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Sent: 6/16/2022 2:13:29 PM
To: 'Honosky, Sarah' <SHonosky@citizentimes.com>
Cc: 'Kim Miller' <kmiller2@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: RE: Citizen Times RE: APD budget
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#), [image002.png](#)

Sarah – here's my response:

When the council made reimagining public safety a priority, we knew it would be a long term commitment. Asking a community to reimagine public safety means not only redefining how to respond to public safety threats, but also understanding and addressing the root causes behind actions that threaten our public safety. It's a commitment carried into the council's priorities for fiscal year FY2023.

The City of Asheville and its staff have taken measures to ensure our commitment to reimagining public safety. Starting in September 2020, staff utilized community input to inform proposals and programs such as the City and County 911 consolidation that will result in a more comprehensive response to people in need. This is just one example, others include:

- Response to nuisance calls, such as noise complaints and animal control, have been moved from the police department to the development services department,
- **Growing partnerships to allow integration of the County's community paramedic program to be included with APD and AFD emergency response to calls for service such as overdose, suicide, or mental health crises.**
- The Office of Data and Performance was created to bring more expertise to reporting and managing accountability to the community,
- Investing in community engagement including an inclusive and accessible government project funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds. The project aims to remove barriers to public participation by bringing community engagement opportunities **into** neighborhoods through investments in virtual meeting technology **and** human resources. It also aims to strengthen community resilience by supporting leadership and capacity building in historically disenfranchised communities.
- More and better training for police officers, which is important to both the police department and the community. This year's proposed budget continues the investments made in training over the last two years."

Thank you,
Esther



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From: Honosky, Sarah <SHonosky@citizentimes.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 6:17 PM
To: Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Subject: Citizen Times RE: APD budget

Hey! I'll copy some questions below. My deadline is tomorrow afternoon....maybe around 4ish? Sorry for such short notice, but whatever you can get to helps!

I know you've spoken to this quite a bit -- but can you reflect on the work the city has already done to "reimagine public safety?" Do you feel it has been effective? What are you proudest of?

What do you think needs to happen next in this effort? Is there anything being done to "reimagine public safety" in this current budget cycle that stands out to you?

How do you respond to some of the criticisms made during the City Council public hearing Tuesday night?

There seemed to be a lot of skepticism aimed at the "reimagining public safety" effort from select individuals, and I was curious to get your response/reaction to that, as well as to the concerns from some community members that APD is only exacerbating existing problems.

Honestly, anything else you think is relevant! I really appreciate it.

Thanks so much,

Sarah Honosky

City Government Reporter

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