From: Kathryn Walker
To: Public Comments
Subject: Divest funds from the Sheriff"s office
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 4:24:56 PM

Hello commissioners:

I live in Asheville and write to demand that commissioners amend their budget and defund the county sheriff's office and detention center by at least 50% immediately. Please immediately reinvest funds taken from the sheriff and jail in ways that effectively address the local pandemic, including: free accessible testing for all who need it, free masks, and support for frontline medical and emergency workers. Overtourism must stop and non-essential businesses should be supported as they close. Hotel space for our houseless residents should be made available. Like Durham, NC, our sheriff must halt evictions during the pandemic, and funds should be directed to our hardest hit communities--including immigrant communities.

Mental and physical health services must be made widely available and organizations that support basic needs must be supported. Your constituents need you to act--our lives are on the line.

Sincerely,

Kathryn J. Walker

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