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**To:** jfeldman@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Code for Asheville Sponsors Police Data Petition

News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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**In this edition:**

- Police data petition and request to Asheville City Council
- Happy Birthday, SunshineRequest.com
- News from the Network
- Captain nomination survey
- Upcoming events
- Free tickets to the Code for America Summit

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

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

## Code for Asheville Sponsors Police Data Petition & Request to City Council

Events overtook the planned agenda for our March 8 Community Night and we turned our attention to the [horrendous video that was leaked to the Citizen-Times](#) showing the beating of a black resident by a white police officer following a stop allegedly for jaywalking and trespassing. The aftermath of the leak has consumed our community ever since.

The meeting began with expressions of anger, but quickly turned to a discussion of how Code for Asheville might play a constructive role, converging on the theme of increasing transparency through the timely release of important policing data. As a [recent post by the Police Data Initiative](#) notes:

When data is open, community members are empowered to assess the data directly. Releasing open data is more than a gesture of goodwill and trust on behalf of law enforcement agencies; it is a shrewd use of resources and a means of enlisting communities to solve some of their most entrenched crime problems. As such, it is a key component in the co-production of public safety.

Records requests for use-of-force, emergency call, and other data have already been made through [SunshineRequest.com](#), but to truly empower the community to hold the City of Asheville and the Asheville Police Department accountable and to work as partners with the City in identifying and implementing solutions, the information needs to be proactively released by the City on a regular basis.

Code for Asheville will submit a [formal request](#) for significant policing information to be added to the open data portal and City website, as well as a request that the City of Asheville join the Police Data Initiative, a network of cities working to use policing data to build trust between police and community and to address structural inequities in the way policing is done.

In support of this request, Code for Asheville has launched a [petition on Change.org](#) and will be gathering signatures online and offline. Please sign and share!

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## Happy Birthday, SunshineRequest.com!

It's [Sunshine Week](#) and it's been a year since we [reported on the launch](#) of [SunshineRequest.com](#). Since that time, the site has processed over 88 requests (and counting), posting all results on the site for anyone to access and use.

SunshineRequest is designed to make it easy for citizens to request public records using a simple, anonymous form. The staff of [PRC Applications](#) then manages the sometimes tedious and complex process of making the formal request and posts the results. The site and anniversary got a write-up in the [current issue of WNC Magazine](#).

Congratulations and thank you, [SunshineRequest.com](#)!

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## News from the Network

### Louisville Brigade Sponsors Tickets to *A Wrinkle in Time*

[Civic Data Alliance](#), Louisville's Code for America brigade, held a [different kind of event](#) for open data day. They invited their community to an afternoon viewing of *A Wrinkle in Time*. Attendees were asked to purchase extra tickets to sponsor local girls from communities of color to attend as a celebration of sci-fi, science, and the

empowerment of girls, especially girls of color, in STEAM.

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

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## Leadership Note

It is important to the long-term health of Code for Asheville that our formal leadership rotate regularly, both to ensure regular injections of new ideas and to prevent burnout of our most dedicated members. While we don't have fixed terms, Code for Asheville captains have generally served for 2-3 years, usually with a co-captain to share the duties. It is time to bring on a new co-captain and to begin preparing for current captain Eric Jackson to rotate out of the role.

You will be receiving a survey invitation in the next few days to submit suggestions for people (yourself or others) who should be considered for the role. Please let us know who you'd like us to reach out to!

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## Upcoming events

### 3/20 Brigade Planning Meeting

Our next regular planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 20 at 5:30pm at the Battery Park Book Exchange. RSVP [here](#) or just stop by. You can find the agenda and notes from previous meetings [here](#).

### 4/12 Monthly Community Meetup

Our next Community Night will be on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 5:30pm, at the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center. RSVP on [meetup](#) or just show up. Details to follow in a future newsletter.

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

### 2018 Code for America Summit - May 30 - June 1

Registration is now open for the seventh annual [Code for America Summit](#) and we still have one pay-what-you-can ticket available! If you've never been, the Summit is an opportunity not to be missed, bringing together more than 1,200 public servants, civic technologists, brigade members, entrepreneurs and technology companies to share what's working and what's not when it comes to government getting the full benefit of technology for better services, better outcomes and better value for money. This year's event will take place May 30th - June 1st in Oakland, CA.

Code for Asheville gets 2 free tickets to the event - is one of them for you? Contact [Eric Jackson](#) if you are even a little bit interested.

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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. Email us at [code4asheville@gmail.com](mailto:code4asheville@gmail.com).

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