From: Cricket Allen
To: Public Comments
Subject: Effectively Responding to the Local Pandemic - Divest from the Sheriff"s Dept. INVEST in Our Community
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 4:56:03 PM

Hello,
My name is Amanda Allen and I am a resident of Buncombe County, District 3. I am contacting you to underscore the imperative that County Commissioners respond to this crucial moment as the Pandemic of COVID 19 and the Public Health Crisis of Systemic Racism appear and stoke suffering within our own community.

First and foremost, County Commission must amend the proposed budget and divest at least 50% of funds for the Sheriff's Dept. and redistribute that money into our community. Specifically centering the safety and needs of our BIPOC, immigrant, and other communities living in higher risk conditions.

Also we must cease with reopening. Only essential businesses with appropriate safety measures (e.g. masks required for service, masks, gloves, etc for workers) should be open at this time.

Free COVID 19 testing must be provided to residents.
Of the funds reallocated the county can invest in the community of workers who would be impacted by loss of work.

Buncombe County Sheriff's Dept must also halt enforcing evictions at this time. A precedent has been set for this by the Durham Sheriff's Dept. Buncombe must follow suit.

It is imperative that County Commissions rises to the challenge and opportunity of this moment to serve our community and center the needs and demands of our Black community members, leaders, and those of our community living in highest risk.

Thank you for your time.

Amanda

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Amanda Allen, RVT, CPDT-KA
Behavior Rehab Coordinator
ASPCA Behavior Rehab Center
Weaverville, NC
'Nature is cruel, but we don't have to be' ~Temple Grandin