From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 11/7/2019 9:14:50 PM
To: vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: reaching out to the community and such

Hey Vijay,
I was just getting back to engaging beyond showing up to Council meetings and I'm about to reach out to Libby Kyles. CEO of the YWCA of Asheville. I remember her a little from when my kids lived in Asheville. I was reminded of her by reviewing the Informal Discussion and Public Comment portion of Council meetings from this past year. Ms Kyles spoke at one of the few meetings I didn't attend, March 12th. Even though she was talking about the achievement gap in the Asheville City Schools, which isn't really in the Council's wheelhouse, she was practically begging for more attention from our leaders. She even mentions that words like "equity" need to quit being tossed about and that a real crisis in Asheville's black community is afoot.

So, as I was perusing the YWCA website, I noticed that this guy I met at the budget meeting, Robert Thomas Jr. just became the Community Liaison for the Racial Justice Coalition. I've been meaning to reach out to Mr. Thomas to sort of revisit the day we met. I took a seat next to him at the back of the room and he asked why all this tourism prosperity wasn't making its way to rest of the community. I gave him a quick rundown of the way the BCTDA/Occupancy Tax works and he asked what could be done about it. That's when we came up to you and we started talking, I believe I had pointed out that the battle with Raleigh that needed to take place was the Occupancy Tax rather than the District Elections fight.

Anyway, I can say to Robert Thomas that you really have set yourself apart with being able to take a step back and listen. I would suggest you take a proactive step forward to reach out to Ms. Kyles and thank her for coming to Council. Let her know that you've been looking back over the year and her comments stood out. Ask her for a meeting so she can speak for more than 3 minutes and not have to give up 4 hours of her life to do so.

You might want to reach out to Robert Thomas Jr. too.

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