

From: Kim Roney <mskimroney@gmail.com>
Sent: 10/17/2018 7:24:35 AM
To: Esther Manheimer, Gwen Wisler AVL City Council, Sheneika Smith, Keith Young, Brian Haynes, Julie Mayfield, vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: Why without us?

Dear Mayor Manheimer & City Council Members,

I urge you to reinstate the public engagement part of the hiring process for the City Manager. Even if it's just one candidate instead of a group of finalists, we need you to honor what you have committed to the public, and until Wednesday at 4pm, you can choose to keep your commitment instead of cancelling inclusivity.

I want to say, "This isn't how we do things." Unfortunately, it has been, but it doesn't have to be.Â

If you are trying to protect this hire from feedback and criticism, you don't have to fail them by removing the input that would build trust with the community. We have to acknowledge that there's a deep sense of mistrust in our local, state, and federal government right now. Skipping the public engagement process you chose to offer means taking a big step back. It will take a great deal to recover since we will have welcomed this person through a process that starts them off on the wrong foot with 10 laps behind us in the progress in which we've invested to heal community and build trust.Â

The right person for the job will value public input, even when it's hard to hear or when they're in total disagreement. If you have offered them the option and they've declined, this is not the person we need running the daily operations of the City. If you haveÂ notÂ given them the opportunity to choose, or have hidden the withdrawal of your promise to engage the people of Asheville, you have done yourselves and all of us a disservice.Â

Please move now, today, towards a realignment to your commitment: reinstate public engagement with the candidate for City Manager before their contract is signed. This could look like a series of 5 meet & greets across town, a process you are familiar with, and that will set them up for success. This is an opportunity to be our best, and we require you to demand it.

Kim

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Kim Roney - Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Piano Teacher

Asheville City Multi-Modal Transportation Commission & Transit Committee Member