From: Samantha Booth <sbooth@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 12/9/2021 10:27:22 PM
To: Bill Davis <bdavis2@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Fwd: Homeless Camp Removals

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Beth Bechel** <bbechel@ashevillenc.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 9, 2021 at 12:35 PM
Subject: Homeless Camp Removals
To: <ursulawren.reporter@gmail.com>
CC: Brian Huskey <bhuskey@ashevillenc.gov>, Nikki Reid <nreid@ashevillenc.gov>, Polly McDaniel <pmcdaniel@ashevillenc.gov>, Samantha Booth <sbooth@ashevillenc.gov>, Bill Davis <bdavis2@ashevillenc.gov>

Good afternoon Ursula,

My name is Beth Bechel and I work as a communication specialist for the City of Asheville. 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.

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

Can you tell me what your deadline is?

My contact information is listed below if you have any questions.

Beth Bechel
Communication Specialist
Communications and Public Engagement Department

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

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

> Hello all,
>
> My name is Ursula - I'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 “many” instances where Asheville Police have closed camps. Aside from a few of the higher-profile removals which have made it into the local media, I’m having a hard time tracking down documentation of these instances.

I understand that the City’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 ‘closure’ 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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Samantha Booth
Administrative Assistant to The Chief of Police & Communication Specialist
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