From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 11/7/2019 7:14:16 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Cc:
Bcc: vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Fwd: racial data and stuff in Asheville

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Robert Thomas** <robthomas52587@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Nov 4, 2018 at 11:37 AM
Subject: Re: racial data and stuff in Asheville
To: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>

Good afternoon, Jonathan.
Thank you for your email. I am glad that I was able to find time to attend the community budget meeting yesterday morning. I found the presentation given by Tim to be esoteric in nature. I knew that he must have known the statistics on the demographics of the population increase and decline but was not willing to disclose it in a public setting.

I appreciate your stance in the meeting and the resources your provided via the links you sent.

I feel as though our argument fell upon deaf ears which was evident in Vijay's head nod but lack of solutions.

I know that the next two budget meetings are November 7th and November 17th. I am a Commercial Driver and will not be in town to attend the November 7th meeting but I do plan to attend the meeting on the 17th. My plan in the meantime is to create an informational flyer explaining the decline of the African American population in Asheville and the effect that the hotel tax is having on this decline. I also want to explain affordable housing by definition and how it is unaffordable to low income households. My next step would be to get the information out to the various housing developments and explain how vitalÂ it is to attend the meeting on the 17th to express the concerns that relate to this information.

I would like to find time to sit and discuss this further with you. Right now, I'm on the road Monday through Friday but available on Saturday And Sunday if you'd like to meet briefly in the coming weekends. My cell phone number is (828)989-0773. feel free to call or text with your availability.

Again, thank you for reaching out. I look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

Best,

Robert Elijah Thomas Jr.

On Sat, Nov 3, 2018, 1:54 PM Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com wrote:

> Hey Robert,
> Thanks for coming out to the community budget meeting. The woman who gave the first meeting the other night in West Asheville was Barbara Whitehorn, She is the top Director of Asheville's finances. Here's an article about the presentation she gave to City Council a few months ago.
> https://mountainx.com/news/city-staff-begins-public-deep-dive-into-budget/
>
> She presented the data you were asking for to City Council, so they all know what those numbers are. I came to this meeting because I noticed at the last meeting (after I left) that they had not presented the data on the African-American's population decline, and I was going to point that out to them and politely request that they include that in the next two presentations they give to the community. I'm pretty sure it will be there next time.
>
> So, I gave you a quick breakdown of the hotel tax and how it gets spent and here is the entire staff of the Buncombe County Tourism Development

Authority-Â https://www.ashevillecvb.com/contact-us-2/
This is the staff that next year will be collecting $23 Million dollars collected from the 6% hotel room tax. The more hotels, the higher the price of rooms, the more they collect. They have to spend 75% of that 23 million on advertising, marketing, and public relations that propmote tourism in Buncombe County. So places like the Biltmore Estate get free advertising when all these articles come out about the top 10 things you need to do when you visit Asheville! The other 25% of that big pile of money goes to Tourism Development Projects, that can be stuff like building the soccer fields that are flooded now, or fifty grand to a festival and stuff like that. That means those same people get to pass around 6 million bucks to people who have projects they want to do and call it an effort for tourism. Passing out dollar bills is power. These are the people with the power

You seemed to get exactly what I was laying down and you came out today with questions I hope you got answers to. I have more to tell you about that City is trying to roll cool past which of course hurts the African-American community if you want to meet up some time.

Thanks for coming out today. Round up more folks that want to know what's going on.Â

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Jonathan Wainscott

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