

**Time Stamp**

4/26/2021 11:48:00 AM

**Text**

Good Morning,

I am writing in support of the city moving people from homeless encampments into a hotel for shelter. I know this is a difficult situation, and I am glad to see the city trying creative ways to solve homelessness. I encourage you to continue working on more solutions like this and would be interested in the city exploring other avenues, maybe buying a hotel or apartment building to use as a low-barrier shelter like Homeward Bound is planning to do or designating one area of the city as a place for people to camp with services available.

I also think it is very important for the city to be transparent about how this program works. Honestly, \$100 per night seems like a high room rate especially for a bulk rate. It seems like it could be cheaper to rent an apartment or short-term rental for 90 days. I would hope that the city could eventually find a more cost-effective and sustainable way to help people, and because this program costs so much money it would be nice to see a clear presentation on the outcomes at the end of the 90 days.

I also appreciate the city giving notice to people before removing campsites and partnering with social services and organizations. I would like to see even more social services support and perhaps a longer notice, but I do think that homeless encampments on city property should be removed. I do not support allowing people to camp in city parks and on public property indefinitely.

Thank you,  
Nikki Gensert

4/26/2021 2:31:00 PM

All,

The upcoming 4/27/2021 Asheville City Council meeting, Consent Agenda I. again involves concerns I raised several years back regarding operational quality within the Asheville Water Department. Those earlier concerns involved potential system operational errors that may have been the cause of large water pipe breaks in the city.

My recommendation at the time was to begin the use of Root Cause Analysis techniques for all of these type events in order to ensure broader, more comprehensive changes/improvements were considered to prevent reoccurrence not only of the analyzed event, but potential reoccurrence in other similar or related areas of operation.

I indicated at the time that there are numerous consulting firms that specialize in conducting thorough root cause analyses, OR training organizations in their application.

I never received a response as to whether this recommendation was implemented.

The following are my comments regarding a very expensive operational error at the Mills River Plant that you are being asked to quickly approve in the Consent Agenda. I ask that further consideration of my earlier recommendations be made. Below are my comments to the presented issue:

Thank you.  
Mike Rains  
Asheville

Consent Agenda Item I.

Background:

←\$B!|←(B The basement of the ozone building at the Mills River WTP flooded due to several situations arising at the same time. (NO! The basement flooded because staff, training and operating procedures failed to properly understand and anticipate the flooding potential when the ozone contactor was taken out of service and left open to the basement.)

←\$B!|←(B A man way to an empty ozone contactor chamber (basin) was left open due to needed repairs; heavy rains over a short time period caused high water levels in the sludge lagoons; and at the same time, staff needed to drain one of the sedimentation basins.

←\$B!|←(B Water was unable to drain to the lagoons and backed up into the contactor and thus the basement of the ozone building.

←\$B!|←(B Staff is now aware of this potential flooding situation. (I would hope so.)

←\$B!|←(B Safeguards have been put in place. (Has a root cause analysis been completed to see how this event may apply to the OVERALL BROADER operations of the Water Department? Specifically, out-of service and safety tagging directives/procedures and training for ALL operations of the department? This was a SERIOUS operational error involving critical programmatic elements that not only are supposed to protect equipment, but also human lives if people are working in or around ←\$B!H←(Bisolated equipment←\$B!|←(B. A future mistake like this in other areas of operation could result in fatalities.)

←\$B!|←(B Staff has improved signage and training to ensure the issue does not happen

4/26/2021 6:51:00 PM

Asheville City Council members,  
My name is Al Murray, I live and work in Asheville and as of January last year, I also raise two kids here. I'm writing in support of the non-discrimination ordinance because it matters—to me and my family.

My wife and I moved here almost 10 years ago to be closer to our families as our parents were getting older. We moved here to raise a family. We picked Asheville because we thought it was a place we could be ourselves and be pretty safe in the South. As a trans person, I can't always be safe and myself in the same place, but one would at least hope I could access the same public services and accommodations my neighbors do.

I didn't move back to my home town because where I grew up, the only acknowledgement that LGBTQ people even existed came in the form of condemnation.

\*I know what it feels like to know that maybe some individuals in a community have my back, but not seeing those values reflected in leadership and government and policies —it means there is a limit to how much I or my family get to show up in the world. It means we might have to choose between meeting our needs here or experiencing our full humanity here. This ordinance is this community's opportunity to acknowledge LGBTQ people here and to tell us that no one should have to weigh those options. That you're committed to helping everyone in this community move forward where so many communities already have. \* It may be a little early to worry, but I want my kids coming back to their hometown. So I support this non-discrimination ordinance.

Thank you for your time.

Al  
Al Murray  
Asheville, NC  
Pronouns: They, Them, Their

4/26/2021 7:34:00 PM	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>I write to ask you to vote in favor of including sexual orientation and gender identity in the City's expanded non-discrimination ordinance. I am a parent, a member of the LGBTQ community, and a significant part of my work as a social worker is supporting LGBTQ youth.</p> <p>It has been very disheartening to me to hear my Asheville neighbors say that 'this nondiscrimination protection is not needed' when they have few or no connections to the people-- particularly young people-- who experience discrimination every day. Particularly young people of color who are also queer or trans are facing multiple forms of discrimination, yet they have the fewest options for support and the least protection from prejudice. Right now, the protections that they do have in Asheville City Schools end as soon as they leave their school campus.</p> <p>Our young people are counting on you to do the right thing.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Craig White, MSW West Asheville</p>
4/26/2021 9:16:00 PM	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Barret Phillips, and I'm an Asheville resident emailing to express my support for New Business Item A. I urge City Council to make this vote a unanimous statement that discrimination has no place in housing, employment, businesses, or anywhere else in Asheville.</p> <p>Sincerely, Barret Phillips</p>
4/27/2021 1:56:00 AM	<p>To whom it may concern,I am eager to see our city pass the nondiscrimination ordinance tomorrow. I was born in Asheville and have lived here 23 years. I went to elementary school, middle school, and university here. I shop here, eat out here, enjoy the parks and the downtown area. The nondiscrimination ordinance would make me feel safer and more included in every part of my life and would have done the same for me as a child. I know many younger people in the community, one who is 13, who need this protection. Asheville is a haven for those who are not valued in other parts of the south. We should do our best to live up to that high standard.</p> <p>Thanks,Sebastian "Cory" Seithel</p>

4/27/2021 7:58:00 AM	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I hope you are doing well. I wanted to send this message in support of passing a non discrimination ordinance that is inclusive for everyone. I'm a Black queer woman and I want to know that no matter where I work, who I love, where I receive health care services, or eat supper, my city has my back with discouraging bigoted practices and taking a strong stance against discrimination of any kind. Asheville can do this by passing this ordinance. I want generations after me to fill the impact of my city's intolerance for hateful and dangerous homophobic and transphobic behaviour that could grow more prevalent if a precedent isn't set today. If you vote against passing this ordinance, you vote for the allowance of people, who live in the margins to be pushed even further out. If you fail to pass this ordinance, you tell kids that it is ok to look the other way when they see an injustice being committed. You tell them that it is fair and justice for people to put their hatred or ignorance before their humanity. I hope that you have a wonderful day and that messages like this will encourage you to protect all of your community members and pass this inclusive non discrimination ordinance.</p> <p>Thank you, -- *Liz Williams* Asheville, NC 8284239962</p>
4/27/2021 11:00:00 AM	<p>Please pass a queer inclusion. For many in the margins, this can save lives.</p> <p>Amber Wells</p>
4/27/2021 11:14:00 AM	<p>My wife are against the " Ordinance prohibiting discriminatory practices in private employment and public accommodations. " This is political play to make people feel good about the " social justice mindset" and is actually discriminatory to business owners. It will cause more harm than good. Please vote " No " to this Ordinance.. Thank You</p>
4/27/2021 11:24:00 AM	<p>Dear Council Members - Please vote "no" to the ordinance prohibiting discriminatory practices in private employment and public accommodations. This is going to be harmful to many people and many businesses in numerous ways. We all, as American Citizens, no matter what we do or what we practice, have the protections of Non-Discrimination already written in law. What you are attempting to do, although MAY be well intentioned, is a governmental over reach. Don't fall victim to political pandering. Thank you for your time -Laura</p>

4/27/2021 11:35:00 AM

City Council,

After receiving the Benefit Handbook FY 2021-2022 yesterday, it came to my attention that we will be covered under CIGNA's Open Access Plan (OAP) network. The question was posed in previous city blog posts <<https://one.ashevillenc.gov/we-heard-you-health-insurance-coverage-improvements-are-coming/>> (1), but to the best of my knowledge, wasn't answered until yesterday's publishing of the handbook at 9am. I needed to know that information in order to use CIGNA's provider search= <<https://hcpdirectory.cigna.com/web/public/consumer/directory/search>> (2) because it requires you to select between HMO, OAP, and PPO to know which providers are included. Now that I've had an evening to compare our current BCBSNC providers with those covered under our new CIGNA plan, it's clear that I will have to make several changes to providers; some which will be out of the area now because there are no local providers available under CIGNA that are accepting patients. I understand the staff's argument that there are potential cost savings by entering into a plan that meets market norms and will guarantee the administrative fees for four years, but do those savings come at a diminished quality of service?

At minimum, I request that the City Council \*delay the vote\* until employees have been able to review their current provider list and report back on any disruptions of service or dissatisfaction with the new provider plan. I know that the Evaluation Committee of five has put a lot of time into selecting from the four responses received to provide health insurance coverage for the City, but there are 1,175 employees and countless more family members that will be impacted by this decision. We should be allowed more than 24hrs to provide feedback before a decision is made to enter into a multi-year contract. Provide at least a workgroup session where families who are most dependent upon our healthcare plan can voice how they will be impacted. This is a very important decision that is going to affect us for years to come.

(1)

<https://one.ashevillenc.gov/we-heard-you-health-insurance-coverage-improvements-are-coming/>

(2) <https://hcpdirectory.cigna.com/web/public/consumer/directory/search>

\*Douglas Oeser\*

Crime Analyst

Asheville Police Department

<p>4/27/2021 12:11:00 PM</p>	<p>Our nation is in turmoil due to the presumptions which are made based upon the color of skin. Presumptions which, in some cases, have resulted in deaths. Presumptions in which Asian people have been attacked and beaten.</p> <p>The glorification of those who held human beings captive as slaves is being reversed with removing those names from highways, buildings and monuments. Within our city, a monument to a former governor is being removed for that reason.</p> <p>How then can our city condone the continued discriminatory practice against the LGBTQ community? There should be no presumption that these humans are less worthy due to their identity.</p> <p>I urge that reason and humanity prevail; that judgement of others based upon differences not be a reason to decrease or eliminate an individuals ability to be equal in all aspects of life. Let us take a step forward in, not just encouraging, but demanding, that every human be given the ability to receive the same employment and pay based upon qualification. Let us truly be an accepting and non judgmental community.</p> <p>Andrea James</p> <p>Andrea W. James 828.776.2419</p>
<p>4/27/2021 12:31:00 PM</p>	<p>I oppose of this law at present time more time is needed to properly discuss before making decisions</p> <p>Get Outlook for Android&lt;<a href="https://aka.ms/AAb9ysg">https://aka.ms/AAb9ysg</a>&gt;</p>
<p>4/27/2021 12:35:00 PM</p>	<p>Dear Asheville City Council,</p> <p>My name is Harold Littleton_____, and I'm an Asheville resident emailing to express my support for New Business Item A. I urge City Council to make this vote a unanimous statement that discrimination has no place in housing, employment, businesses, or anywhere else in Asheville.</p> <p>Sincerely, Harold Littleton</p>

4/27/2021 12:35:00 PM

Hello,

I am Isa Maria Maravalha, living in Asheville, NC, Montford area.

I am writing this message, to urge lawmakers in our loving city of Asheville, to pass LGBTQ nondiscrimination protection, because I believe that all of us have the right to follow our hearts and embrace who they/we are.

When each of us respect peoples individuality and specific ways to be, the whole world would be a peaceful place to live. I want every LGBTQ person, to feel included, welcomed and free from discrimination in every are of life.

The sexual orientation of a individual is very particular and unique; I believe that every human being are worthy of dignity and respect.

Behind our appearances are brilliant minds, with noble ideas that enhances the progress of our world in many ways. Why people bother so much with the way they/we look or who they/we love?

The humanity needs more true love, respect, harmony and justice to be a better world to live in.

Nondiscrimination protection, reminds us of equal protection under the law. I believe in equality and the rights everyone have to be who they/we are. I support all LGBTQ people with Love and compassion in my heart. I am looking for a world where they/we are socially equal, humanely different and totally free.

Thank you!

Isa Maria Maravalha

4/27/2021 12:41:00 PM

Dear Asheville City Council,

My name is Bob Sondgerath, and I'm an Asheville resident emailing to express my support for New Business Item A. I urge City Council to make this vote a unanimous statement that discrimination has no place in housing, employment, businesses, or anywhere else in Asheville.

Sincerely,

Bob Sondgerath



4/27/2021 12:52:00 PM

Dear Council,

In your proceedings in the meeting today and every day to come please remember that the city of Asheville has the power to create the very conditions of benefit and suffering in our community. For example, the city has created the conditions that cause homelessness. We need long term housing solutions not more evictions from public land. Buying a few hotel rooms is not a long term solution. Keep this in mind when engaging with Consent Agenda L.1. Resolutions authorizing emergency non-congregate homeless shelter and operations.

This is a first step in the right direction, and I encourage City Council to approve this resolution. We also encourage City Council to begin investing in long-term solutions that will benefit our houseless community.

The city has created the condition of racial inequality in our communities. Please keep this in mind as you engage with Consent Agenda D.1. High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant.

Rather than funneling more money into the police budget, and perpetuating the "war on drugs," which disproportionately affects Black and Brown communities, how can the City take steps to address the "root causes" of poverty, drug solicitation, and addiction?

In regard to the Public Hearing A. Public hearing for submission of the City's Annual Action Plan for 2021-22 for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development. Can the city begin reimagining how this money could be spent in ways that truly benefit our whole community?

With Unfinished Business A. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Asheville-Buncombe United for Youth Network (UfYN). How can the City reimagine security in our education system in ways that eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline and the race-based opportunity gap?

Lastly, I fully support passing the New Business A. Ordinance prohibiting discriminatory practices in private employment and public accommodations. Will the Office of Equity and Inclusion have the resources it needs to adequately support this new ordinance?

Thank you for reading this and taking my heartfelt support and feedback into account.

Sincerely,  
Sophia Darby

Sent from my iPhone