From: Ethan Kirby <ekirby@sunriseinasheville.org>
Sent: 8/13/2021 9:39:39 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: Ramada Inn Low Barrier Shelter

Greetings, I am sending this email in regards to the shelter in place at the Ramada Inn. Now I know that there have been mixed feelings about this throughout the community with different homeowners and business owners. I want to reflect briefly with you all on my experience of being employed here for three months. At the Ramada we have a total of 88 Peers, most of them are physically able to maintain employment. With this being said they had some obstacles in the way of them succeeding further as a productive member of society. Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness has had the opportunity to get some of the peers legal documents, such as I.D, Social Security Cards, and Birth Certificates. Which has put some of them on the road to employment. Also accessing resources when needed in certain situations for the benefit of these people. Transportation was an obstacle also and them receiving their monthly bus passes for the A.R.T system has had a big impact. Some of the things we have accomplished here with the help of the community and other businesses are getting undiagnosed mental health issues resolved. That seems to be one of the bigger issues. Substance use disorder is being met face to face here with NCCPSS, Recovery Coach Trainers, to teach and show a new way of life. When we are dealing with a group of people who have nothing left and no hand to reach down and guide them, we have to take action as a community and a city to fix the problem with the best known solution. Thank you for your time and for being so involved in fixing homelessness in Asheville.

Ethan Kirby- NCPSS, Certified Recovery Coach,
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828-320-6962 / Fri-8am-8pm /Sat-8am-8pm /Sun-8am-8pm