

From: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: 5/23/2021 2:57:36 PM
To: 'Suzanne' <suzanne@thestagedhome.com>
Cc: JMatthews@ashevillenc.gov, 'Debra Campbell' <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>, 'Cathy Ball' <cball@ashevillenc.gov>, 'Richard White' <rwhite@ashevillenc.gov>, AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: RE: City sidewalks and storefronts

Ms. Koenig - A few years ago the council allocated funds specifically for downtown cleaning, power washing of sidewalks, etc. In addition, the city just completed an overhaul of Haywood Street to the tune of several million dollars. If store owners don't want to clean their storefronts, that's, frankly, their decision, but the city has taken steps to clean sidewalks and keep up park spaces. I've copied staff here, they may be able to send you additional information.

In addition, several years ago there was a discussion about creating a Downtown Business Improvement district, there are about 50 cities in NC with these. This imposes an addition property tax on downtown property owners and it is used specifically to address cleanliness, safety, etc. in the downtown. This effort failed. As you can imagine, folks aren't eager to pay more taxes.

Thank you,
Esther

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-----Original Message-----
From: Suzanne
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 2:22 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: City sidewalks and storefronts

I have been living in Asheville fifteen years and witnessed it's growth. However, it is puzzling and distressing how dirty and rundown our city is compared to Greenville, for example. Particularly around Lexington and Broadway, shop owners don't keep there entrance, sidewalk or windows etc clean. They shouldn't have to depend on street sweepers (although I doubt we have these). In Europe, shopkeepers take pride in maintaining a clean, pretty entrance and frontage. It amazes that tourists flock here, as Asheville is definitely a grungy city. Is this as good as it gets here? I can't enjoy downtown shopping and restaurants as it's hard to get past the negligence. Might be a good opportunity to employ workers to beautify our city!

Suzanne Koenig

Sent from my iPhone