

**From:** Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 1/11/2017 1:25:30 PM  
**To:** Dawa Hitch <dhitch@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Questions about Dec. 14 meeting with local advocates, APD and city staff

---

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

828-335-2529

[ashevilleblade.com](http://ashevilleblade.com)

Support us and subscribe at: [patreon.com/avlblade](https://patreon.com/avlblade)

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