From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 6/13/2021 5:24:56 PM
To: Sheneika Smith
Cc:
Subject: Happy (early) Birthteenth

Hi Ms. Smith,
Just want to wish you an early Happy Birthteenth.I hope you understand this to be genuine. I'm sorry if you ever thought I was mocking your success in the election. I was certainly trying to illustrate that you accomplished more than what was being reported. That's getting a bit in the weeds but I hope we can sit down and talk sometime soon. I'm not an opponent. Just a fan that wants to see his team change history.
I'd like to offer you a bit of a gift. You can put it on a shelf if you wish, but the entire arguments being brought by CIBO (Chris Peterson's statement about the business class being the most discriminate against was atrocious BTW) that the city needs to be run more like a business were all made by a bunch of racist white business people in 1915. That's when we abandoned the Board of Aldermen and tried out the Asheville Board of Commissioners. That experiment lasted until 1931. The stock market crash of 1929 is what threw millions of people into the soup lines, not black people stealing all the cash or Mexican stealing all the jobs. The City was entirely controlled by Democrats then and the non-partisan system that we have now was favored by them then. You can also remind Mr. Peterson that businesses fail all the time. Should we model our government after Sears and Roebuck? What about Gateway Computers? Arthur Anderson? Bear-Stearns? All businesses start out with a model of success but many crash and burn. We already tried the business community's model, it was called the Asheville Board of Commissioners 1915-1931. How long was the City of Asheville on the hook for the money the business class stole from the people the minute they got their hands on the people's purse?

On the one hand, it might be an occasion for a white guy like myself to back down a white guy like Chris Peterson and I'd be happy to do so. On the other hand, the message might have more power if it came from someone else. I have to say, I've been pretty harsh with Council but I've never said the kinds of things Chris Peterson said. I'll be reviewing the Citizen Times articles during the Commissioners years in preparation for the June 22 meeting. It's rare for me to give anyone on Council a heads-up about what I'll be rambling about for 3 minutes of informal discussion. Personally I would love to see Chris come, do his thing, grant him all the time he wants to make an ass of himself and then see (just about) any of our Councilwomen knock him down several pegs. Of course, you are the one I'm bringing the thought to. I'm not suggesting how you should fight the fight, just offering something that I think might be useful in that endeavor.

Anyway, thanks for your time, service, and again, Happy Birthday-

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Jonathan Wainscott

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