From: Jaime Matthews <JMatthews@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 9/7/2017 2:18:33 PM
To: adrian@adrian4avl.com, Andrew Fletcher, Cecil Bothwell - Email, Dee Williams, Esther Manheimer, Gwen Wisler, info@richworksfor.me, Jan Kubiniec, Jeremy Goldstein, Jonathan Glover, Jonathan Wainscott, Kim Roney, Martin Ramsey, Pratik Bhakta, Sheneika Smith, Vijay Kapoor
Cc: councilgroup, Gary Jackson, Cathy Ball, Jade Dundas
Subject: FW: City Document Formatting

Good Afternoon,
Please see the information below regarding concerns about the city moving to Google Drive.
Thank you,
Jaime

Thank you for sharing these concerns about the migration to Google Drive. In most cases, the switch to Google Drive will have **no impact at all** on the public as any file in Google Drive can be downloaded and shared as a PDF file. The decision to switch to Google Drive was done for a number of reasons including:

1. **Increased collaboration between staff and with citizens.** We can now share files that are accessible from any computer without needing expensive desktop software. Anyone can open Google Drive files with a simple web browser.

2. **Ease of sharing information**. Using Google Drive, staff are now able to share files with the public (most often as PDF files) without complicated procedures or specialized knowledge of web publishing. For example, the City Clerkâ€™s office has been publishing much more information from City Council meetings as PDF files since we switched to Google Drive. This includes minutes, resolutions, supporting materials, etc: http://www.ashevillenc.gov/council/meeting_materials.htm

3. **Consistency of file formats**. We no longer need to manage compatibility issues between different versions of desktop software. City staff are using Google Docs and Google Sheets as they offer new opportunities for collaboration on a consistent platform. However, staff can always download and share those documents with citizens as PDF files.

All of these benefits lead to greater efficiency and lower costs in handling documents for staff and with citizens. Again, we really appreciate you sharing this feedback with us. We would be happy to address any additional questions that may come up. Lastly, we have a specific group at the city that is responsible for public-facing technology -- Scott Barnwell is the manager of that group; accessibility is a priority for us, and we are very open to further suggestions.