From: Lynne McNamee
To: Public Comments
Subject: No on Reparations for Buncombe County - For Commission Meeting Jul 21, 2020
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:07:07 PM

To: Buncombe County Commissioners

I would like my voice to be heard in response to the Asheville City Council's vote on reparations for Black residents and their descendents and if the Buncombe County Commissioners are considering the same reparations for all Black residents and their descendents.

I am against voting for reparations in Buncombe County. The Buncombe County Sustainability Plan has supplemental Strategic Priorities that address the issues brought forth by the Asheville City Council's Reparations recommendations which are:

Access to affordable housing
Increasing minority business ownership and career opportunities
Strategies to grow equity and generational wealth
Closing gaps in health care, education, employment pay
Neighborhood safety and fairness within the criminal justice system

The Six Strategic Priorities of the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan are:

Affordable Housing
Clean & Renewable Energy
Diverse Community Workforce
Early Childhood Education
Justice Resource Support
Opiod Addiction

All of the issues the Asheville City Council wants to address under Reparations are already being addressed in the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan - Strategic Priorities. This is a duplication of effort and adding bureaucracy upon bureaucracy which helps nobody and costs everybody. All of the issues the Asheville City Council brought up can be applied to all persons in Buncombe County through the Strategic Priorities without having to add more resources.

My recommendation would be to look at the Buncombe County Strategic Priorities and ensure they are being carried out and make changes within those, if necessary. With Covid-19 and reductions in employment and education, we need to be even more sensitive to where our tax dollars are being spent and reduce duplication of effort.

Very Respectfully,
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