

From: Brad Branham <bbranham@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 1/4/2021 11:18:16 AM
To: Kim Roney
Cc: Sage Turner, Cathy Ball, Debra Campbell, Esther Manheimer, Gwen Wisler, S. Antanette Mosley, Sandra Kilgore, Sheneika Smith
Subject: Re: Request: COVID, Relief Funds, Restaurants and 30% capacity

Thank you, Kim,

I'll make sure to keep all members of Council as up to date as possible on legal issues related to this and any other important topic. Please let me know if you would like to speak further on any of the specific issues addressed in this email chain. I do believe some of them will be discussed in our next Check In meeting.

On Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 5:56 PM Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Brad and All,

I understand that conversations may be preferred, but during this time of crisis and fast changes, more updates are needed in a way that we can all refer people to. For example regarding restaurant capacity: It is my understanding that the County DHHS will be reviewing data and dining capacity restrictions on January 22nd. I was alerted through the media and reviewed the County update, then confirmed with calls I made myself. There is still not an easily searchable point for information outside of the Mountain Xpress [article](#).

These are important questions, Sage. I also look forward to process clarity and accessible information that can be shared with constituents.

Thank you for everyone's work on these urgent requests,
Kim

On Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 4:30 PM Brad Branham <bbranham@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Sage,

I may be able to address some of these issues. However, I think a conversation may be more to the point than an email. Feel free to call me anytime and we can discuss those questions you have posed with a legal or legislative component. Always happy to chat.

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On Sun, Jan 3, 2021, 4:11 PM Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

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 State'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.

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 can'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, y'all. What happens next in real estate if commercial space empties out could be even worse.

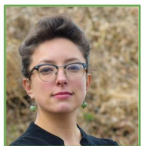
I would appreciate some process clarity. Is the city required to follow what the County decides? In other words, do they decide for us? If it isn't up to the County solely, is it typical that all of Council would not weigh in on this?

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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