

From: David Zack <dzack@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 6/4/2020 5:30:28 PM
To: Melissa Quinn <melissaq@avlchocolate.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: From a downtown business owner

Ms. Quinn,

We are doing the best we can here. It's been tough. These officers are bordering on mental and physical exhaustion. They have been taking the "hate" much better than is being reported. You truly have to be on the ground to know what's really happening.

We understand how COVID has devastated you all. We shall continue to do our best keep you property safe from harm.

There are many reforms coming here at APD. I hope we will meet your expectations.

Regards,

Chief Zack

On Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 4:34 PM Melissa Quinn <melissaq@avlchocolate.com> wrote:

Dear Chief Zack,

Please add my name to the list of downtown business owners who would like to see a more compassionate reaction to the protesters.

Like many businesses, we are boarded up for protection, and like most we are still reeling from COVID. But I support the peaceful protesters in their call for change.

Please let me add, before you stop reading - I am 100% against the "ACAB" mentality. My heart truly goes out to the police officers who have to stand quietly while their fellow Ashevilleans scream hatred and fury and threats directly into their faces.

I watched the live-streams from Monday night with horror as I listened to explosions one block away, and agree that something had to be done before it escalated.

I know you guys are in a tough position, given that you are trying to protect people and property as much as possible. I'm not advocating to let rioters do whatever they want.

But please - look around the country at cities that are doing it right. We can do better than meeting the bare minimum requirement of not physically brutalizing anyone. Some of these folks are yelling because they're ignorant rabble-rousers, but some of them are yelling because they are frustrated and heartbroken at watching things like the murder of George Floyd over and over and over again, and they deserve to be heard. And I hope my windows don't get busted in, but if I have to choose between busted windows or someone getting killed - cop OR protester - I

would break them myself in a heartbeat.

Please stay safe out there. I do not envy any of you guys your jobs right now.

Melissa Quinn

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