
Re: FW: The Murder of Kanize Jackson

email: "sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com Sheneika Smith"

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 4:46:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com Esther Manheimer"

Cc: email: "dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov Debra Campbell" , email: "ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov councilgroup"

I attended a candle light vigil organized by this young man's family and the story they shared is very similar to what this lady stated.

Sad thing, I heard more than one story from other attendees who are also waiting for arrests following the murders of their children.

Sheneika

On Tue, Aug 11, 2020, 1:14 PM <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Were charges brought in this case?

From: Clare Beumer <clarebeumer@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:28 AM

To: dzack@ashevillenc.gov; jbaumstark@ashevillenc.gov; jjameson@ashevillenc.gov; ggudac@ashevillenc.gov; Gwen Wisler <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com>; esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com; brianhaynes@avlcouncil.com; sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com; keithyoung@avlcouncil.com; juliemayfield@avlcouncil.com; Brenda Mills <bmills@ashevillenc.gov>; dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov

Cc: bscaleadership@gmail.com

Subject: Re: The Murder of Kanize Jackson

Last week, a young man in my neighborhood was murdered. I am concerned that the police are not adequately investigating this horrible crime. I'll be the first to admit that I do not have all of the facts, but I will let you know what I am seeing and hope that you all consider working harder to ensure that the needs of the community are met.

My neighborhood is one of the few remaining historically Black communities in Asheville that has not been thoroughly gentrified. Many of my neighbors have lived their entire lives there and much of their family and social network live nearby (and have done so for generations). Over the past year living there, I have witnessed community engagement with police - leadership has requested assistance from APD to keep our little no-outlet loop safe. It is a tight knit community and whenever a violent event has occurred, it has often been perpetrated by individuals from outside the neighborhood coming in.

When I spoke with the victim's Uncle over the weekend, he told me that police were slow to take action when they arrived on the scene. Kanize was critically injured but still alive and police did not approach with a sense of urgency. Kanize's uncle also said that there were several witnesses who have volunteered what they saw (license plate number, physical description, vehicle description) to the police and that he was disheartened that the APD has seemingly not acted on that information. This young man and his family deserve justice.

As a white resident here, I can't help but wonder how this same scenario would be playing out had this event occurred in a white neighborhood, if there had been a white victim.

Asheville City Council has not listened to the demands of Black Asheville to defund the police. So I am wondering, what is APD doing? They have more resources than any other police department in the state of North Carolina and despite that, they are unable or unwilling to do their job? APD is supposed to be protecting and serving the residents of this community. Instead of tirelessly seeking justice for an innocent 20 year old Black man, they are focusing their energy on harassing and arresting peaceful BLM protestors downtown?

I digress, and again, I am certain that I don't hold all of the information. But what I have written here is my perception - and it is worth noting that it is also the perception of many residents throughout Asheville. We want to see actions that match the promises that City Council has made. If you truly want to build trust, and invest in the people of this city, you have to hold APD accountable. We will no longer accept lip service.

Thoughtfully,

Clare Beumer Hill
