

From: Kim Roney
Sent: 4/16/2021 8:57:43 PM
To: "Cathy Ball" <cball@ashevillenc.gov>, "Debra Campbell" <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>, "Esther Manheimer" <esthermanheimer@avlouncil.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Aston Park encampment

Debra and Esther, I'm copying Cathy since she sent this original email and is the contact for this matter.

Three areas of questions came from constituents during my conversations this evening:

1. Capacity: How many rooms are currently available at Red Roof? Are we also utilizing Best Western? What is a "golden ticket"? How do you get one? How long can you use it?
2. Funding: How much CARES/FEMA funding is left? Have we used it? Can we use additional funds if it is depleted?
3. Procedure: There were multiple questions about Parks & Rec staff evicting campers. Is that permitted? Advised? Were Parks & Rec staff tasked with this eviction? What is the city policy for detaining people for staff not trained in public safety procedures? Do staff who are responsible for such tasks have the training they need, such as de-escalation?

Kim

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 8:52 PM Cathy Ball <cball@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
Mayor and Council members,

We will be posting the information below on the City's website and on social media in the next few minutes. Additionally, we will send out a press release from me with the same information.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cathy

City responds to Aston Park encampment, shelter provided for homeless on site

Today was the end of the seven day notice for those who were illegally camping at Aston Park. City staff along with Homeward Bound has been continuously working with these individuals to provide support and shelter options since safety concerns were identified at the camp.

It is important to note there were two distinct groups of people who had tents erected on City property.

The first group consisted of people experiencing homelessness. At the end of the day today, there were 6 people still on site who did not have a place to shelter. All 6 people were offered shelter at the Red Roof Inn and all 6 accepted. A similar plan for providing low barrier shelter is being finalized for people in other camps who have been given notice to dismantle camps on City property.

A second group of tents were erected yesterday by protesters. After the people who needed shelter were taken to the Red Roof Inn, protesters remained on site. Protesters obstructed City staff attempts to remove the newly erected tents. It was explained to these individuals that they would be arrested if they continued to obstruct City staff's cleanup of the site. At this time three protesters have been arrested.

The City remains committed to partnerships with the community to develop solutions to end homelessness.

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