From: Joseph Chavez
To: Public Comments
Subject: Covid Relief
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:32:32 PM

To whom this may concern,
My name is Joseph Chavez and I am an Asheville resident. I am writing today to demand 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, families, and friends or leaving them with organ damage to last a lifetime. Not to mention the reopening of many hotels and tourist hot spots in Asheville is incredibly inappropriate to Asheville residents as it put many of them at risk of contracting the virus. Furthermore, even the County Health Board acknowledges that racism is a public health crisis. Now that the diagnosis is official, we need you to effectively address the local pandemic and to fund reparations for our Black, Brown, and Indigenous neighbors.
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
- Funds need to be available for hazard pay and to pay frontline medical and emergency workers.
- Adress tourism- the County mush shut down leisure travel and abolish the TDA and its advertising
- **Open hotels for the unhoused community to prioritize their health and wellbeing.**
- Buncombe County Sheriff needs to halt enforcing evictions during the COVID pandemic. (Durham County's sheriff has made this commitment, Buncombe needs to as well)
- The pandemic response MUST direct funds towards communities who were greatly impacted and are at the highest risk, especially immigrant communities.

Please listen to the needs of the community during these devastating times,
Joseph Chavez