

From: David Zack <dzack@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 6/4/2020 11:53:50 AM
To: Aaron Barnard <abarnard32@gmail.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Protect Black Lives

Aaron. I do understand. I'm working on the changes that are needed. They are coming.

On Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 11:52 AM Aaron Barnard <abarnard32@gmail.com> wrote:

The history of police brutality against black people, especially within the past few days, shows that we can't allow for more police funding. It's not helping, and it never has. Our city has other dire needs that would actually help black people and our community at large (public transit, affordable housing, black owned small business grants) not more militarized police. Why are we funding the police more when there are other departments that are far more deserving getting their budgets cut?

The local police have proven they cannot be trusted. They feign solidarity by kneeling once or twice, but then gas and shoot peaceful protesters and medics, and destroy medical supplies. Shame on APD for tearing apart a medic tent on June 2nd. You claim it was for the safety of the officers who had water bottles thrown at them. They were in full riot gear, and they can't take a water bottle? They shouldn't be police officers then. People could have thrown anything, your excuses are laughable.

Let's say you actually did need to get rid of the water bottles and search for explosives as you claimed, which is debatable. You could have asked the medics to remove them. You could have removed them yourselves and cautiously searched for explosives. You could have not destroyed the other property (food and medical supplies). You know damn well that there were so many other ways to handle this. The fact that the officers who did this are not being held accountable is partially the point of these protest - there is no police accountability.

The other, larger point of these protests is that black lives matter. They do. And you need to acknowledge it. You need to make a public statement. And you absolutely can't stop there as so many have in the past. You have to advocate for change. As leaders, you must make it happen. Your policies, both internal and external, need to reflect the fact that black lives matter. Until you say it, and until you actually do what needs to be done, we know you don't care about black people. And it's time y'all get out and make way for people who do.

Black lives matter.

Sent from my iPhone

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