From: Deputy Chief Mike Yelton <myelton@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 1/3/2022 10:54:33 AM
To: Bill Davis <bdavis2@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc: Samantha Booth <sbooth@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Re: Requesting comment on Committee to Protect Journalists tweet for Mountain Xpress

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No comment necessary.Â Â

On Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 5:26 PM Bill Davis <bdavis2@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I received this note from Mountain Xpress asking APD's comment regarding apparent arrests of a couple of journalists at Aston Park on Christmas Day.

My recommendation - no response needed.Â No need to feed the fury.Â Â

Thoughts?
Bill D.Â Â

Bill Davis
Asheville Police Department
Public Information Officer
828-259-5881

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Daniel Walton** <dwalton@mountainx.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 2:43 PM
Subject: Requesting comment on Committee to Protect Journalists tweet for Mountain Xpress
To: <bdavis2@ashevillenc.gov>

Hello Mr. Davis,
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As you may have seen, on Dec. 28 the international nonprofit Committee to Protect Journalists posted on Twitter condemning the actions of the Asheville Police Department toward two reporters for the *Asheville Blade*. The journalists were arrested on second-degree trespassing charges while covering the removal of a homeless camp and art installation at Aston Park Dec. 25.
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"Authorities in #Asheville, NC should drop all charges against @AvlBlade reporters Veronica Coit and @matilda_bliss, who were arrested on December 25. We are deeply concerned that @AshevillePolice interfered with their reporting and unnecessarily confiscated Bliss's phone," the tweet read.
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I'd like to give the APD a chance to respond prior to my inclusion of the tweet in a newsletter planned for Monday. I'd need comment by **1 p.m. on Jan. 3**. Thanks in advance for your help.
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Sincerely,
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Daniel Walton
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Assistant Editor, *Mountain Xpress*
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859-468-3677
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Mike Yelton
Deputy Chief of Police
Asheville Police Department
100 Court Plaza
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 251-4086
myelton@ashevillenc.gov
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