From: Leslie Coty <lcoty@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 12/13/2021 11:32:46 AM
To: Beth Bechel <bbechel@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: Ursula Wren <ursulawren.reporter@gmail.com>,Bill Davis <bdavis2@ashevillenc.gov>,Brian Huskey <bhuskey@ashevillenc.gov>,Nikki Reid <nreid@ashevillenc.gov>,Polly McDaniel <pmcdaniel@ashevillenc.gov>,Samantha Booth <sbooth@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Re: Homeless Camp Removals

Thanks, Beth.Â

Ursula, I will add your request to the public records portal and will respond when I have the requested information. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Regards,
Leslie

Leslie Coty
Public Records Officer,Â City of AshevilleÂ
(828) 259-5631Â lcoty@ashevillenc.govÂ Â Â

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

On Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 10:22 AM Beth Bechel <bbechel@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

> Good morning!
>
> Here is the City's statement regarding the I-240 homeless camp
> https://www.ashevillenc.gov/news/a-message-to-our-community-regarding-the-i-240-homeless-camp/
>
> As for the specific request of
>
> "how many times, when, and at what locations, Asheville Police have participated in the removal or â€˜closureâ€™ of homeless encampments in our city in 2021"
>
> I have copied our public records officer, Leslie Coty, to add to the public records queue.
>
> Please let me know if you have any questions.Â

Beth Bechel
Communication Specialist
Communications and Public Engagement Department

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bbechel@ashevillenc.gov
828-712-1481 - Cell

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NORTH CAROLINA
âœTEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORKâ€

On Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 7:57 AM Ursula Wren <ursulawren.reporter@gmail.com> wrote:

> Good morning Beth,
>
> Following up on this.Â
>
> Thanks,
> Ursula
>
> On Thu, Dec 9, 2021 at 12:58 PM Ursula Wren <ursulawren.reporter@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > Hi Beth,
> >
> > Itâ€™s likewise nice to make your acquaintance.
> > Having this information by Monday would be ideal.
> >
> > Thank you,
> > Ursula

On Dec 9, 2021, at 12:35 PM, Beth Bechel <bbechel@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

ï»¿

Good afternoon Ursula,Â

My name is Beth Bechel and I work as a communication specialist for the City of Asheville.Â It is nice to meet you and I look forward to working with you.

We are working to juggle several situations so I, along with my colleagues, will be working to coordinate a response to you.Â

There are several departments involved when it comes to our response to encampments.Â We are working to gather all the information for you to have a complete story.

Can you tell me what your deadline is?Â

My contact information is listed below if you haveÂ any questions.Â

Beth Bechel
Communication Specialist
Communications and Public Engagement Department

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bbechel@ashevillenc.gov
828-712-1481 - Cell

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NORTH CAROLINA
â€œTEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORKâ€

On Thu, Dec 9, 2021 at 7:12 AM Ursula Wren <ursulawren.reporter@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello all,

My name is Ursula - Iâ€™m a reporter with the Asheville Free Press.

When speaking with some of the homeless residents in our city about the removal of their encampment, I have been repeatedly told that there are â€œmanyâ€ instances where Asheville Police have closed camps. Aside from a few of the higher-profile removals which have made it into the local media, Iâ€™m having a hard time tracking down documentation of these instances.

I understand that the Cityâ€™s position is that most, if not all, of these camp removals were done at the behest of NCDOT (I have reached out to them, as well), so I want to pre-empt that point and make my question more specific and scoped: I want to know how many times, when, and at what locations, Asheville Police have participated in the removal or â€˜closureâ€™ of homeless encampments in our city in 2021.

Thank you for your prompt response,

Ursula Wren
Reporter and Editor
Asheville Free Press

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