From: Eric Heveron-Smith
To: Public Comments
Subject: Budget
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 5:00:39 PM

Hello,

My name is Eric Heveron-Smith and I live in West Asheville. I am writing to demand that the county defund the Sheriff's department and detention center by at least 50%, immediately. This money should be reinvested in Black and Brown communities. Overpolicing does not make our community safer, and there are many needs (mental health services, affordable housing, homeless services, and beyond) that need better funding.

In addition, the TDA needs to be abolished. In the midst of a pandemic, the last thing we need is advertising dollars spent bringing MORE visitors to town. On the subject of COVID, schools should not be open for in-person learning until the pandemic is under control- my two children will not be returning to school in the fall because of this. And the Sheriff's office must commit to halt enforcement of evictions. Durham County's sheriff has made this commitment, as have many communities around the country that care about the health and safety of their citizens. Buncombe county tried to re-open too soon, and we are now reaping the results of that decision.

Thank you.
Eric Heveron-Smith
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Eric Heveron-Smith

musician, producer, gardener
www.eric-hs.com
eheveronsmith@gmail.com
585-734-3383