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**To:** mVankamamidi@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Join us Thursday to talk about next steps on the police data petition

News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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**In this edition:**

- Join us this Thursday to talk about next steps on the police data petition (with babysitting!)
- Asheville to overrun Oakland at the Code for America Summit
- New Member Voice
- News from the Network
- Upcoming events

Read about the Code for Asheville police data request [here](#) and [sign the petition!](#)

**Note:** We include the main articles in full so those without internet at home can download the email in advance.

## Babysitting Available for Community Night!

We will have a Red Cross certified babysitter available at our Community Nights this Thursday and for the next few months. If you plan to bring your child, please email [info@codeforasheville.org](mailto:info@codeforasheville.org) and let us know your name, your child's age, and anything else important for the babysitter to know. There is no cost involved.

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## Thursday Community Night - Police Data Request Next Steps

The results of the Code for Asheville [Petition for Police Accountability Through Data Transparency](#) effort continue to be exciting.

Patrick Conant successfully [presented to the Public Safety Committee](#) and the effort has garnered endorsements from national organizations [Code for America](#) and the [Sunlight Foundation](#) together with a great list of local organizations, including the [Asheville Buncombe County NAACP](#), [Asheville Youth Mission](#), [Beloved Asheville and Homeless Voice](#), the [Center for Participatory Change](#), [Coven Oldenwilde](#), [Faith 4 Justice](#), [PRC Applications](#), [The Asheville Blade](#), and [Tranzmission](#). You can find an up-to-date list of endorsements and statements [here](#).

The next big step is for Code for Asheville to present the petition to the Asheville City Council on May 24, 2018. We invite anyone who can to show up in support of the petition.

Assuming we are successful, however, we need to begin thinking about next steps. Our goal in asking the City to release the data is to empower the community to assess progress directly, to advocate for positive policy changes and to collaborate with the Asheville Police Department, City Council and City management to create a more equitable and just community.

All that doesn't happen just because the data is released. At our Community Night this Thursday, we will talk about what next steps Code for Asheville can take to support the community after the data is released.

Please join us at 5:30pm at the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center, 30 George Washington Carver, Asheville, NC. Find a map and [RSVP here](#). Free babysitting is available - email [info@codeforasheville.org](mailto:info@codeforasheville.org) and let us know your name, your child's age, and anything else the babysitter should know.

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## Asheville To Overrun Oakland

The [Code for America Summit](#) takes place May 30-June 1 in Oakland, CA, and Asheville will be very well represented this year!

We'll have three members of Code for Asheville at both the Summit and the Brigade Pre-Summit: Sabrah n'haRaven, Jim March and Eric Jackson.

And we have great representation from the City of Asheville, including our first-ever non-IT folks. Currently scheduled to attend are Kimberlee Archie, Equity & Inclusion Manager; Wanda Burgess, Deputy Director of Information Technology; Jonathan Feldman, Chief Information Officer; Frank McGowan, Financial & Strategic Services Manager; and Eric Jackson again, in his Digital Services Architect role.

Eric will be leading a breakout session at the Summit on *Difficult Data, Difficult Discussions*.

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## New Member Voice

We asked our newest members two questions: “What was the best part of the meeting?” and “What would you like to see more of?” Sean, Meghan, and Devyn agreed that the best part was that everyone’s voice was heard. Meghan and Devyn were also glad to find a welcoming, like-minded community. As for what folks would like to see more of, Meghan said that she’d like to know how she can help on projects. Devyn would like to see more assignment of tasks.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their answers!

Would you like to share your thoughts? Contact Melanie Mazanec at [melanie.mazanec@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.mazanec@gmail.com).

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## News from the Network

### Code for Asheville Inspires Code for Atlanta

Inspired by our current efforts around policing data, Code for Atlanta [launched a petition](#) calling for a blameless post-mortem on the recent ransomware attack on the City. Once again, a Code for America brigade is calling on local government to follow best practices in open government and digital governance. Luigi Ray-Montanez, Co-Organizer of Code for Atlanta, reached out to us on Slack to let us know that [our petition](#) helped inspire their action.

### Open NC Collaborative becomes an official brigade

It’s official now - the [Open NC Collaborative](#) became a Code for America brigade this past month! Check out the [website](#) and, if you have any questions, just email [info@opennc-collaborative.org](mailto:info@opennc-collaborative.org). We’ll have more news on activities and projects in the coming months.

Want more civic tech news? Subscribe to [This Week in Civic Tech](#).

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## Upcoming events

### 4/12 Monthly Community Meetup

Our next Community Night will be this Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 5:30pm, at the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center. RSVP on [meetup](#) or just show up. We will be working on follow-up to our police data transparency petition to the City Council Public Safety Committee. Free babysitting is available - email [info@codeforasheville.org](mailto:info@codeforasheville.org) and let us know your name, your child’s age, and anything else the babysitter should know.

*Community nights occur on the second Thursday of each month at Stephens-Lee Recreation Center.*

### 4/24 Asheville City Council Meeting

Patrick Conant of Code for Asheville will present our [Petition for Police Accountability Through Data Transparency](#) to the Asheville City Council. Please attend to show your support if you can. Details will be updated as available on [this meetup event](#).

### 5/1 Brigade Planning Meeting

Our next regular planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 1 at 5:30pm at the Battery Park Book Exchange (we postponed a week due to the 4/24 City Council meeting). RSVP [here](#) or just stop by. You can find the agenda and notes from previous meetings [here](#).

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## Have a Story to Share?

We'd love to have your contribution. You can write something up about a Code for Asheville event or share something else going on in the civic tech world in Asheville or elsewhere. Email us at [info@codeforasheville.org](mailto:info@codeforasheville.org).

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Sign up for this newsletter

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Join the CfA Discussion on Slack

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