Manager's Report

June 23, 2020

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



Presentation Overview

I will:

- Provide an update on our work to reopen for business in the midst of public health pandemic.

- Clarify 30/60/90 day work plan presented by both Chief Zack and myself related to Police Reform initiatives and responses to community demands.

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Reopening Update

- Council Committees Resuming
  - Public Safety - 3:30 on June 25th
  - Boards and Commissions - 2:00 on June 26th

- Some Boards and Commissions Resuming

- Re-opening remaining City Facilities
  - Early July - Staff
  - Mid July - Public

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Reopening Update

- Public Space Usage/Street Openings
  - **Temporary Parklet** - **use of 1-3 parking spaces** adjacent to their storefronts for outdoor dining, merchandise sales or other safe distancing
  - **Shared Streets** - converts entire blocks to **“pedestrian priority”** areas to enable outdoor dining, merchandise sales or other uses by businesses and organizations in the area
  - Businesses can also expand seating or merchandise onto **public sidewalks** in front of their businesses
  - Businesses can also expand onto private properties including **parking lots and landscaped areas**

More details at website:**www.ashevillenc.gov/publicspaceresponse**

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Reopening Update

- Parks and Recreations Summer Programing
  - Rec N Roll - community based onsite programs
  - Virtual Camps - staff lead activities and virtual field trips
  - Nature Center - educational videos online
- Red Roof Inn COVID-19 Shelter Guests
  - 65 people currently being housed
  - **11 households with confirmed plans to move into permanent housing**
  - Collaborations with Homeward Bound, Vaya Health, and the Housing Authority of Asheville

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30/60/90 Day Initiatives

June 9, 2020 - Staff presented 30/60/90 day initiatives on ongoing efforts in the Police Department and efforts in response to Black Asheville Demands coalition.

These efforts:

- Represent the **beginning** of the work that needs to be done
- Will happen on a **parallel track** with other efforts and requests from the community
- Are a foundation and only the **beginning** of work that will lead to long term collaborative problem solving

What are we Hearing?

- Defund the Police Department to fund other services.
- Ensure police accountability, both individually and organizationally.
- Repair past and continuing harm to Asheville's black community.

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Moving Forward

- We have heard the community.
- We want to respond and move forward together.
- Racism is a systemic problem, bigger than police and the City cannot solve it alone and within 90 days.
- The solutions need to be strategic and collaborative.
- We will engage with the public as well as County government, schools, health care providers, the private sector and other organizations to address social and economic disparities.

Next Steps: 30/60/90 Day Initiatives:

- Public Engagement that includes community input on **re-imagining policing** and **delivering services** collaboratively with our **partners.**

- Work with the **community** to determine how to structure department responsibilities and partnerships in a way to :
  - *Deliver exemplary services in a manner that achieves social and economic equality*
  - *Build community trust in government and especially APD*
  - *Identify and allocate resources commensurate with roles and responsibilities*

- Community engagement process to launch in the next two weeks. Phase of COVID-19 will determine specific outreach strategies

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Next Steps: 30/60/90 Day Initiatives:

- Concurrently work on list of **other demands** with the community i.e.
  - Formation of the Task Force for Vance Monument
  - Renaming of streets
  - Addressing Achievement/Opportunity Gap in ACS
  - Disparity Study race and gender policies and
  - Etc.

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Questions

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