From: Mineko Shannon
To: Public Comments
Subject: AMEND THE BUDGET
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:23:48 PM

As a resident of West Asheville, I am extremely disturbed at how the County has been dealing with the Pandemic.

The Buncombe County Health Board recently identified RACISM as a LOCAL HEALTH CRISIS.

I am demanding that the Commissioners amend their budget and DEFUND the County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center by AT LEAST 50% IMMEDIATELY.

Covid-19 is causing exponential harm by killing our neighbors, family, and friends or leaving them with organ damage to last a lifetime. As a start, please reinvest funds taken from the sheriff and jail in ways that effectively address the local pandemic. This plan should include an end to the reopening, only essential businesses should be open, with a requirement that businesses provide all workers with protective gear and that the mask policy is upheld. All city and county schools must choose Plan C, and refuse to return to in person learning. The County must provide accessible, free testing for all who need it, free masks available for everyone who doesn't have one, and funds for increased pay and support for frontline medical and emergency workers.

We must address overtourism, and that means the county must shut down all leisure travel and abolish the TDA and its advertising. The county must open hotels for the unhoused community to prioritize their health and wellbeing. The Buncombe County Sheriff must also halt enforcing evictions during the Covid pandemic. Durham County's Sheriff has made this commitment. Buncombe's must too. Finally, the pandemic response MUST direct funds towards communities hardest hit and most at risk, especially immigrant communities.

Please get HUMANITY'S PRIORITIES in order!!!!

Thank you,
Mineko