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Sent: 4/26/2018 12:36:05 PM
To: cmcnamara@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: Police data petition presented to City Council

News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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In this edition:

- Police data petition presented to City Council
- May 10 Community Night: Captains and Community Centers
- 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 on May 10 and for the next few months. If you plan to bring your child, please email 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.

Police Data Petition Presented to City Council

On behalf of Code for Asheville Patrick Conant presented the [Petition for Police Accountability Through Data Transparency](#) to the Asheville City Council on April 24. Since it was on the agenda as a presentation, no vote was taken, but the Council made clear that it is interested in when and how the data will be released, not whether.

Interim City Manager Cathy Ball committed to having staff reports from the Asheville Police Department and from the City Attorney's office by the May 15 meeting (the IT department, which acts as the steward of City data, had already provided its report in time for the meeting this week) and the Mayor indicated that it should appear on the agenda as old or new business (allowing a vote).

We highly recommend watching the [video of the presentation and ensuing discussion](#). Patrick's presentation starts at about 42:45. There has also been significant coverage in the news, including a [Fox Carolina TV news segment](#), the [Citizen-Times](#), and [Mountain Xpress](#).

The next Council meeting is May 15. Please continue to sign and share the petition until then. We have almost 900 combined signatures online and in person, and have the endorsement of 23 organizations / businesses. Let's keep it going!

May 10 Community Night - Captains & Community Centers

We have a couple fun things going on at our Thursday, May 10 Community Night gathering.

First, we will welcome Jim March as co-captain of Code for Asheville. This is more acknowledgment than inauguration since Jim has effectively played this role for much of the past year. In addition, we'll talk about other upcoming transitions. Suffice it to say here that Code for Asheville is blessed with a deep bench of talent!

We'll also welcome Kimberly Zygmant, the facilities manager for the Dr. Wesley Grant Southside Center. Kimberly will talk about an easy opportunity this summer to introduce kids and adults in the Southside community to coding and other technology and the latest thinking of the Asheville Parks & Recreation Department on after-school coding programs. We're looking forward to exploring ways for Code for Asheville members to support and participate in enhancing technology education here, especially in communities that have historically been left out.

RSVP [here](#) or just show up. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

New Member Voice

We ask our newest members two questions: "What was the best part of the meeting?" and "What would you like to see more of?" One person said that they liked that "everyone brings something unique to the table and that everyone has different skills to contribute whether design or analytical skills." They said they'd "like to see a more diverse contribution among group members" to the conversation.

Would you like to share your thoughts? Contact Melanie Mazanec at melanie.mazanec@gmail.com.

News from the Network

Code for Atlanta's Paratransit Pal Wins \$40K, Donates All to Charity

Code for Atlanta's Paratransit Pal won \$40,000 at AT&T's Atlanta Civic Coding Challenge and donated all the money to charity. Paratransit Pal is a prototype web application to provide information about curb-to-curb service options for people with disabilities. [Check it out](#).

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

Upcoming events

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](#).

5/10 Monthly Community Meetup

Our next Community Night will be on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 5:30pm, at the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center. RSVP on [meetup](#) or just show up. We will welcome incoming co-captain Jim March and hear from Kymberly Zygmant, facilities manager of the Dr. Wesley Grant Southside Community Center, about opportunities to introduce technology and coding to youth and others in the Southside community. Free babysitting is available - email 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.

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.

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