

From: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: 2/24/2022 12:17:50 PM
To: 'Constance L' <conlombardo@hotmail.com>, 'Sage Turner' <sageturner@avlcouncil.com>, 'Debra Campbell' <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov, bbranham@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: RE: keeping our city safe

I'm looping in the city attorney, this is likely a constitutional free speech question. That location is one of two designated free speech zones in the city.

From: Constance L <conlombardo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 11:24 AM
To: Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com>; Debra Campbell <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Re: keeping our city safe

Thank you. It's just so sad and wrong and a tarnish on our city.

From: Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 10:55 AM
To: Constance L <conlombardo@hotmail.com>; Debra Campbell <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov <ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Re: keeping our city safe

Yikes. I don't know what can be done, if anything. I am copying the city manager in case she can route us to someone that might have an idea. I won't be surprised if we can't do anything.

Thank you Constance.

On Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 7:02 AM Constance L <conlombardo@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Council,

Yesterday I was driving downtown and passed two women standing in front of the Vance Monument holding up these large posters with the most horrifying, graphic, violent anti-choice images imaginable. I was so disgusted and upset. I am positive that is a PTSD trigger for some people. Also, they were holding them high for all to see - so obviously children were being forced to look at these incredibly disturbing images.

I called the Asheville Police Dept. They were polite but said that it's a free speech issue and that there was nothing they could do. I'm a big believer in the right to free speech, but that's not what this is. If they were holding signs that said abortion is murder, as much as I disagree, I'd have to accept that as freedom of expression. But nobody should be forced to look at something like that.

These posters crossed way over the line into public indecency. It's just wrong, and I can't believe that's legal.

What can we do about this problem? I'd hope that there is some concrete way to deal with this very upsetting situation.

(I thought I sent this message from my phone yesterday but don't see it in my 'sent' folder. Apologies if this is a duplicate message.)

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Constance Lombardo