From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/20/2019 6:56:59 AM
To: vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: NAACPLDF

Hope you have shared your data with the NAACPLDF, Math doesn't change over time or location. The efforts of civil rights activists to dismantle at-large elections. The fact that the LDF is still fighting for those changes today is proof that those efforts weren't a political fad of the 60's. I can't imagine that their review of the situation in Asheville would be any different than their involvement with Beaufort, SC. I very much hope that they weigh in on this matter.

I'm not sure how much info you all are sharing with one another, so you may already know that I sent Leah Aden an email introducing her to Senator VanDuyn and Esther in a group correspondence.

The historic resistance by Asheville City Council is well documented and each excuse to not employ a district system has been proven false every time. It is frustrating to constantly have the legitimate benefits of a district system nullified by bogus arguments with our local press covering the issue in full coordination with the status quo. That coverage will be examined in a law suit as well as the validity of the referendum itself. Council doesn't even deny that the referendum was an effort to shore up its case in the event of a future suit. This latest excuse of racial gerrymandering is far more shameful than the lame reasons like our city is too small when it isn't, that Asheville is rather homogeneous so districts serve no purpose (Cecil Bothwell and archived in video), that there has been no push from the public to do this then all of a sudden a referendum falls out of the sky. This bullshit claim of racial gerrymandering has instilled real fear in a lot of people and it was thoroughly irresponsible to let it get this much traction, The second I saw Joel Burgess's headline on July 2 last year I knew this was bunk. No way can one legitimately say that 6 precincts out of 40 something being split so that four of the six most black precincts would be in a district of 8 precincts would dilute the black vote. As you know, all six of the most black precincts are now in districts that have a higher concentration of black voters than the at-large average.

Thanks again for having the courage to reverse course. It was the right thing to do. I hope you will contact the NAACPLDF directly if you haven't already done so.
assistance@naacpldg.org
laden@naacpldf.org (Leah Aden)

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