

From: PMcDaniel@ashevillenc.gov <PMcDaniel@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 2/17/2017 2:12:11 PM
To: ashevilleblade@gmail.com
Cc:
Subject: Dec. 30 meeting with local advocates, APD and city staff

Hi David,

As you noted, the November 30 meeting included a member of the NAACP's Racial Justice Committee (Dee Williams), a representative of Code for Asheville (Patrick Conant), City leadership (Assistant City Manager Paul Fetherston) and members of the police department. The members of the police department who were present were Chief Tammy Hooper, Deputy Chief Wade Wood and Deputy Chief Jim Baumstark as well as:
Dan Lemley, Administrative Services Manager
Ed Eads, Crime Analyst
Douglas Oeser, Crime Analyst

City Attorney John Maddux also attended.

As much as is possible, City staff wants to provide contextual information that can be helpful in how data is interpreted. This is reflected in the staff that attended the meeting.

I can tell you staff is committed to this partnership and seeks to have meaningful dialogue as more and more data becomes available for interpretation and development. We especially see a role for the City's IT Services Department to provide support by participating in these kinds of discussions going forward. The City's ITS Department has a lot of experience in this area and will be partnering with Code for Asheville for [Open Data Day](#) coming up March 4.

Polly McDaniel

Communication Specialist | City of Asheville
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From: Asheville Blade [mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:01 PM
To: Polly McDaniel <PMcDaniel@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions about Dec. 14 meeting with local advocates, APD and city staff

Thanks Polly, I appreciate it.

Best,

David

On Thu, Feb 16, 2017 at 11:03 AM, Polly McDaniel <PMcDaniel@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

David, we are working on a more specific answer. Thank you for your patience. We expect to provide it today.

Polly McDaniel

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From: Asheville Blade [mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:41 PM

To: Polly McDaniel <PMcDaniel@ashevillenc.gov>

Cc: Dawa Hitch <DHitch@ashevillenc.gov>

Subject: Re: Questions about Dec. 14 meeting with local advocates, APD and city staff

Hooper and Fetherston have memories that are capable of recalling past events, don't they? And I'm sure they're perfectly capable of speaking to their motivations or thoughts behind a remark or comment that members of the public have questions about. In fact, I've seen both do so on multiple occasions.

If they or other city officials decline to do so this time on one or all of the questions, fine, the article will note that choice accordingly.

Best,

David

On Tue, Feb 14, 2017 at 1:26 PM, Polly McDaniel <PMcDaniel@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

I have been working on this David, but the emails appear to be the only information we have to share.
Because this was a meeting between a private citizen and staff there are no transcripts of the meeting.

We are not in a position to give you a play-by-play about what happened at a meeting at the municipal building between Dee Williams of the NAACP's Racial Justice Committee and Patrick Conant of Code for Asheville and Asheville Police Department Chief Tammy Hooper, Assistant City manager Paul Fetherston and other APD and city officials because there is no transcript.

Best,

Polly McDaniel

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From: Asheville Blade [mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:33 PM

To: Dawa Hitch <DHitch@ashevillenc.gov>

Cc: Polly McDaniel <PMcDaniel@ashevillenc.gov>

Subject: Re: Questions about Dec. 14 meeting with local advocates, APD and city staff

And my regrets: the request was in reference to a meeting that occurred Wednesday, Nov. 30, not Dec. 14. The emails sent in reply to the open records request accurately reflect this and I regret any confusion.

Best,

David

On Tue, Feb 14, 2017 at 12:25 PM, Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Polly, I wanted to check back in on the status of this. Ben sent me the records today (thanks!) and I was wondering when the answers to the questions will be forthcoming.

Best,

David

On Mon, Feb 6, 2017 at 3:05 PM, Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com> wrote:

Excellent, thank you.

Best,

David

On Mon, Feb 6, 2017 at 2:04 PM, Dawa Hitch <DHitch@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Sorry Polly! Meant to copy you. Please see below request.

From: Dawa Hitch
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 2:04 PM
To: 'Asheville Blade'
Subject: RE: Questions about Dec. 14 meeting with local advocates, APD and city staff

OK. Forwarding this to Polly. Sheâ€™ll follow up with you.

Take care,
Dawa

From: Asheville Blade [<mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Dawa Hitch
Subject: Re: Questions about Dec. 14 meeting with local advocates, APD and city staff

Hey Dawa, I wanted to double-check on this, both on the eight questions concerning the nature of the meeting and the two attached records requests. Other than your email Feb. 1 I have received no other reply on this and would like to clarify the situation asap.

Best,

David

On Thu, Feb 2, 2017 at 1:32 PM, Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com> wrote:

I haven't heard back from anyone on this request until now.

-David

On Feb 1, 2017 5:20 PM, "Dawa Hitch" <DHitch@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Hi David,

Have you connected with Polly on this?

Thanks,

Dawa

From: Asheville Blade [mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 11:31 AM

To: Dawa Hitch

Subject: Re: Questions about Dec. 14 meeting with local advocates, APD and city staff

Hey Dawa, I wanted to check in on the status of the answers to these questions.

Best,

David Forbes

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Or donate: [cash.me/\\$AshevilleBlade](https://cash.me/$AshevilleBlade)

On Wed, Jan 11, 2017 at 1:25 PM, Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Dawa, hope you're well.

I have some questions about a meeting that took place on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at the municipal building between Dee Williams of the NAACP's Racial Justice Committee and Patrick Conant of Code for Asheville and Asheville Police Department Chief Tammy Hooper, Assistant City manager Paul Fetherston and other APD and city officials. These questions are based on direct, detailed discussions with attendees. I'm seeking an account from the city of what happened and what the motivations were for statements made that afternoon.

- 1) What was the purpose of the meeting? Which other APD and city staff were involved and what was the reasoning behind their inclusion? Were Williams and Conant at any point prior to the meeting informed that others besides themselves, Hooper and Fetherston would be involved? If not, why not?
- 2) At any point did Fetherston or any other city staff object to the use of the term "racial disparities" to describe some of the findings of the Open Data Policing NC figures for the APD? If so, on what grounds?
- 3) Were other projects that Conant had been involved in (besides the Open Data Policing NC data project that was the purpose of the meeting) criticized at the meeting? On what grounds and by which officials?
- 4) Did any city staff present take issue with the Nov. 28 presentation to the Public Safety Committee on the Housing not Handcuffs data project by Conant and BeLoved House leader Amy Cantrell? If so, on what grounds? Had any city staff contacted Conant or Cantrell about objections to the presentation or data at any time between the Nov. 15 press conference presenting the Housing not Handcuffs finding and the Dec. 14
- 5) Does the city have an official reaction to the information contained in the Housing not Handcuffs data or its presentation?
- 6) Did Fetherston, Hooper and/or any other officials present object to the invitation of representatives from the Southern Coalition for Social Justice to present about the Open Data Policing NC numbers to the Citizens Police Advisory Committee and in a separate community luncheon? If so, on what grounds?
- 7) At any point was the assertion made by Fetherston, with Hooper's verbal agreement, that local individuals or groups presenting on data to city committees or presenting it to the public at a press conference must go through city staff for discussion or approval before doing so? If an assertion to this effect was made, is this based on any official city policy?

8) Were any objections or concerns raised by city and APD officials during this meeting related to the recent changes to public presentation rules CPAC enacted at its Jan. 4 meeting?

Please also consider this email to constitute two open records requests:

- 1) Any emails from city staff discussing the arrangement of the meeting or its circumstances, both before and after it took place.
- 2) Any emails discussing the Housing not Handcuffs press conference or the data presented there.

Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Best,

David Forbes
Editor, Asheville Blade

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