Manager's Report

December 8, 2020

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



Welcome New City Council



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Presentation Overview

- On June 9, staff presented a 30/60/90 Day Work Plan and over the past several months have updated Council and the community on our work.
- The 30/60/90 Day Work Plan was developed in response to numerous requests from the Black Asheville Demands coalition to address specific racial justice and economic inclusion issues.
- The Work Plan reflects when we would **start** working on these requests.
- Tonight's update will focus on a number of initiatives that have taken place since the budget was adopted on September 22, 2020.
- Chief David Zack will update on Asheville Police Department activity.
- Chief Scott Burnette will update on COIVD 19 State and Local Orders

30/60/90 Plan Renamed

Advancing Racial Equity in Asheville

- Intentional focus on service delivery and investments that Advance Racial Equity in Asheville.
- Providing more information about City efforts to pursue social, economic and environmental justice through City investments, service delivery, programs and partnerships in addition to the Black Asheville Demands list of efforts.
- Project Page is on the City Website: https://www.ashevillenc.gov/department/communication-public-engagement/projects-and-initiatives/30-60-90-day-work-plan/

Reimagining Public Safety in Asheville

Goal: *Determine how the City of Asheville structures department responsibilities and community partnerships in a way that promotes racial equity and economic inclusion.*

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Public Engagement Process

- Step 1 (complete): Get feedback on an approach from key focus groups
- Step 2 (complete): Host Community Meetings
- Step 3: (in process): Report, Recommendations and Implementation

Re-Imagining Public Safety Phase 1

4 Animal Control positions (reassigned to DSD)	$220,000
1 Assistant to the Chief position (funding reassigned to CAPE; individual moving into another position)	$110,000
2 Park Warden positions (1 position reassigned to Parks and Recreation and 1 vacant position to a partner agency)	$90,000
6 Telecommunicator positions (all currently vacant; funding being reassigned to ITS and DSD)	$300,000
Salary savings from sworn police officer positions (resignations between July and September - one-time payment to partner organization(s)	$50,000
Total	**$770,000**

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Update on Recommended Positions

Communication and Public Engagement Department

- ***Neighborhood Services Specialist***
  - Posted 11/23 and will close 12/14
  - **The position will:**
    - Build capacity for neighborhood leadership and community organizing
    - Build and strengthen relationships while serving as a community and neighborhood information broker, providing a portal to City services and programs
    - Coordinate work with other City departments, community agencies, and community stakeholders to help address neighborhood concerns

Development Services Department (DSD)

- ***Animal Control Positions***
  - All Animal Services employees, vehicles and budget have been moved from APD to Development Services Department.
  - Animal Services Supervisor report directly to the DSD Director
  - Other nuisance related enforcement i.e. Noise Ordinance is now under this department

Update on Recommended Positions

IT Services Department

- ***Performance Analyst within the IT Services Department***
  - **The position will:**
    - Support the use of data to assess and identify community trends and problems
    - Utilize data to proactively address and solve problems and support cross departmental and community initiatives.

- ***Data Communication Specialist within the IT Services Department***
  - **The position will:**
    - Work with staff and community to make data understandable, including stories and context behind the numbers
    - Support staff in presenting program performance and progress on community goals and implementation of community projects

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Update Recommended Positions

Parks and Recreation Department

- ***Park Warden Position***
  - Moved from APD to Parks and Recreation Department
  - Provide routine, security work involved in safeguarding customers and vehicles at City parks, pools and related facilities

Partnership with Homeward Bound

- ***Homelessness Outreach***
  - In process of entering into a contract with Homeward Bound

Internet Access for Asheville Housing Authority Residents

- The City of Asheville, Asheville City Schools, Asheville City Schools Foundation, the Asheville Housing Authority, and Buncombe County have partnered to address the issue of a lack of high speed wireless access for Housing residents, particularly school age children

- Through funding by all the partners a project is moving forward to provide all residents with high speed wireless broadband access

- An interlocal agreement has been approved by City Council and the first phase of installation has begun

- The Asheville City Council has approved $50,000 towards this installation effort

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Re-Imagining Public Safety Phase 2

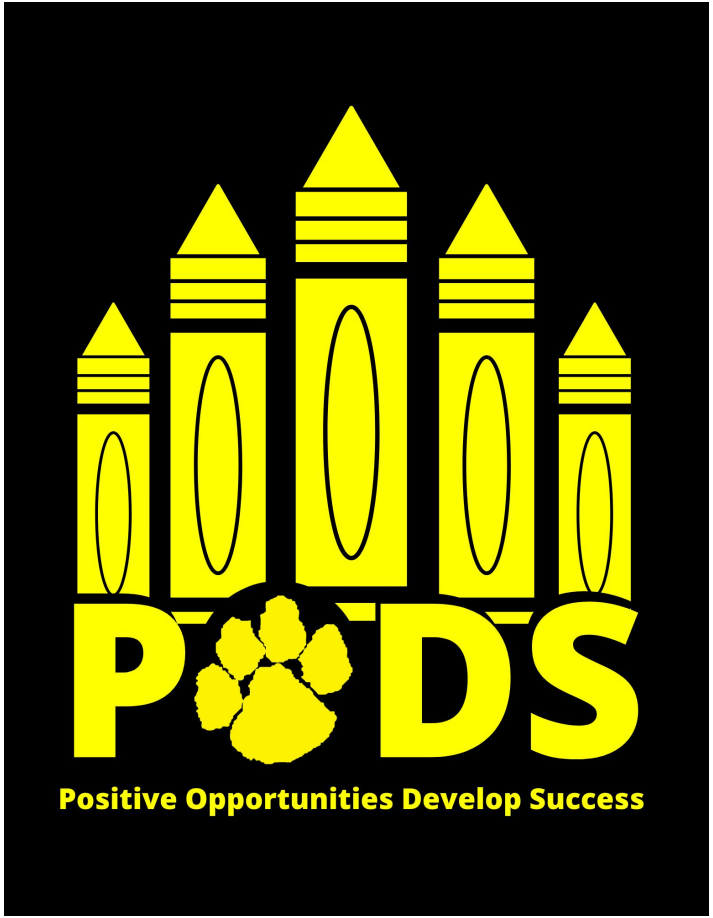
Bringing back Re-imagining Consultants for the next round of engagement:

- Will review what was heard in Round 1
- Will inform what is being done now in response to input from Round 1
- Will seek community feedback on proposed services, programs and partnerships to be included in the 2021-22 Budget that pursue social, economic and environmental justice

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13 Sites
26 PODS
260 Students

- In this unique opportunity, Asheville City Schools staff and community members are pushing into communities of color to work with students in a pod setting.
- Individuals are pushing into these pods to support and facilitate student engagement and enrichment.
- We also recognize that some of our students have barriers that may hinder their academic growth; therefore, ACS staff acts as a liaison between the PODS and the students teachers to maximize student success.



Equity Director Recruitment

- City is finalizing the scope of work and contract with a search firm to begin the recruitment process

- Anticipate late February hire date

Other Initiatives being pursued:

- Consolidating 911 emergency call center to more efficiently respond and deploy resources for emergency response calls
- Creating with community partners a collaborative rapid response team model to respond to mental health, drugs and alcohol, homeless, domestic violence and similar types of calls with goal of having Police no longer being the first or only responder
- Developing new model(s) for School Resource Officers to further support student mentoring and other identified needs in schools
- Developing with tenants and Housing Authority staff new model(s) to enhance safety in Housing Authority communities
- Identify other training or police reform initiatives to be investigated or implemented

Asheville Police 30/60/90 Progress

Chief David Zack
December 8, 2020

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APD 30/60/90 Plan

- Originally presented to City Council on June 9, 2020
- All elements, except one in progress, are complete
- APD continues to build upon this plan to better serve Asheville

30 Days

- Expand current definition of what constitutes use of force. Increase indicators into early intervention systems to identify/address issues before they become a problem. **COMPLETED (policy updated 10/26/2020)**
- Revise promotional process to reflect merit based and equity **COMPLETED**
- Abolish Drug Suppression Unit (DSU). Place greater focus on violent and property crime, less focus on low level drug crimes. **COMPLETED**
- Partner with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to assist with reducing gun violence in particular. **COMPLETED**

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60 Days

- Complete promotional processes to support a department wide restructuring. **COMPLETED (promotional effective 9/26; restructuring 10/10)**
- Create a department liaison with the District Attorney's Office to identify cases that could not meet prosecution standards as they apply to interrogation, search and seizure, warrant application, and evidence collection and storage.
  COMPLETED - Integrity Unit established 10/10
- Implementation of TIP411 to provide community ability to anonymously report crime and officer misconduct.
  COMPLETED - public rollout on 11/30

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Beyond 90 Days

- Creation of Community Engagement Division
  COMPLETED - created on 10/10/20
- Implementation of gun violence reduction strategy
  IN PROGRESS

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Highlights: Community Engagement Division

- Created on October 10
- **Goal:** quickly and efficiently respond to neighborhood quality of life issues
- Comprised of three units:
  - community unit
  - public housing unit
  - school resource officers

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Highlights: Community Engagement Division

- November accomplishments:
  - Addressed **23** neighborhood/community issues (drug dealing, weapons violations, noise complaints, crosswalk issues)
  - Responded to **34** calls/complaints regarding homeless camps
    - partnered with Homeward Bound to offer resources to individuals in encampments
  - Attended **27** community meetings (reaching approximately **263** residents)

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Highlights: TIP2APD

- Last week APD rolled out an anonymous crime reporting tool, TIP2APD
- Within one week (as of 12/7/2020)
  - app has been downloaded **453** times
  - **31** individuals have submitted tips
  - One tip assisted APD in arrest of possession/intent to sell methamphetamine
  - Receiving tips related to location of suspect in Gay Street homicide
- More information on the app and text-a-tip located at https://www.ashevillenc.gov/service/report-crime-using-tip2apd/

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Highlights: Elimination of Drug Suppression Unit

- Eliminated Drug Suppression Unit (DSU) to lessen focus on lower level drug crimes and increase focus on violent crime
- Creation of IMPACT team - current focus on gun violence
- From October 1 - November 30:
  - **25** arrests of known violent, repeat offenders
    - Total of **102** charges
  - Seized **18** firearms (**126** total in calendar year 2020)

Covid Update

Chief Scott Burnette
December 8, 2020

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Governor's Updated Executive Order

- Requires face coverings to be worn:
  - ***Indoors*** anytime a person is in the presence of others not in their household (regardless of distance)
  - **Outdoors** where it is not possible to maintain proper social distancing.
  - In **restaurants**, at tables unless actively eating or drinking.

- Retail business locations(15,000 sq. ft.+) must have a worker at each entrance to enforce face coverings and occupancy requirements.

- On public transportation, Customers may be denied entry if they refuse to wear a face covering.

Modified Stay-At-Home Order

- Update to the Stay-at-Home Order
  - Residents will be required to stay at home from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m
  - Businesses, including restaurants/bars etc. required to close by 10 p.m
  - All onsite alcohol consumption sales must end by 9 p.m.

- Goes into effect at 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 11.

Local Order

- Businesses found to be over the occupancy limitation may be fined and be subject to temporary closures
  - 1st Citation - $50
  - 2nd Citation - $50 and 24 hour shut down
  - 3rd Citation - $50 and 48 hour shut down (etc)

- Multi-agency task-force to enforce orders

- Asheville's Transit System will require riders to wear a face covering on buses and in buildings (Masks available if needed)

Key Takeaways

- Progress being made on efforts included in the 30/60/90 day plan, now Advancing Racial Equity in Asheville
- Reimagining Public Safety efforts will continue in early January and will be combined with the upcoming Budget process
- APD continues to build and strengthen relationships with people and community partners to better serve Asheville
- Wear, Wait, Wash

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