From: victoria1estes
To: Public Comments
Subject: What Buncombe Co. Needs
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:29:50 PM

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a constituent from Arden, NC and I am writing you today in regards to many issues that are coming before Buncombe County. As follows are some suggestions as to how we can move forward equitably and justly.

a) The County must STOP 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.

b) All city and county schools must choose Plan C. Refuse to return to in person learning.

c) Shut down all leisure travel and abolish the Tourism Development Authority (TDA)

d) Provide accessible, free testing for all who need it. Free masks available for everyone who doesn't have one. Funds for increased pay and support for frontline medical and emergency workers.

e) Open hotels for the unhoused community to prioritize their health and wellbeing.

f) The Buncombe County sheriff must halt enforcing evictions during the COVID pandemic. Durham County's sheriff has made this commitment. Buncombe's must too.

g) The pandemic response MUST direct funds towards communities hardest hit and most at risk, especially immigrant communities.

h) The County MUST invest in the economic wellbeing of Black and Brown residents, deeply affordable housing, land provisions, equitable education outcomes, mental health services, rent subsidies and eviction diversion, free public transportation, and restorative justice services.

I hope you will take this to heart and act accordingly as to the demands for justice you have

been hearing from the county's residents.

Thank you for your time.

-V

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness." -Martin Luther King Jr.