From: Jaime Matthews <jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 1/4/2022 11:28:22 AM
To: Jenna Miller <jmiller2@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Fwd: Interview request today

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dawa Hitch** <dhitch@ashevillenc.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 29, 2021 at 4:51 PM
Subject: Fwd: Interview request today
To: Communication and Public Engagement <communicationandpublicengagement@ashevillenc.gov>, All Department Directors <alldepartmentdirectors@ashevillenc.gov>

Please be advised of the below response to Kim King regarding the homeless camp in the RAD.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dawa Hitch** <dhitch@ashevillenc.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 29, 2021 at 4:50 PM
Subject: Re: Interview request today
To: <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Cc: Kimberly King <kmking@sbgtv.com>, <jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov>, Debra Campbell <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>, councilgroup <ashevillenccouncil@ashevillenc.gov>, Emily Ball <eball@ashevillenc.gov>

Hi Kim,

Hope you're well.

Campers were notified before Christmas that they needed to move off of the property. We are aware that there are still people camping there and continue to work in partnership with service providers who offer support services. With staff shortages and the holidays we have not been able to completely address this site but we are continuing to work to find the safest and best outcome for all.

Take care,
Dawa

On Wed, Dec 29, 2021 at 3:45 PM <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

> Hi Kim - I am out of pocket this week but Dawa and Jaime are working to get you some information regarding the particular camp.
> Here's a statement from me:
>
> "Homelessness in Asheville is a complex crisis and poses one of the greatest challenges our city has faced in recent years. To effectively address homelessness, the city has and continues to work with numerous partners in our community such as the county, the state, the veterans administration, the hospital, MAHEC, Vaya Health, numerous faith based institutions and non-profits such as ABCCM, Rescue Ministries, Homeward Bound, Sunrise, Pisgah Legal Services, United Way, just to name a few. Bringing together these partners and creating a collaborative, coordinated response is a constant effort. The ongoing pandemic has only exacerbated and exposed this crisis and put our efforts and resources to the test.
>
> The people of Asheville are compassionate and caring but they also expect community safety, cleanliness and that all individuals will abide by the law. There is certainly a wide range of opinions as to how this crisis should be managed, city council hears from folks all across the opinion spectrum. Council tries to lead with compassion while managing homelessness in collaboration with the city's partners using best practices aiming for best outcomes, to bring an end to homelessness."
>
> Thank you,

Esther

Esther Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
phone 828.259.5604
esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Kimberly King <kmking@sbgtv.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 2:15 PM
To: emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com; esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Interview request today

Dear Mayor,

We've just interviewed Mark Rosenstein, who lives across from the RAD encampment on Duke property the city's leasing for the greenway. The camp is still active, more than a week after Jason Walls shared Duke was working with the city to address Riverview residents long-standing safety concerns and trash. Mark shared with us today, that he feels you haven't shown leadership as Mayor on the homeless encampment crisis, in your decision to not make any public comments on your ideas or plans.

I know you've not responded to my calls and requests, but I again would like to ask you to do an on-camera interview with me today, to respond to Mark's statements on this serious city humanitarian issue.

I hope you'll reconsider, so we can hear your thoughts, ideas and vision for plans in the short and long-term. My cell is (828) 808-5360.

Sincerely,

Kim

*Just thank my Iphone, for any typos in my email to you!

Kimberly King
Reporter
WLOS-TV(ABC)
Asheville, North Carolina
m. 828-808-5360
e. kmking@wlos.com

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Dawa Hitch
Director, Communication &
Public Engagement Department
City of Asheville
828-552-1311 l mobile

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THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE