

**From:** Ashley Lung <alung@sunriseinashville.org>  
**Sent:** 12/7/2021 12:10:13 PM  
**To:** Emily Ball <eball@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Fwd: Updates on Ramada

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Someone from the advisory comitee sent this, I'm sure this will be something to be brought up 🎉🎉🎉🎉

Ashley Lung (she/her) NCCPSS  
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robin Merrell** <[Robin@piscagahlegal.org](mailto:Robin@piscagahlegal.org)>  
Date: Tue, Dec 7, 2021, 12:07 PM  
Subject: RE: Updates on Ramada  
To: Amy Upham <[amyelizabethupham@gmail.com](mailto:amyelizabethupham@gmail.com)>, Dan Pizzo- ANCHOR Collaborative <[danpizzo@anchorcollaborative.org](mailto:danpizzo@anchorcollaborative.org)>  
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I have long been an advocate of permanent supportive housing, however, I have great concerns about the proposed partners Step up and Shangri-Ia. Here is a link to a news story from California where they were accused of misusing millions of public funds.

<https://www.kcrw.com/news/shows/greater-la/hhh-motel-george-gascon/30-million-motel-homeless-shelter-prop-hhh-taxpayer-oversight-la>

**From:** Amy Upham <[amyelizabethhupham@gmail.com](mailto:amyelizabethhupham@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:04 PM  
**To:** Dan Pizzo- ANCHOR Collaborative <[danpizzo@anchorcollaborative.org](mailto:danpizzo@anchorcollaborative.org)>  
**Cc:** Ashley Lung <[alung@sunriseinasheville.org](mailto:alung@sunriseinasheville.org)>; Amy Upham <[amy@eleanorhealthfoundation.org](mailto:amy@eleanorhealthfoundation.org)>; BeLoved Asheville <[belovedasheville@gmail.com](mailto:belovedasheville@gmail.com)>; blake.fagan <[blake.fagan@mahec.net](mailto:blake.fagan@mahec.net)>; Brian Combs <[brian@haywoodstreet.org](mailto:brian@haywoodstreet.org)>; Chris Fink <[cfink53@gmail.com](mailto:cfink53@gmail.com)>; Claire Hubbard <[Claire.Hubbard@buncombecounty.org](mailto:Claire.Hubbard@buncombecounty.org)>; Courtney Mosley <[cmosley@sunriseinasheville.org](mailto:cmosley@sunriseinasheville.org)>; colleenedev@gmail.com; Derrick Hall <[derrickhall111@gmail.com](mailto:derrickhall111@gmail.com)>; dnash <[dnash@haca.org](mailto:dnash@haca.org)>; Dustin Patil <[dustin.patil@mahec.net](mailto:dustin.patil@mahec.net)>; Ethan Kirby <[ekirby@sunriseinasheville.org](mailto:ekirby@sunriseinasheville.org)>; Erin R <[erin.bowman@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:erin.bowman@dhhs.nc.gov)>; hackett2k <[hackett2k@gmail.com](mailto:hackett2k@gmail.com)>; jbenshoff@aol.com; Jenny Moffatt <[jennym@homewardboundwnc.org](mailto:jennym@homewardboundwnc.org)>; kate caton <[kate@homewardboundwnc.org](mailto:kate@homewardboundwnc.org)>; Kevin Mahoney <[kevin.mahoney@mahec.net](mailto:kevin.mahoney@mahec.net)>; Laura Kirby <[laura@haywoodstreet.org](mailto:laura@haywoodstreet.org)>; Matt M <[matt.gannon@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:matt.gannon@dhhs.nc.gov)>; michael.pesant@buncombecounty.org; Rich Lee <[ric.hardlee@live.com](mailto:ric.hardlee@live.com)>; Rachael Landau <[rlandau@ncfamiliesunited.org](mailto:rlandau@ncfamiliesunited.org)>; robert@homewardboundwnc.org; Robin Merrell <[Robin@pisgahlegal.org](mailto:Robin@pisgahlegal.org)>; Raymond Velazquez <[rvelazquez@wncap.org](mailto:rvelazquez@wncap.org)>; Sally Stein <[sallyash.smith@gmail.com](mailto:sallyash.smith@gmail.com)>; Sarah Lancaster <[sarah.lancaster@vayahealth.com](mailto:sarah.lancaster@vayahealth.com)>; Mark Siler <[sigmonsiler@gmail.com](mailto:sigmonsiler@gmail.com)>; Sherry Pace-RHA MCM <[space@rhanet.org](mailto:space@rhanet.org)>; Sue Polston <[spolston@sunriseinasheville.org](mailto:spolston@sunriseinasheville.org)>; UMOJA Health Wellness & Justice Collective <[umojahwjcollective@gmail.com](mailto:umojahwjcollective@gmail.com)>; Whitney Rosenblatt <[wrosenblatt@ncfamiliesunited.org](mailto:wrosenblatt@ncfamiliesunited.org)>; yvette@haywoodstreet.org; Christine Hayes <[chayes7777@live.com](mailto:chayes7777@live.com)>; Kris Ray <[kris@homewardboundwnc.org](mailto:kris@homewardboundwnc.org)>; christian@homewardboundwnc.org; Eric Ramada <[erichall255@gmail.com](mailto:erichall255@gmail.com)>; Michael Roberts <[cmroberts@octoberroadinc.net](mailto:cmroberts@octoberroadinc.net)>; James K Hartye <[jhartye@amchc.org](mailto:jhartye@amchc.org)>; Heather Ashley <[fromtheashes106@gmail.com](mailto:fromtheashes106@gmail.com)>; Mike DeSerio <[Mike@homewardboundwnc.org](mailto:Mike@homewardboundwnc.org)>; Sarah Young <[Sarah.Young@buncombecounty.org](mailto:Sarah.Young@buncombecounty.org)>; Joe Yurchak <[joe.yurchak@mahec.net](mailto:joe.yurchak@mahec.net)>; Carmen Ybarra <[carmenybarra@justeconomicswnc.org](mailto:carmenybarra@justeconomicswnc.org)>; Vicki Meath <[vicki@justeconomicswnc.org](mailto:vicki@justeconomicswnc.org)>; Peggy Weil <[peggyweil@wncap.org](mailto:peggyweil@wncap.org)>; Iliana H <[hermosaic25@gmail.com](mailto:hermosaic25@gmail.com)>; Brittany Borrás <[brittany@haywoodstreet.org](mailto:brittany@haywoodstreet.org)>; Emmaleigh Argonauta <[eargonauta@carereachnc.org](mailto:eargonauta@carereachnc.org)>; Shiningstaravl@gmail.com; Lacy Hoyle <[lacyhoyle@wncap.org](mailto:lacyhoyle@wncap.org)>; Ben Phan <[benphantomstudios@gmail.com](mailto:benphantomstudios@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Updates on Ramada

This email originated outside of Pisgah Legal Services. Please verify sender, links, and content before taking any action.

Thank you Dan,

Great job Ashley on the story in today's Times.

Our petition now has MORE signatures than those who were against the Ramada project. Please continue to [share](#), and please speak up Dec. 14th by signing up **before** 9am on Dec. 10th: [ashevillenc.gov/comments](https://ashevillenc.gov/comments), or call the Clerk's office at 828-259-5900.

**\*\*\*Also, please note, the Commissioners meet for what looks like the last time in December TONIGHT.** They dropped the ball on funding this project. They are voting on ARPA funds tonight. Please attend this meeting to give public comment; it begins at 5pm tonight, and/or email them TODAY by going here and clicking on "ALL": <https://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Commissioners/Default.aspx?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D156699715>

Thank you,

Amy

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 11:27 AM Dan Pizzo- ANCHOR Collaborative <[danpizzo@anchorcollaborative.org](mailto:danpizzo@anchorcollaborative.org)> wrote:

Good morning and Happy Tuesday Advisory Committee!

In response to the City's decision not to fund the Ramada Low Barrier Emergency Shelter I wanted to get a couple of pieces of information out

there. I had planned to take some time away from ANCHOR work this week, however, these are bits of information that are time sensitive. If you need to reach me, I will do my best to respond as I am able, but may be more delayed than usual!

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: City of Asheville to hold public meeting on permanent supportive housing at Ramada**

The City of Asheville invites the public to a meeting about permanent supportive housing at the Ramada. The meeting will take place virtually from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, December 8.

On December 3, the City of Asheville announced that it is no longer moving forward with creating an emergency homeless shelter at the Ramada, 148 River Ford Parkway in East Asheville. However, a potential alternative use has been identified: permanent supportive housing.

Permanent supportive housing means affordable housing combined with the types of services that help people stay in housing, such as connections with health care, substance use treatment, and employment. This is key to help people who are coming out of homelessness transition into housing in a safe and sustainable way.

At this meeting, the City will introduce its nonprofit operational partner, Step Up on Second Street, Inc., which seeks to implement permanent supportive housing at the Ramada location. Step Up Inc. partners with Shangri-La Industries Inc., a real estate developer that purchases hotels to convert them to permanent supportive housing. This partnership intends to create 50+ units of housing for homeless veterans and 50+ units of housing for chronically homeless individuals at the Ramada.

The meeting will be in two parts. The first will include an informational presentation on what permanent supportive housing is and how permanent supportive housing will be implemented at the Ramada. The second portion will consist of a Q&A. Participants may submit questions or comments in advance on the City's Virtual Engagement Hub. They can also call in to ask questions or submit comments by dialing 855-925-2801 and entering the meeting code 4928.

To participate in the meeting: Visit this link on the City's Virtual Engagement Hub to participate in the meeting. It will also be streamed in the City's YouTube channel. People can email questions in advance to [avlendinghomelessness@PublicInput.com](mailto:avlendinghomelessness@PublicInput.com).

If the City Council votes to approve at their December 14th meeting, the City will fund approximately \$1.5 million in supportive services to support housing at the Ramada. The \$1.5 million would come from an allocation of the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding.

**PETITION:**

Amy has organized a petition to make the following demands:

- (1) Demand that the City AND County adopt the intervention that is working in other cities to provide shelter to most of these individuals: a high-access shelter.
- (2) Demand that LOCAL harm reduction and mental health experts be invited to a formal community planning process. A large portion of this group already exists as ANCHOR, representing over a dozen non-profits working at the intersection of homelessness and mental health.

[CLICK HERE to sign and share.](#)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS at DEC 14th CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

Several Advisory Committee members are hoping to speak at the next City Council meeting. If you are interested please read. "Because the upcoming City Council meeting will be a remote participation meeting, and to allow staff time to assist community members in preparing for such a meeting format, persons wishing to speak during the meeting must sign up in advance using an online form, [ashevillenc.gov/comments](https://ashevillenc.gov/comments), or call the Clerk's office at 828-259-5900 no later than 9 a.m. December 10th to add their names to the list of speakers."

*Lastly, I wanted to acknowledge how amazing Ashley and her team at Sunrise have been at providing 24/7 support to the residents. I was there with some of the Resident council crew when they made the announcement last week. While this will be a process of grieving what could have been, Eric and I spent some time with Resident Council members following the news and we are more determined than ever to keep the resident council meeting going and have even come up with some new and inspiring neighborhood action initiatives. More to come on that. [Here is an article from the Citizen Times](#) this morning highlighting some of Ashley's brilliant comments this morning.*

Wishing everyone a great week,

Dan Pizzo

**ANCHOR Collaborative**

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