding the pre-k to 12th grade schools and colleges in the city, and investing in helping our homeless and poverty-stricken communities. Do not forget our poor and communities of color. Can I count on you to consider an alternate budget proposal that puts a priority on social programs?</p>
6/8/2020 6:57:00 PM	Public Comment for June 9th Hearing	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Katie Ford and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge city council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-citizen oversight committee with the power to hold APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Sincerely, Katie Ford</p>
6/8/2020 7:01:00 PM	June 9th Council Meeting	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:01:00 PM	Support Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Heather Ridge and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Heather Ridge</p>
6/8/2020 7:02:00 PM	Reallocate law enforcement funds to public resources!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maisy Menzes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maisy Menzies</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:06:00 PM	Please Support Black Asheville	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Florencia Barolin and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Florencia Barolin</p>
6/8/2020 7:16:00 PM	Concerns for the Council Meeting 6/9/20	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Margo Schultz and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:16:00 PM	Defunding a corrupt PD	<p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/8/2020 7:22:00 PM	We have to protect our citizens not abuse violently initiate fear, there is a better way	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Carolyn Morrow and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Carolyn Morrow</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:25:00 PM	APD	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$29.6 million budget, with no additional additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>I live just outside of Asheville. I am a member of Earthaven Ecovillage and come into Asheville often.</p> <p>Despite years of community advocacy following instances of police brutality, extensive deescalation training, and an overhaul of APD leadership, racial disparities in policing persist in this community. In the context of nationwide protests bringing attention to the violent and deadly consequences of policing on Black communities, APD chose to meet protestors with tear gas. This approach comes after a public overhaul of use of force policies.</p> <p>This does not ensure public trust, and in fact, it demonstrates a profound disregard for human life. We cannot continue to invest in this department.</p> <p>There are many things that the police are expected to do that other people or agencies could be funded to take care of instead. Funding different social services can help to catch people before the need for police would even be an issue.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kaitlin Lindsay Johnston</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>To the Asheville City Council:</p> <p>As you consider the next city budget in light of the continuing demonstrations protesting police conduct here in Asheville and elsewhere, I would like you to decide to slash the APD budget as the beginning of real reform. Obviously, the money can do the community—in particular, the non-white community—more good elsewhere.</p> <p>I don't have solutions, but the situation has prompted me to ask questions. A lot of questions. They may not even be the right questions, but I certainly would like some answers. I list them below:</p> <p>Asheville policing questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— What is the relationship between Asheville City Council, the City Manager, and the APD? Does reality reflect what exists on paper?— Who determines APD policy? Who determines policies regarding use of force, de-escalation efforts, crowd control, officer's conduct in making arrests or stopping pedestrians, motorists & others?— Who enforces these policies? Who is responsible down the chain of command? Who determines when police/civilian interactions need to be investigated? Does the command structure need to be re-thought?— What are the consequences of failure to follow policy? Who sees that official consequences are actually carried out?— How often, and to what degree, have officers who have violated policy been punished?— What happens to an officer who refuses to carry out an order she deems unjust, immoral, against policy, or just plain wrong?— Who creates the budget? Who decides whether it is enough or too much, and why?— Who is responsible for determining what the APD needs in terms of arms and armaments? Has the department become militarized? If so, how can it be demilitarized? What are the arguments in favor of using, against either groups or individuals, supposedly non-lethal armaments? What about lethal armaments?— Is there a civilian review board? Is it adequate in terms of ethnic and age diversity? Does it have any teeth? If not, why not? Who composes or should compose such a board? Who decides? Who stands in the way of effective citizen oversight of police?— How rigorously are officer candidates vetted? Who by? What are the criteria? How often are candidates turned away? Does the department have trouble attracting candidates? If so, why?— What and how much training do officers receive regarding civil rights, de-escalation techniques, and their most basic responsibility to protect human life and safety? (As opposed to, say, protecting property). How is the training designed? Who carries it out?— If this training is adequate, who is charged with determining if it is, in fact, effective?— Is officers' compensation adequate, given the responsibilities and risks they are subject to? Is compensation adequate to attract officers who will fully understand their responsibilities to the community and the consequences of their actions?— What is the role of the police association in determining policy, encouraging or obstructing policy, encouraging or obstructing officers' misbehavior resulting in consequences?— What kinds of files are kept on activists? Who has access to such files if they exist? If they are secret, how can they be made known?— Does the APD seek to infiltrate political groups they deem to be "dangerous"? Are there or have there ever been cases of undercover officers or others seeking to incite violence? If so, how can the public find out? If not, how can such denials be believed by those working to create meaningful change by protesting the status quo?— In general, is there a significant gap between what policy dictates and what actually goes on? If so, what accounts for that gap and how can it be closed?— What will really allow the APD to change into a force that has earned and deserves the full trust of all members of the community, most especially those who have been historically excluded and continue to be excluded and, in many cases, persecuted?



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:39:00 PM	CITY COUNCIL BUDGET	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Savannah Woodard and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Savannah Woodard</p>
6/8/2020 7:43:00 PM		<p>My name is Laila and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge city council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. *This was sent by a student at Henderson County Public Schools. All email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law, which may result in monitoring and disclosure to third parties, including law enforcement. *** This Email was sent by a student at WHHS High School.</p>
6/8/2020 7:45:00 PM	Defund Police & Reallocate Funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Aimee Trafford and I'm an ex-resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Aimee Trafford</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 7:47:00 PM	Divesting from APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Catherine Eckerd and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge the City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-Catherine Eckerd</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:02:00 PM	IMPORTANT re: 2020-2021 Budget	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Sera Deva and I am a resident of Yancey County. I am writing to urge the City to adjust next year's budget. We need to begin divesting from the police and investing in Black communities. 50% of the Asheville Police Department's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies, including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I urge every Council member to support this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Please let me know if I can count on your support in this matter.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-- Sera Deva --</p> <p>*Pronouns: She/Her (What's this? <https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why>)*</p> <p>Conference & Farmer Programs Coordinator www.organicgrowersschool.org</p> <p>Cell: 828.208.0220</p> <p>Find COVID-related resources for growers here! <https://organicgrowersschool.org/resources/covid-19-resources/></p> <p>*Upcoming Events*</p> <p>WNC CRAFT Farm Tours <http://www.organicgrowersschool.org/farmers/craft/> March - October 2020</p> <p>Fall Gardening Series <https://organicgrowersschool.org/gardeners/fall-gardening/> July 27 & August 3, 2020</p> <p>Farm Beginnings® Year-Long Farmer Training <https://organicgrowersschool.org/farmers/farm-beginnings/> October 2020 - September 2021</p> <p>Harvest Conference <https://organicgrowersschool.org/conferences/harvest/> September 11 & 12, 2020</p> <p>Cuba Agroecology Tour <https://organicgrowersschool.org/events/travel-to-cuba/> January 5 - 14, 2021</p> <p>Spring Conference <https://organicgrowersschool.org/conferences/spring/> March 2021</p> <p>Spring Gardening Series <https://organicgrowersschool.org/gardeners/spring-gardening/> March - April 2021</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:02:00 PM	Black AVL Demands	<p>My name is Chloe G and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. Fifty percent of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter.</p> <p>Peace to you,</p> <p>Chloe G.</p>
6/8/2020 8:06:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE**]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michelle and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Michelle Lupia</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 8:07:00 PM	Please!!!!	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:07:00 PM	BLM	<p>My name is Jeremy J and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. Fifty percent of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter.</p> <p>Jeremy J</p>
6/8/2020 8:08:00 PM	comment	<p>Hello Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I am a Buncombe County resident, and I am writing with the purpose of showing my support for postponing the budget vote to allow for more time to look at the police budget and how monies are spent. I think it is an obligation now to think about how we keep our Black, Brown and all marginalized people safer. The evidence from Minneapolis shows that procedural justice reforms did not work for the police there. This seems like a moment to tap into the collective will to look at what people really need, and how can we move our society to better health, better opportunities and more equality.</p> <p>Thanks for allowing this conversation to keep opening up, and the conversation around how money is spent on policing be re-examined.</p> <p>Alyssa Dreyfus</p>
6/8/2020 8:09:00 PM	Plea from a healthcare provider	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Radha Patel and I'm a resident of Asheville and work directly with our community members as a Physician Assistant at the Hope Women's Cancer Center. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Radha Patel, PA-C</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:09:00 PM	Reallocation of funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Catherine McClain and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/8/2020 8:19:00 PM	Please delay the budget vote, please!	<p>Catherine McClain</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Zachary Stinson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, sincerely,</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:21:00 PM	Asheville Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Melanie Gnau and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Melanie Gnau</p>
6/8/2020 8:21:00 PM	input	<p>Dear Asheville City Council ,</p> <p>My name is Robin and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>If we put the funds towards helping Black communities or towards things like this: https://whitebirdclinic.org/cahoots/ that would be of great benefit to the community.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
6/8/2020 8:21:00 PM	Supporting Asheville's community of color	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Clare Ende and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Clare</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:22:00 PM	Support of asheville	<p>My name is Kim turley and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 8:22:00 PM	Please support justice in our beautiful city	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nikole Hampton and I'm a dedicated community mental health worker and resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nikole Hampton -- Nikole M. Hampton, MSW, LCSW Clinical Social Worker nikolehampton@gmail.com (989) 335-1886</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:24:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jackie Sirianni and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jackie Sirianni</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:24:00 PM	Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Tina Puricelli and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/8/2020 8:32:00 PM		<p>My name is Ashley Denchfield and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. AT LEAST 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Regards.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:32:00 PM	Asheville's 2020 Budget	<p>My name is Ashley Denchfield and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. AT LEAST 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Regards.</p>
6/8/2020 8:35:00 PM	Defund Asheville Police Department	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Eilah Wood and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Eilah Wood</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:35:00 PM	City Council Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Melissa Wilhoit and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you very much,</p> <p>Melissa -- Inspiration usually comes during work, rather than before it. - Madeleine L'Engle</p>
6/8/2020 8:35:00 PM	Police budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Adrian and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and specifically communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Adrian</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:35:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE **]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Anna Anderson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Anna Anderson</p>
6/8/2020 8:36:00 PM	Asheville 2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is EMORY and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emory Davis</p>
6/8/2020 8:37:00 PM	Agenda Item V. D. : Increase funding for equity	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Alayna Schmidt, West Asheville resident</p> <p>Inclusion and equity budget should be doubled to better provide the critical services needed to serve Asheville's most vulnerable communities. Police funding should be kept the same or reduced from previous fiscal year. Budget for police should not be raised this fiscal year.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:39:00 PM	Police Funding	<p>My name is Rainey and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. AT LEAST 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p>
6/8/2020 8:39:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Regards.</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jess Otolinsky and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jess Otolinsky</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:44:00 PM	Help better fund our education and healthcare system	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Erika Cervantes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Erika Cervantes</p>
6/8/2020 8:46:00 PM	Firefighter pay	<p>No one who risks their lives for the citizens of Asheville should be paid less than \$15 per hour. Firefighters are paid so much less than comparative rates in other cities in NC. You know this; do the right thing!</p> <p>Dan Comer 40 Greenleaf Circle, Asheville 28804 828-747-9055</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:47:00 PM	Asheville City Council Meeting, June 9th, 2020	<p>Dear Council Members:</p> <p>First I want to thank all of you for your diligent work through multiple recent crisis to guide the budget process for FY20-21 to the point it is today. While I would wish for a more transparent and community-focused oversight process than has been possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic response, I have trust that you will take into great consideration all of the comments that you will receive regarding the budget process.</p> <p>I have only two comments that I wish to make:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Under no circumstances should the Transit Budget be reduced. The City owes it to the community to fully fund the transportation improvements that were detailed last year so that ART can truly begin to serve all of those people that so heavily rely on it's service. I trust that the full funding shown in the budget will remain to be approved at the June 23th Council meeting.2) I respectfully request that the Asheville Police Department budget be held at the FY19-20 funding level and the requested \$450,000 (approx.) increase be used to fund the Dr Wesley Grant Southside Center and Walton Pool Capital Improvement Projects. Providing full funding for both of these projects to be completed should be of the highest priority. Ideally the APD budget should begin to be reduced with allocations from this line item designated for other community resource initiatives that provide safety for all members of the community. <p>Thank you for your time in reviewing these comments.</p> <p>best, joe</p> <p>Joe Archibald 828.273.9509 joe@narwhalbuilt.com</p> <p>Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu</p> <p>May all beings be free of pain & suffering, may all beings know true happiness & peace may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to the removal of pain & suffering and the promotion of happiness & peace for all beings, everywhere. Namaste</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:48:00 PM	Black Asheville/ Budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Lauren Smith, and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lauren Smith</p> <p>BLM</p>
6/8/2020 8:50:00 PM	Defund the Police	<p>My name is Carter Mosby and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. AT LEAST 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Regards.</p>
6/8/2020 8:52:00 PM	Fund social programs, not police	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Neil Kurowski and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Neil C. Kurowski</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:57:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kelly and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kelly</p>
6/8/2020 8:57:00 PM	Police budget	<p>My name is Wren Buan and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. AT LEAST 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Regards, Wren</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 8:58:00 PM	The Future of our Community	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Brianne Morell and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to *redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget*. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Brianne Morell</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:14:00 PM	Fiscal Year 2021 budget comments	<p>Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mars Sigler and I've been a resident of Asheville for over half of my life. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I demand that the Asheville City Council make a more overt, visible and genuine commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to do what is right and consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>- M. Sigler</p>
6/8/2020 9:17:00 PM	City Budget	<p>My name is Marissa Lum, and I am a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I, like many, have lost income due the the COVID19 pandemic. While we are all hurting for money, there seems to be a simple solution. The APD have committed war crimes, as defined by the Geneva Convention, against the people of Asheville. Our money cannot be used to buy them military gear any longer.</p> <p>In the interest of the economic good of the city, and the well-being of all, I insist funding for the APD be redistributed to benefit the community.</p> <p>Thank you</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:18:00 PM	#FightFor15ForFighters	<p>Dear Asheville City Council:</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Asheville Fire Fighters. I recently needed to change the batteries in my smoke alarms -- a non-emergency -- but I did not have the tools or ability to do the job myself. When I called the Asheville Fire Department and asked for help, my request was handled immediately and the fire fighters were courteous and professional. They even pointed out an additional smoke alarm in my home which I hadn't noticed. They also said that there was no charge and my taxes paid for the service. It took them only a few minutes but it was a huge help to me, especially during the pandemic.</p> <p>Many fire departments in other cities do not even offer this service. I am lucky to live in Asheville and ask that City Council approve a \$15 wage for all Asheville Fire Fighters so that they can continue the work they love and live a little more comfortably.</p> <p>Thanks for your leadership and dedication,</p> <p>Liz Franks</p>
6/8/2020 9:21:00 PM	Please Divest from APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Molly Reed and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday.</p> <p>With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Molly Mollyrosereed@gmail.com</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:23:00 PM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Evan Richardson and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday.</p> <p>I have lived here for twenty years and have stood by while growth in our tourist economy, housing industry, and overall economic development have resulted in an increasingly hostile and dangerous environment for Black families in Asheville. Data demonstrating Black/White inequities in life expectancy, infant mortality, diabetes mortality, unemployment rates, average income levels, children living in poverty, school discipline referrals, academic achievement, and police traffic stops, searches and use of force point to the impact that deep and pervasive structural racism is having on Black families in our community. These outcomes are unacceptable and I refuse to be silent anymore!</p> <p>With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to demonstrate how truly "progressive" Asheville is by moving in the direction of Minneapolis and Los Angeles - divest from the Asheville Police Department and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. You have the choice to continue to enact policy violence that harms and kills Black people or demonstrate your moral courage as leaders.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Evan Richardson</p> <p>-- "Don't rush through the experiences and circumstances that have the most capacity to transform you."</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chelsea Gulliver</p>
6/8/2020 9:24:00 PM	Racial Justice in Our City	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>My name is Tiffin Humphrey and I am a resident of Asheville.</p>
6/8/2020 9:29:00 PM	De-Fund Police Resident Letter	<p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. AT LEAST 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Regards.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:29:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michael and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office toward an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and toward sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (<https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities> Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs that have a proven record of success in reducing the need for policing?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Michael Tait</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Natalie Haynes and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Natalie</p>
6/8/2020 9:32:00 PM	A better use of tax payers dollars	Sent from a device with tiny keys :)
6/8/2020 9:32:00 PM	Asheville Fire Fighters deserve more	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of Asheville Fire Fighters and believe that they should be paid a living wage or better than. They are compassionate, responsive first responders who put their own well-being at risk to help and serve the community. They should not have to work multiple jobs in order to support their families when their primary focus is saving lives and providing excellent community service to our community. Please ensure that their pay is increased so that no one is making under \$15/hour at minimum. They deserve so much more. Let's show them our support for the wonderful sacrifices that they make for all of us.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Meredith Comer 40 Greenleaf Cir, Asheville, NC 28804 828-301-1648</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:32:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Michael McClure and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>).</p> <p>As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Michael McClure</p>
6/8/2020 9:34:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE **]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Christina Loper and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Christina Loper</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:41:00 PM	Unfair distribution of funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Tatum and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tatum</p>
6/8/2020 9:43:00 PM	Asheville Growth	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Isaac Rubin and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:45:00 PM	Asheville 2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Beth Cessna, and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing to you about the proposed budget for Asheville for fiscal year 2021.</p> <p>I am asking two things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Asheville City Council, collectively and individually, make an overt, visible, and proactive commitment to *act* against racial injustice. 2. That the vote on the budget be delayed to provide time for the Council to identify various ways in which a significant portion of the funds currently allocated to the Asheville Police Department can be reallocated towards sectors that can facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. As Sheriff Hubert Peterkin of Hoke County, NC said from the pulpit at a memorial service for George Floyd, anyone who is part of law enforcement needs to be able to say these six words: "We are part of the problem." Directing more dollars to a "part of the problem" is not going to fix the problem of racial injustice. Sherriff Peterkin's 9-minute talk was powerful. I encourage you to listen to it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRUzynTgJTE <p>There are well-researched social programs, the provision of education opportunities, access to health care, availability of affordable, stable housing, ensuring lending opportunities are made available in an equitable way - funding any number of such programs would do more to reduce crime and raise the standard of living of people of color than directing more dollars to Asheville's Police Department.</p> <p>If it's budget time, the City Council should demand that a zero-based budget be developed with each line cost-justified. That's just good business practice. With finite resources, dollars should be allocated in the most efficient and effective ways possible. I do not want to see our tax dollars being used to increase the funding of the Asheville Police Department when there are more efficient and effective uses of those funds. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts the focus on programs that will build up poor communities and communities of color?</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Beth Cessna</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jay and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jay Fender</p>
6/8/2020 9:47:00 PM	Asheville City Funding	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Zeeshan Khan and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Zeeshan Khan</p>
6/8/2020 9:47:00 PM	Help Asheville Trust You Again.	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:54:00 PM	Time for a Change	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Rachel Miller and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rachel Miller</p>
6/8/2020 9:55:00 PM	Defund APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Sebastian and I've been a resident of Asheville since 2009. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sebastian M.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 9:57:00 PM	BLACK LIVES MATTER	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Erica and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Erica Hill</p>
6/8/2020 10:03:00 PM	2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Emelye Sneed and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Emelye Sneed</p>
6/8/2020 10:03:00 PM	Police Budget	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I urge you to consider redirecting some or all of the requested increase in funding for the Asheville Police Department to community support which would address the systemic disparities in housing, education and income for our neighbors of color.</p> <p>I also urge you to address the structures that make it so difficult to fire police officers who violate policies, particularly in their treatment of citizens.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jean Parks (Buncombe County, outside Asheville city limits)</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:06:00 PM	General Inquiry	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jaron and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jaron</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/8/2020 10:07:00 PM	Divest from the APD, invest in Black communities	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Kathryn and I am a resident of Buncombe County. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Recent events have shown that the time for silence and inaction is no more. NOW is the time to act decisively and send a clear message that Asheville cares about the lives of its Black residents.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, Kathryn Blau</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:14:00 PM	Fwd: Redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Juan Reyna and I'm a resident of Asheville.</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Juan Reyna</p>
6/8/2020 10:24:00 PM	[** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE **]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Aydan Tuell</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:25:00 PM	Your residents need you to listen and care	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Isabella Lewis and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on better education and social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Isabella Lewis</p>
6/8/2020 10:28:00 PM	We want change!!	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kelly and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kelly</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:34:00 PM	Police Changes Please Y'all!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Shilpa and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking for greater transparency on the budget for APD. I am also asking for a commitment to the 8 common sense tactics laid out by Campaign Zero to decrease harm called by the police.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Shilpa Reddy</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Mayor Manheimer and Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>We need change now. The citizens of this city are speaking up for common sense limits on police use of force. We believe that people should be able to live freely without fear of violence or harassment from our city police. The Asheville Police Department has received national attention for the second time due to unlawful violent behavior. This is not what this city represents. We can make Asheville a safe and thriving community by investing in long term strategies that support Asheville's black community and other communities of color. We need to adopt the following guidelines that promote accountability, protect our civil rights, and support our community by divesting from the police and investing in black communities.</p> <p>We demand that 50% of the Asheville Police Department should be under direct community control through a participatory budgeting process. This should be invested in long-term support of minority business startups/business, workforce development, and funding to help close the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools. We demand funding for the creation of an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the Asheville Police Department and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>As our city council, we call you to act on the following policy changes for the Asheville Police Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mandatory third-party psychological evaluations for all police officers and law enforcement to be completed every 6 months.- De-escalation training and non-violent communication mandatory for all law enforcement officers annually.- Dismissal of all officers who have habitual violent complaints placed against them.- Accountability and traceability; if an officer has been dismissed he/she is not allowed to move to another county or state to get a new law enforcement job. They will also be placed on an anti-policing registry that can be viewed online.- Penalties for associated officers on the scene are also considered to be accomplices or legal purposes in the offense.- Mandatory body cam footage in every interaction with the public. Automatic felony charge if it is turned off manually.- End no-knock raids.- Ban police tactics that impair breathing including chokeholds. <p>We demand immediate accountability for individual officers after use of force as well as accountability of the whole police department. As our leaders, we need you to proclaim your commitment to these action items. You can take a pledge from the Obama Foundation that commits to police reform. In the funding that is provided to Asheville Police Department, the following are programs that should be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cultural sensitivity training resulting in a license that should be reissued for all officers every 6 months based on cultural developments of the community served.- Increase in Community Outreach programs to connect police with the communities they serve.- Establish the "Police Accountability Unit" that will have the power to investigate police violence complaints, review police misconduct, and



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:35:00 PM	Be the change you wish to see	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Adam and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Adam</p>
6/8/2020 10:38:00 PM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Angela Dunne and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to mental health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Angela Dunne</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:38:00 PM	REWORK THE BUDGET	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Brown and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hannah Brown</p>
6/8/2020 10:39:00 PM	FUND COMMUNITY HEALTH	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nora Vartanian</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:39:00 PM	Defunding the Asheville police	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Dricana Flynn and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Dricana Flynn</p>
6/8/2020 10:41:00 PM	In Regards to Funding	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nathan Ryder and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Nathan Ryder</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Hannah Smith and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Hannah Smith</p>
6/8/2020 10:43:00 PM	How Defunding will help us citizens	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Lydia and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lydia</p>
6/8/2020 10:46:00 PM	<p>*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE ***</p>	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:48:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE ***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Alexa Goble and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Alexa Goble</p>
6/8/2020 10:48:00 PM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE ***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Max Goble and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Max Goble</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 10:50:00 PM	Defund Asheville's Police pls	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Gabi Valdiviezo and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Gabi Valdiviezo</p>
6/8/2020 10:54:00 PM	Asheville City Council	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is MaryJo McIntosh and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>MaryJo McIntosh</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:04:00 PM	Asheville City budget	<p>My name is William Rosencrans, and I live at 56 Annandale Ave., Asheville, NC twoMy name is William Rosencrans Connor and I live at 56 Annandale Ave., Asheville, NC 28801. I do not want to see any increase in the Asheville Police Department's budget. I do understand that Asheville's crime rate has increased, and I know that needs to be addressed. But on occasion I see two or three police vehicles and several officers standing around a single homeless person. Moments like these, as well as for example the destruction of the medics' tent during the protests here in Asheville, are cases in point about the misuse of resources and manpower by the APD. At such times, it seems clear that the department could use its resources much more wisely; certainly the militarization of the police force in this city is an absurd waste of money and energy. I agree with the current demand from many quarters that resources be shifted from police departments to underserved communities which, with good leadership and proper training, can successfully resolve crime rates on their own.</p> <p>Sincerely, William Rosencrans 828-450-4991</p>
6/8/2020 11:09:00 PM	2020-2021 Budget	<p>Hello Councilmembers,</p> <p>I have input on the new proposed budget, especially on the proposed increase to the APD budget. While I understand there are new programs in the works that may need funding, I still feel that the money could best be spent elsewhere, more directly affecting some of the underlying social injustices the recent protests have laid bare. As a manager of a retail store downtown, I see firsthand the homeless, the mentally ill, and the people on the edge of losing everything. I've appreciated the help from APD when circumstances required, but I feel there are better uses for the funds, such as investing in more mental health professionals to help with the mentally ill and substance abusing folks instead of cops, investing in affordable housing and job creation, emergency preparedness for the pandemic, and making sure all the firefighters are making a living wage! You've hemmed & hawed over public transportation expansion- something that would really help the environment & people of color. And if it's one thing this pandemic has made clear, Asheville needs to start developing an economy that isn't dependent almost entirely on tourism. I ask that you take another look at the budget and find better uses for the proposed APD budget increase.</p> <p>Thank you, Jessica Gaydos</p>
6/8/2020 11:14:00 PM	Support for Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council (or staff member name),</p> <p>My name is InSook Bang and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you, InSook Bang 방인숙</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:15:00 PM	Black Avl Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Blaine Fortes and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Blaine Fortes</p>
6/8/2020 11:21:00 PM	as a concerned Asheville resident...	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Clinton Wilkins and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office toward an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and toward sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Clinton</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:22:00 PM	The people of Asheville require your action...	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Audrey Davis and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Audrey</p>
6/8/2020 11:24:00 PM	Please redirect funding towards community enrichment	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Regan, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Regan Merrill</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:37:00 PM	Summer	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Sara Ashlee and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Sara McClelland</p>
6/8/2020 11:52:00 PM	<p>*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE ***</p>	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Julianna Englander and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our black, poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Julianna Englander</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/8/2020 11:56:00 PM	Demanding Cuts to ADP's Budget & Funding Essential Social Programs	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>My name is Kyla Rohe. I write to advocate for a reduction of APD's \$3.0 million budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>I have lived in Asheville for 8 years and held various jobs at nonprofit agencies in the area, including a food pantry and a recreation center, and I currently work at Buncombe County's rape crisis & prevention center, Our VOICE (however, I do not speak on their behalf, only on my own as a citizen of Asheville). I care so deeply about the people of this area and have decided to dedicate my life to uplifting those in need. In my last position at Our VOICE, I greeted all of the folks who had experienced abuse at the Buncombe County Family Justice Center (domestic abuse, sexual violence, child abuse, and more); I was often the first to hear their story and help connect them with the vital services they needed. There is so much pain and trauma that happens to folks every day, and there are many who could benefit greatly from increased mental health, homelessness prevention, and substance use treatment programs. For so long, the police have been the ones to interact with folks who are experiencing acute mental health, substance abuse, or homelessness issues. The police are not prepared for these interactions and are not equipped to deal with these folks in a productive, supportive way; they need a social worker, not a police officer, to help them. In that position I met so many people who just needed help but instead were brutalized by the police.</p> <p>If we want our constituents in need to be able to survive, we MUST divest funds into creating and expanding the programs that support them. This will help those folks create the lives that they want to see for themselves and in turn reduce the amount of support they require from the government. PREVENTION, NOT JUST CRISIS SERVICES, will save lives and money in the long run; it is a win-win situation for the citizens and the government alike. If we want to create a town in which ALL can not only survive but thrive (not just the tourists), then you City Council members will NOT increase the police budget and instead DIVEST funds and put them toward social programs that make sense in every way and will improve the quality of life of all in our city (yes, even the tourists).</p> <p>The most important area to spend money on is affordable housing. According to the highly-researched, evidence-based best practice of the Housing First model, once homeless folks are supported in obtaining stable & safe housing, they are then able to focus on other needs such as substance abuse or mental health challenges and work towards healing and becoming a productive citizen. You as City Council members MUST work towards ending the housing crisis in Asheville and as I stated before, not only the human beings you serve but you as well will be benefitted by this decision as folks in poverty will rely less on costly emergency services and government assistance. Please stay true to your role as public servants of doing what's right for the people, not just for your pockets.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kyla Rohe Asheville, NC She/her/hers pronouns</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 12:13:00 AM	Budget	<p>I'm writing to advocate for a reduction of Asheville Police Department's budget, with no additional funding allocated to the APD in the 2020-2021 budget. I would rather see this money spent on education, affordable housing and mental health. If we strengthen social service agencies that are better equipped to handle problems like homelessness, drug addiction and mental health crises, the police will have a lighter burden and our city will be a safer place for everyone. -Zoe Taddie 16 year resident, mother of three</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>
6/9/2020 12:26:00 AM	Call to Action	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mariah Thompson</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 12:44:00 AM	Divest from what harms us	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Nico and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nico Svage</p>
6/9/2020 12:53:00 AM	@sheville city budget	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Veronika Nikolayeva and I'm a resident of New York City. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Veronika Nikolayeva</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 12:54:00 AM	We can do better	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ginny Shaferand I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ginny</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/9/2020 1:02:00 AM	Budget consideration	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is Jenny Roberts. I have lived in Asheville for 5 years. Today I'm asking that you vote to not increase the Asheville Police Department budget for 2020-2021 as recent events and altercations show that the people who are policing are unable to handle the power and do not have enough accountability. That is how people end up killed who don't deserve death as an adequate punishment for their crimes and that's not okay with me.</p> <p>Many police calls are for nonviolent problems and could be handled by professionals educated in mental health. I would like to see the budget go toward affordable housing and definitely reparations for the black community.</p> <p>A Specific idea of what to do with budget is to establish and fund an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the Police Department and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Keep this in mind and for your consideration when voting on June 9th.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jenny Roberts</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 1:02:00 AM	Reduce police budget and support poor communities	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Monica, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Monica</p> <p>--</p> <p>Monica Antonazzo</p>
6/9/2020 1:03:00 AM	You've got this one!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ruby and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ruby</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Aurelia Garlock and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Aurelia Garlock</p>
6/9/2020 3:05:00 AM	2021 Budget Proposal Concerns	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Isaac Beverly Lake V, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Isaac Beverly Lake V.</p>
6/9/2020 3:20:00 AM	A letter to the Asheville city council and the Avl PD.	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 3:26:00 AM	[*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE ***]	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/9/2020 6:10:00 AM	Support Black Asheville Demands - June 9th meeting - Prioritize education over incarceration	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Nick Ladd and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nick Ladd</p> <p>></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 6:23:00 AM	DEFUND APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maria Garcia and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Maria Garcia</p>
6/9/2020 6:26:00 AM	Re: Asheville City budget	<p>Please forgive the confusing opening sentence of my previous email. It should be: "My name is William Rosencrans and I live at 56 Annandale Ave., Asheville, NC 28801."</p> <p>Sincerely, William Rosencrans</p> <p>> On Jun 8, 2020, at 11:04 PM, william rosencrans <willyrosencrans@gmail.com> wrote:</p>
6/9/2020 6:31:00 AM	STOP GIVING BULLIES/CRIMINALS MONEY	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jasmin Vieira Raiss, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jasmin</p> <p>Sent from the pits of hell where you'll burn.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 6:31:00 AM	2021 Budget Adjustment!!!	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Haley and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Haley</p>
6/9/2020 6:36:00 AM	<p>*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE ***</p>	<p>Sent from my iPhone</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>[x]</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 6:42:00 AM	Defunding the SPD	<p>https://apple.news/A4YF9-RhMSrCMXdyK8opF9A</p> <p>I support defunding the APD and building something new from the ground up.</p> <p>John Madden</p> <p>One battle square, apartment 503</p> <p>Asheville, NC 28801</p> <p>Get Outlook for iOS<https://aka.ms/o0ukef></p>
6/9/2020 6:43:00 AM	Defunding the APD	<p>https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/01/nyregion/camden-turns-around-with-new-police-force.html?referringSource=articleShare</p> <p>Get Outlook for iOS<https://aka.ms/o0ukef></p>
6/9/2020 6:46:00 AM	Budget request from concerned citizen	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kevin Martin, and I'm a resident of Asheville and local business owner. I also vote at every opportunity. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I request that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I request more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed. Please consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kevin Martin</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
 Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mara and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mara</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
6/9/2020 6:48:00 AM	I moved to Asheville from Orlando FL	
6/9/2020 7:02:00 AM	Bloated APD Budget	



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Hi, my name is Garnet Fisher and I am a resident of Asheville, NC.</p> <p>This is in regards to the 2020 - 2021 proposed annual budget for the City of Asheville.</p> <p>*Please vote against the current proposed budget. *This is specifically because of the \$30 million dollar budget including a \$400k increase proposed for the Asheville Police Department. The use of these funds needs to be critically examined.</p> <p>*We ask the Council to provide a line item budget by department.* Last year the budget was 131 pages. This year it is only 37 pages. Where is our money going? We demand transparency and ask that the council addresses equity in every department.</p> <p>*We demand a divestment from the police and investment in Black communities. *At least 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. It is vital to redirect money away from the APD and into the funds that target the problems of public safety and help promote our communities overall well-being.</p> <p>*There should be no staffing increases or hiring of any sort to the APD. *We do not need more police. We need more mediators and community peacekeepers.</p> <p>*Examine police union contracts. *These contracts often allow the purging of misconduct records and can allow the reinstatement of fired officers. This is unacceptable. We demand this contract be made public and be critically examined if it is to remain in place while the transition away from police entirely is made.</p> <p>*We demand reparations for past and continuing harms inflicted on Asheville's Black Community.* We demand that the Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>*We demand for law enforcement and the community to end the war on Black People. *We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>*No more resource officers in schools. *The presence of these officers in our children's places of learning is entirely unnecessary. Have Asheville City Schools show solidarity with our commitment to build a healthy community by removing resource officers from schools and replacing them with mental health professionals, trained mediators, and peacekeepers.</p> <p>*Implement community elected service groups to respond to the public health and safety crises that would have previously been handled by police.* For example, mediators that respond to domestic violence or disputes. Unarmed traffic assistants that can help someone change a turn signal or get to an auto service center. Mental health responders that can help someone stay calm and get help during a manic episode. The militarized police institution has been tasked with serving public health and safety. They are not trained for this service and the entire institution has been built in such a way that is counter to these types of service. The police system must be dismantled and a new system of unarmed public health and safety</p>



Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 7:05:00 AM	Black Asheville Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Sonya Costello and I am a resident and business owner of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Warmly,</p> <p>Sonya Costello</p> <p>-- Sonya Costello 828-301-2644</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
		<p>Hi, my name is Ian Cochrane and I am a resident of Asheville, NC.</p> <p>This is in regards to the 2020 - 2021 proposed annual budget for the City of Asheville.</p> <p>*Please vote against the current proposed budget. *This is specifically because of the \$30 million dollar budget including a \$400k increase proposed for the Asheville Police Department. The use of these funds needs to be critically examined.</p> <p>*We ask the Council to provide a line item budget by department.* Last year the budget was 131 pages. This year it is only 37 pages. Where is our money going? We demand transparency and ask that the council addresses equity in every department.</p> <p>*We demand a divestment from the police and investment in Black communities. *At least 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable. It is vital to redirect money away from the APD and into the funds that target the problems of public safety and help promote our communities overall well-being.</p> <p>*There should be no staffing increases or hiring of any sort to the APD. *We do not need more police. We need more mediators and community peacekeepers.</p> <p>*Examine police union contracts. *These contracts often allow the purging of misconduct records and can allow the reinstatement of fired officers. This is unacceptable. We demand this contract be made public and be critically examined if it is to remain in place while the transition away from police entirely is made.</p> <p>*We demand reparations for past and continuing harms inflicted on Asheville's Black Community.* We demand that the Asheville City Government remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city. We demand that streets named after former slave owners also be replaced with names of historic local black leaders.</p> <p>*We demand for law enforcement and the community to end the war on Black People. *We demand not just individual accountability for officers after lethal or violent use of force, but for accountability for the entire Asheville Police Department. We demand an end to the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>*No more resource officers in schools. *The presence of these officers in our children's places of learning is entirely unnecessary. Have Asheville City Schools show solidarity with our commitment to build a healthy community by removing resource officers from schools and replacing them with mental health professionals, trained mediators, and peacekeepers.</p> <p>*Implement community elected service groups to respond to the public health and safety crises that would have previously been handled by police.* For example, mediators that respond to domestic violence or disputes. Unarmed traffic assistants that can help someone change a turn signal or get to an auto service center. Mental health responders that can help someone stay calm and get help during a manic episode. The militarized police institution has been tasked with serving public health and safety. They are not trained for this service and the entire institution has been built in such a way that is counter to these types of service. The police system must be dismantled and a new system of unarmed public health and safety</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 7:11:00 AM	WE DEMAND CHANGE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Elizabeth and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/9/2020 7:30:00 AM	2021 Budget Proposal	<p>Elizabeth</p> <p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Mackenzie Kramer and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Mackenzie Kramer</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 7:45:00 AM	Defund the police, already	<p>And take down the Vance monument. Let Asheville reckon with it's racist problem and come out on the right side of history. Listen to the black community. It's past time! With all due respect, Moni Hill.</p> <p>-- Moni Hill 828.423.2904 www.monihill.com Instagram @monihillpaints</p>
6/9/2020 7:51:00 AM	FY2020-21 Budget: Defund the APD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Laura Koehler, and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy <https://populardemocracy.org/news/publications/freedom-thrive-reimagining-safety-security-our-communities>). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Laura Koehler</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:09:00 AM	Please Use Your Power to Create Positive Change! It's Time.	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kelsey Ammondson and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kelsey Ammondson</p>
6/9/2020 8:10:00 AM	Pay	<p>I support \$15.00 an hour for firefighters, thank you</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>
6/9/2020 8:13:00 AM	The police department should be defunded for repeatedly violating Asheville's constitutionally protected right to peaceful demonstration	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Noah Pagano and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you,</p> <p>Noah Pagano</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:15:00 AM	A plea from a concerned citizen	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Theresa Woolhiser and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Theresa Woolhiser Registered Voter in Buncombe County</p>
6/9/2020 8:19:00 AM	Comment on Public Hearings item D (Budget)	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>My name is Miranda Norlin, I'm an Asheville resident, and I'm writing to let you know that the APD budget should absolutely not be increased by \$400,000. *That money, and 50% of the APD operating budget,* should instead be directed towards long-term safety strategies, including investment in Black start-ups and businesses in Asheville, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools and funding an all civilian oversight committee that has actual power to hold the police accountable.</p> <p>I want to be clear. Citizens should not have to be doing this work, telling you to not tear gas the Asheville Community, guiding you on how to do better. That is your job. That is why YOU are hired and elected. You are failing your jobs right now. Mayor Manheimer, I was embarrassed on your behalf when all you could muster at the Faith Rally were tears and platitudes about how "We" need to do better and heal Asheville. NO. You, and this council, need to do better. Minneapolis is going to dismantle their police force. Asheville can do the same. You can do better than take days to realize that police shouldn't destroy medical equipment and other supplies. You can take down the Vance Monument and wipe our city clean of all of the racist names that still dominate our street signs.</p> <p>This is not going to blow over. You are here to work for us. Not the tourists. Do better.</p> <p>Best, Miranda</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:25:00 AM	Meeting Tonight!	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Sophie Manning and I am a resident of Asheville. I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sophie Manning</p>
6/9/2020 8:26:00 AM	Time to ADVANCE	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Frances Domingues and I'm a resident of Asheville for 30+ years. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Frances Domingues</p> <p>Also...</p> <p>About that Vance monument...its time to ADVANCE don't think? Please Consider removing the obelisk and having nothing there ...would be better or engage artists and create something new, just as we are doing in real life! Asheville is progressive, has always been and will continue to be, lead the charge!</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I love this city.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:26:00 AM	Comment for June 9th	<p>A worth y idea for your consideration.</p> <p>I heard this from a friend: How about saving some of the graffiti/art on the protective plywood in town and installing it somewhere as tribute, or a reminder?</p> <p>J. Baker, Asheville</p>
6/9/2020 8:27:00 AM	<p>*** INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE ***</p>	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is [x] and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, [x]</p>
6/9/2020 8:30:00 AM	June 9th Meeting	<p>Asheville City Council, My name is Rebecca Doyle and I have worked in Asheville since 2005 I am writing in supportof the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up forconsideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Blackcommunities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long-term safety strategiesincluding 1) supporting Black startups/business, 2) eliminating the racial opportunity gap inAsheville City Schools, and 3) funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power tohold the APD and individual officers accountable. The third point is of primary importance! I suggest you delay funding the police budget to give all folks time to study a smarter way to show public safety. I hope that I can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucialjuncture in our city's history. Rebecca S Doylebdoyle49@yahoo.comrebeccadoyle@abtech.edu</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:45:00 AM	2021 Budget Reform	<p>Dear Asheville City Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Sam Wileman and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sam Wileman</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:46:00 AM	Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Jessica Worley and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jessica Worley</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:50:00 AM	Please Support Black Asheville	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the Asheville community.</p> <p>I am writing to implore you as a longtime Asheville citizen, to please support and enact the demands of Black Asheville in this year's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Please divest from the police and invest in Black communities by supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the APD and individual officers accountable.</p> <p>Please remove the Vance and Robert E Lee monuments and replace them with monuments that honor the many Black Ashevilleians who have built this city.</p> <p>Please rename streets with the names of historic local black leaders; in particular, rename streets that are currently named after former slave owners.</p> <p>Please hold individuals and the entire APD accountable and end the systemic harms inflicted on all Black people (including Black trans, queer and gender-nonconforming people).</p> <p>With gratitude, -Jenn Stradling</p> <p><https://www.avast.com/sig-email?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail&utm_term=icon> Virus-free. www.avast.com <https://www.avast.com/sig-email?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=webmail&utm_term=link> <#DAB4FAD8-2DD7-40BB-A1B8-4E2AA1F9DF2></p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:50:00 AM	For the people	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Taylor Ruff and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Taylor Ruff</p>
6/9/2020 8:54:00 AM	Black AVL Demands	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Hilary and I have been a resident of Asheville for 9 years.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Black Asheville Demands that were presented on Saturday. With the budget up for consideration, I urge City Council to divest from the police and invest in Black Communities. 50% of the APD's budget should be invested in long term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/ businesses, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in Asheville City Schools, and funding an all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold APD accountable as well as individual officers.</p> <p>I hope that we can count on your support for this essential policy shift at this crucial juncture in our city's history. I love this town and I believe in it and I want to see the community thrive, for all its citizens, ESPECIALLY, the Black community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Hilary L.</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:54:00 AM	This city disbanded its police department 7 years ago. Here's what happened next	<p>This city disbanded its police department 7 years ago. Here's what happened next</p> <p>https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/09/us/disband-police-camden-new-jersey-trnd/index.html</p> <p>Get Outlook for iOS<https://aka.ms/o0ukef></p>
6/9/2020 8:56:00 AM	Defund Asheville PD	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Melanie Risch, and I live in Yancey County. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs? Thank you, Melanie Risch</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:56:00 AM	Please Be Apart of the Change	<p>Dear Asheville City Council members,</p> <p>My name is Kellyn Hawley and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget.</p> <p>Police have been shown to be outdated and have too much power over the citizens of Asheville. Their charge to protect and serve has morphed into enforcing through fear, intimidation, and brutality. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence.</p> <p>Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Kellyn Hawley, Instructor of Residence Life Interlochen Arts Academy</p> <p>-- Kellyn Hawley Theatre Arts Studies Wildlife Biology Lees-McRae College '19</p>



June 9, 2020 City Council Meeting
Email Public Comments

Date/Time	Subject	Text
6/9/2020 8:59:00 AM	Reallocation of funds	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers, My name is Shannon and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal. I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you, Shannon</p>
6/9/2020 8:59:00 AM	Comment on Public Hearings item D (Budget)	
6/9/2020 9:06:00 AM	Justice	<p>Dear Asheville City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Meisha Chromey and I'm a resident of Asheville. I am writing about Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.</p> <p>I am asking that the Asheville City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from Asheville Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from APD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality.</p> <p>Research shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas.</p> <p>Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them.</p> <p>Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs?</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Meisha Chromey</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>