

From: Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: 6/9/2022 8:53:31 PM
To: Anne Craig <ennagiarc@gmail.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Felony Littering Charges Fiasco

Thanks, Anne. I may reach out to the DA. Not sure if he'd take my call but it's worth a try, if only to hear his reasoning.

Thank you,

Sage Turner
Asheville City Council

On Jun 9, 2022, at 6:03 PM, Anne Craig <ennagiarc@gmail.com> wrote:

OK, thank you for responding. I think the DA and the police have made a really big mistake. We can't arrest our way out of the homelessness crisis, particularly by punishing folks who are trying to help and advocate for the houseless. I am suspicious of the narrative police are putting forth. And, felony charges are NOT what we need to foster dialog, or build trust between segments of our community....

Best, Anne

On Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 3:59 PM Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Hi Anne,

It isn't appropriate for me to engage with the folks involved while it is an open investigation/case. The level of the charges are up to the DA. As I understand it, Council has no role in this matter at that level and cannot direct APD to do anything, either.

Best,

Sage

On Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 9:14 AM Anne Craig <ennagiarc@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Sage - I hope you've thought about meeting with Elsa. Please let me know either way... Best, Anne

On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 1:09 PM Anne Craig <ennagiarc@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi again Sage - I informed one of the defendants of your response to me and I am copying her response verbatim. This person, Elsa Enstrom would like to meet with you, if you are willing to discuss what she considers to be misinformation. And, it is true, that I delivered food on the evening in question and my experience was of a peaceful, organized and supportive environment as people ate, looked through and took supplies and visited with one another. Please let me know if you'd be willing to talk to Elsa and I will put you two in touch. Thanks, Sage! Anne

"Unfortunately the police are working the false Narrative of outside agitators very strongly. At least one of the activists who has been arrested was born and raised in the Asheville area I have lived there for ten years, another one of my fellow arrestees has lived here for fifteen years. The police are framing at this way to the city council so that they will not push back against the way they're treating us. You delivered food to the activists so you know what the camp looked like. I am not going to speak directly to anything that may have been left there because be careful what I say since it is an active case.

Also, these weren't just young people. I am 35 years old and three of the people who have been arrested are in their forties and are mothers. Two are single parents. This narrative is enraging."

On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 11:26 AM Anne Craig <ennagiarc@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for your quick response, Sage. I know one of the defendants personally who I have respect for as a young concerned activist/citizen. I have told her about your response to my e-mail to you and have asked if she has any clarification about what you said.

I'd like YOU to tell me what you think happened in the park? Do you think felony charges against young activists are appropriate? I've written the chief and the d.a. and was not offered the courtesy of a

response.

What other response/reaction could our city have had toward these young folks that could have moved us all in a better direction? I can think of some...

Sincerely, Anne

On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 11:05 AM Sage Turner <sageturner@avlCouncil.com> wrote:

Tom, Anne,

I know sometimes by the time media shares a story, there are lots of perspectives and statements shared that may not necessarily reflect what really occurred. I care tremendously for our unhoused and vulnerable. What happened in the park with this situation was nothing of the sort. Young activists from various states showing up to trash a place and make a statement they can use for social media manipulation or attention, or whatever it is, is not helping our unhoused people get the real help and resources they need. Instead, it detracts from the real work and the people that need help.

As to whether the level of the charge is appropriate, I leave that to our chief and DA, and will continue to listen in on what it all means. I do not, however, support what happened in the park. And it should not be continued, allowed, or celebrated in any way. Serving hot meals is one thing. This was not that.

Sage

On Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 7:29 PM Tom Craig <tomtgiarc@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor and City Council Members

To me it is outrageous that the participants in a support action for unhoused people in Aston Park are being charged with felony littering. At first I thought it was a pathetic attempt at a joke, but then I noted that the charge is usually aimed at those dumping more than 500 lbs of "litter" on an undesignated site. Still, that seems like it shouldn't be called littering but something like "Malicious Dumping" which this action was certainly not.

No this falls into the category of jailing people for offering water and nutrition to voters waiting in line or suing someone who helped someone else have an abortion. You know, the kind of thing our glorious GOP would back because they don't have a clue to really solve the problem at its core. Also I'm sure the avaricious developers are smiling smugly as they write their checks to politicians who also stand against the human street litter that affects tourism in our fading city. This is also legal manipulation of the most extreme kind, the kind George Orwell used to write about.

2+2=5, anyone?

Sincerely,

Tom Craig

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Anne Craig
828-423-2087
ennagiarc@gmail.com

"I wonder how the foreign policies of the United States would look if we wiped out the national boundaries of the world, at least in our minds, and thought of all children everywhere as our own." — Howard Zinn

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Anne Craig
828-423-2087
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