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To: cmcnamara@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: Code for Asheville Police Data Petition Presented to Public Safety Committee

News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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In this edition:

- Police data petition presented to Public Safety Committee
- New member voice
- News from the network
- Upcoming events
- Free tickets to the Code for America Summit

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

Police Data Petition Presented to Public Safety Committee

Patrick Conant [presented](#) Code for Asheville's *Petition for Police Accountability Through Data Transparency* to the Asheville Public Safety Committee on Monday, March 26th, formally requesting that the proposal be considered by City Council. Patrick described the community-led process that created the petition, and the wide support it has received so far - we have gathered over 600 signatures on Change.org and paper versions of the petition, and we are building an impressive list of endorsements from organizations and groups in Asheville and beyond.

In response to the presentation, the three Council members of the Public Safety Committee indicated their support for the proposal, and granted Code for Asheville's request to present before a meeting of City Council, most likely at the April 10th meeting. They also instructed City staff to provide feedback and an estimate of any costs to implement these proposals.

Several members of the public spoke in support of the petition, including Carmen Ramos-Kennedy, who provided an official endorsement on behalf of the Asheville Buncombe NAACP.

We want to thank those in Code for Asheville and other members of the community who helped create the "Petition for Police Accountability Through Data Transparency," and everyone who has signed, shared, and supported this important effort.

We've made it through the first step of our City's policy-making process, but there is more work to be done. As we head towards our presentation before Council, we need to continue our efforts to gather signatures and endorsements. If you have signed the [petition](#), please consider sharing it again within your networks as we make the final push to make these common-sense proposals a reality in our City.

Homeless Voice also presented a set of policy recommendations designed to push our City to better serve the basic needs of all residents. Several members of Code for Asheville have supported the work and BeLoved Asheville and Homeless Voice in their efforts to analyze homelessness in Asheville, and like our petition, their proposal is a great example of community-driven policy solutions. You can learn more about their proposal [here](#).

Check out the video of the meeting [here](#). Patrick's presentation starts about 14 minutes in. Read the full text of the presentation [here](#). You can find the Change.org petition [here](#), and the full request [here](#).

New Member Voice

The best part of the last meeting was seeing folks who were new to tech and civic tech speak up and help shape a course of action. This is also what I would like to see more of - I think this group could be even more welcoming if we were mindful of pausing discussions to create space for introverts, soft-spoken folks, and anyone else who might feel hesitant speaking up.

- Melanie Mazanec about the February meeting

Thank you, Melanie!

Melanie will be taking over this new member voice section. Would you like to share your thoughts? Contact Melanie Mazanec at melanie.mazanec@gmail.com.

News from the Network

The Growth of greenSTEM

The [greenSTEM Network](#) connects students to the environment by monitoring and mining data from schoolyard gardens and green stormwater infrastructure. [Check out](#) how the project grew and flourished with [Code for Philly](#)'s support, and eventually outgrew the organization (and why that's a good thing).

Code for America Food Security Projects

On [April 9 at 7pm ET](#), Civic Data Alliance, Code for Philly, and Code for America will present on food security projects: what they are working on, what are successes from their projects, what are challenges from their projects. This will be a great opportunity to learn about work in the food security space, and share food security projects you are working on. This will be an interactive discussion, and we look forward to the conversation! [Register for the workshop](#).

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

Upcoming events

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. We will be working on follow-up to our police data transparency petition to the City Council Public Safety Committee.

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

4/24 Brigade Planning Meeting

Our next regular planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 24 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](#).

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.

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.

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