

From: Jaime Matthews <jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 1/4/2021 3:29:59 PM
To: Cathy Ball, Jenna Miller
Cc: Paul D'Angelo, Peggy Rowe, Richard White, Sam Powers, Debra Campbell, Dana Frankel, Stephanie Monson Dahl, Todd Okolichany, David Melton
Subject: Re: Request: COVID, Relief Funds, Restaurants and 30% capacity

Hi All,Â
Jenna is going to help us compile all responses.Â If you have already sent information, can you forward to me and Jenna.Â Please include her in any other responses.Â
Thank you,
Jaime

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 9:06 AM Cathy Ball <cball@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
This is theÂ email I referenced in my previous email.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Cathy

Cathy D. Ball, PE
Assistant City Manager
City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 4:11 PM
Subject: Request: COVID, Relief Funds, Restaurants and 30% capacity
To: Brad Branham <bbranham@ashevillenc.gov>, Cathy Ball <cball@ashevillenc.gov>, Debra Campbell <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>, Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>, Gwen Wisler <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com>, Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com>, S. Antanette Mosley <antanettesmosley@avlcouncil.com>, Sandra Kilgore <sandrakilgore@avlcouncil.com>, Sheneika Smith <sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com>

Morning all,Â

As COVID rapidly escalates locally, I hope you all and your families have been able to stay safe. Debra, others, I have a few things Iâ€™m concerned about regarding our response to COVID. Could I/we get an update on the items below? Perhaps these items could be included in the HCD monthly update, too.Â

1. Water billing (thank you for the push on this, Kim): If we knew when the 889k was dropping (this week was the projected date), could we tie a bill hold to 7 days past that date? Getting the bills paid by relief funds is best for everyone.Â
2. Update from Pisgah and Homeward Bound on how the two 200k grants and Red Roof Inn are going. Still have available funds? Can they/Are they helping with #1 above? Long term hotel housing planning still in play? More we could be doing?Â
3. Any news on the 889k timing and what, if anything are we likely to get from the recently approved stimulus. Do we know yet? What kind of timeline might it have, including when weâ€™d give input on it?
4. Ever since the County started using the Stateâ€™s COVID reporting site, I have lost info I was tracking, including infected local figures, ages, group settings (nursing homes, schools), demographics of our local deaths, etc. Is there a resource you can point me to that I am missing? And are we, as a city, planning to do anything to honor our victims of COVID? A reading of names, anything? Perhaps doing so would help the community better understand the brevity.Â
5. Restaurants. OOF. This is so hard. We are losing them fast. Safety first, always. But we need to know the impacts of our actions. The layoffs are rippling throughout the community. Many canâ€™t take the 30% capacity; they are closing for the month or forever, laying off everyone as they go. AIR is awaiting news from the governor this coming week that may impact restaurants even more. Jane, their ED, said many are waiting on that update to decide whether to close. Then they will survey for closings and update the directory and us. This is dire, yâ€™m all. What happens next in real estate if commercial space empties out could be even worse.Â

I would appreciate some process clarity. Is the city required to follow what the County decides? In other

words, do they decide for us? If it isn't up to the County solely, is it typical that all of Council would not weigh in on this?

To date, we have aligned with the Governor on COVID actions. On the topic of restaurants, however, the County and City recently took additional action and reduced occupancy to 30%. I learned about this as it was being live streamed and would like to better understand the reasoning and process for it happening that way. I'd also like to know if there is an end date and what the criteria is for reopening to 50% is and if that date is able to be changed, and how. Lastly, do we have any idea what the governor may update next week that impacts restaurants even more? Maybe all these COVID updates could be in our Council packet, too.

Thank you in advance for your time in updating us. I'm worried. Very worried. Too many people are teetering on the edge. I am telling everyone I know about the available funds; many still don't know. If we ever do water bill updates; an update about these programs might be a helpful insert.

Best,

Sage

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