From: Scott T
To: Public Comments
Subject: Defund Buncombe County Sheriff's Office.
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:54:53 PM

Hi, my name is Scott Thompson and I'm from Asheville and I am emailing to demand you defund the Buncombe County Sheriff's office.

The county has had an abysmal handling of the pandemic and in the midst of citizens in the streets demanding the defunding of police and prisons, there is a clear path forward to ensuring the safety of your citizens instead of prioritizing the profits of the wealthy tourism business owners. I'm asking the following of you:

a) Close down Buncombe County again. The only businesses that should be open are essential businesses. CLOSE THE TOURIST TRAPS. Abolish the Tourism Development Authority, they have far too much sway on local politics and their agenda endangers the well being of locals.

b) Defund the Buncombe County Sheriff's office and redistribute that budget to the community to support them during this pandemic. Especially black and latinx communities which are being disproportionately affected by this pandemic. Our communities need those resources not jails and cops.

The Buncombe County Health Board recently pronounced racism a local health crisis. It's time. County Government MUST cut the Sheriff and the Jail budgets by at least 50%, end the pandemic, abolish gentrification promoting and virus enabling organizations such as the TDA, and invest in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in the new economy free from the grips of overtourism.

Thank you for your time,
Scott Thompson