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|---|---|
| **From:** | esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com |
| **To:** | "Lisabeth Medlock"; "Gwen Wisler AVL City Council"; "Julie Mayfield"; "Keith Young"; "Sheneika Smith"; vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com; Jasmine Beach-Ferrara; Brownie W. Newman; Alfred Whitesides; Amanda Edwards; Joe Belcher; Robert Pressley; "Brian Haynes" |
| **Cc:** | "Debra Campbell"; Avril Pinder |
| **Subject:** | RE: Major COVID-19 Disaster Happening at the ART Station |
| **Date:** | Wednesday, April 1, 2020 12:38:01 PM |

Beth – I am adding the City and County managers to this email.

**From:** Lisabeth Medlock <lisabeth.resultsconsulting@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:59 AM
**To:** Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>; Gwen Wisler AVL City Council <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com>; Julie Mayfield <juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com>; Keith Young <keithyoung@avlcouncil.com>; Sheneika Smith <sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com>; vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com; jasmine.beach-ferrara@buncombecounty.org; brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org; alfred.whitesides@buncombecounty.org; mike.fryar@buncombecounty.org; amanda.edwards@buncombecounty.org; joe.belcher@buncombecounty.org; robert.pressley@buncombecounty.org; Brian Haynes <brianhaynes@avlcouncil.com>
**Subject:** Major COVID-19 Disaster Happening at the ART Station

Good Morning Mayor Manheimer, Commissioner Newman and Council and Commission Members,

First, I want to thank all of you for your joint efforts in dealing with this pandemic. Second, I hope you all stay well. I am writing this morning to talk about what is happening at the ART station and to ask you to support measures to deal with this public health flash-point. As a consequence of many factors, including the lack of a comprehensive plan for sheltering the un-sheltered and the removal of fares, we have a sheltering on the bus/on the platform/in the lobby situation. The result is that large groups of people are gathered in close proximity hour after hour, day after day, with no kind of physiol distancing or adequate access to COVID-19 prevention measures.

I did what I could as a volunteer and Chair of the Transit Committee-made sure staff on site had enough disinfecting products, put up COVID-19 prevention signs, made a phone call and secured 100 masks from the EOC because our drivers had no masks, and obtained enough ISO alcohol to ensure buses could be disinfected for the weeks to come. Much more needs to be done.

First, we need a plan for shelter. I know this is something Amy Cantrell and BeLoved have been championing, but I want to reiterate the great need for a place to shelter where there can be some separation. Second, we need to reduce the bus routes further by temporarily suspending runs where there are few riders. My observations, and those of the drivers and staff, are that about 80% of riders are those sheltering on the bus. Third, there has to be a better plan for making sure there is access to COVID-19 prevention methods. When the bathrooms closed earlier this week there were no hand-washing stations provided. Lastly, we need to acknowledge that the drivers are on the front lines in this pandemic and they should somehow be compensated. I am raising funds to give each

driver a gift card, but other paths to either enhanced paid sick leave or hazard bonuses should be explored.

I will stop here and thank you again for the work you are doing to protect the residents of the City and County.

Best,
Beth

Lisabeth Medlock, PH.D.
Chair, City of Asheville Transit Committee
Vice-Chair, Multimodal Transportation Commission