

Asheville City Council January 25, 2022 Voicemail Comments

CommentDate	Comment	Tags
1/23/2022 9:47 AM	<p>Hi, my name is Kim Mason. I'm calling from Colway North Carolina, which is about an hour from Asheville. I'm calling regarding the proposed ordinance to regulate or curtail food and resource sharing with the homeless of Asheville. I'm calling to say, I think it's an appalling idea. I think you're trying to ban for people from common decency are trying to squash compassion for other people in need. I think that Asheville has been cracking down on the homeless in a pretty disgusting way.</p>	Open Comment
1/23/2022 7:31 PM	<p>Hello. My name is Angela and this topic is extremely close to my heart. In 2006, my brother was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia ever since then. He has been homeless. I was currently under age of 18 at the time, and I didn't quite understand it as time has gone on. He has relocated to Asheville. I am over 18. However, I am still not his guardian. He refuses to come home and have dinners meals with me and seek shelter with me due to his paranoia. Sometimes he doesn't even recognize as heartbreaking as that is. It's more heartbreaking to know that the community outreach programs that you know, I'm sure that he has relied on at one point to keep him warm and keep him safe and keep him fed are up for debate as far as if they are legitimate. And if they are something that is welcomed in our community, I think that it's egregiously, irresponsible to disregard members of our community who are less fortunate than we are. This is absolutely against what a lot of people here in Asheville I speak for and believe in. And if those outreach programs didn't exist, who would help him? I have tried to help him. It doesn't work. He does rely on the community of strangers. And if you take that away, you take away a lot more than just an inconvenience to you. And toward some dollars you take away a warm meal, you take away a potentially life saving coat. You take away a very large part of the community by saying that they don't matter. Thank you.</p>	Open Comment
1/23/2022 8:38 PM	<p>Hi, my name is Abby Walter. I live in Asheville and I'm calling to comment on the proposed ordinance that would restrict food sharing in public in a time when the temperatures are dropping, especially, and many people are going weeks without a warm meal. I believe that passing such an ordinance would only further starve and neglect, houseless people and Dolittle to deter crime. As it is suggested, I do not support such an ordinance and I urge the council to strike down any such legislation in the hopes that good faith of our local government will continue to serve our community's needs. Thank you, bye.</p>	Open Comment
1/23/2022 11:44 PM	<p>My name is Laura Meir. I'm a resident of Asheville. And I'm calling to say that the way that you guys don't value human life is disgusting. Stop criminalizing, unhoused people, punishing them further. It's not gonna make them go away. The way that you treat them is atrocious. They're human beings, and they deserve to be able to eat and sleep in a warm place and not have their homes destroyed. And you just keep further criminalizing them and punishing them. And it's disgusting. I.</p>	Open Comment

1/24/2022 10:15 AM	Hi, good morning. My name is Rachel Alford. I'm an Asheville resident. I live in west Asheville and I'm calling to express my frustration with the ordinance that might be passed under the idea of homelessness, response, safety and solutions, all of the regulations that include not allowing or punishing people for leaving food for homeless residents in the park. I find it reprehensible and I would urge the city council not only to not pass the ordinance, but to really consider Asheville's role as a community that takes care of itself or punishes folks from trying to take care of their neighbors and the dead of wonder where we just had extreme snow and weather, life threatening conditions. It's disgusting to me that we might have folks in leadership who would be interested in punishing people for taking care of each other. Thank you for.	Open Comment
1/24/2022 8:08 PM	Hi, my name is Colin Alford. I live in Asheville, west Asheville. I'm calling for open public comment. I've heard about the, the legislation of policies, the city looking into regarding changing the permitting around serving houseless people and the park. And I just wanted to call and say how disappointed I am that the city's considering this, especially I saw the freedom of information act request that was put in at.	Open Comment
1/24/2022 8:09 PM	Hi, my name is Colin Alford. I'm live in west Asheville and I'm calling for the open public comment.	Open Comment
1/24/2022 8:10 PM	Are times the charm. I'm calling ed. I live in west Asheville. I'm calling for the open public comment. And I just wanted to say how disappointed I am that the city is looking into legislation that would limit the ability of private citizens to help each other by distributing food, to people who are in need. It's especially disappointing to see that we have are considering a statute that's coming from Florida or Orlando. And that has been tested by the.	Open Comment
1/24/2022 9:06 PM	My name is Lucha Beel. I'm a long time citizen and city resident. I'm calling about the agenda item that you have to ban the ordinance that would effectively ban citizens from sharing food, with people who are houseless. This is criminal and houselessness is disproportionately affects black people in our city, and this will definitely affect black and brown unhoused people. And this should be struck down and vote. No thank you. Bye.	Open Comment
1/24/2022 9:08 PM	Hi, my name is Lauren BELE. I am a resident of Asheville city. I've lived here for almost 15 years. I'm curious as to why this item that is not currently on the agenda might be brought up in the Tuesday, meeting an ordinance. The would effectively ban citizens from sharing food, with people who are houseless. I am having trouble understanding why this would have any positive impact on our community whatsoever. When we, when showing compassion becomes illegal, we know we have a serious problem to tackle houselessness. Disproportionately affects people of color, and it affects so many citizens in our, oh, I'm also a former county employee. It, it, the pandemic has negatively affected. So, so many of our residents in Asheville, and at this time, what we need to be doing is finding out how to support our residents, especially due to Asheville's failure, to provide affordable housing, to in any stretch of the imagination as our, the property taxes are going up and rent. And all of that is going up. I'm very confused and concerned as to why. Now there are also efforts being made to limit the generosity of our community to meet the gaps that the city and county are failing to meet themselves. So please strike down this, this ordinance and vote. No, thank you so much.	Open Comment

1/24/2022 9:48 PM	Hi, my name's Matthew Seko. I'm an Asheville resident at 180 5 Westwood place in west Asheville. I'm calling the city council about the proposal to regulate the sharing of food and resources. And asking that this proposal be struck down. If Mike Lamb thinks this should be put on the council meeting to reduce crime from homeless people, perhaps she, he should lose his position as well. I believe that any ordinance which is designed to have the effect or subsequently has the effect of denying people's basic rights is unacceptable. And I hope city council agrees with me and strikes this down before it vote. Thanks for your time. Bye.	Open Comment
1/24/2022 11:15 PM	Hello. My name is Lauren and I am a resident of Asheville for over a decade. And I would like to make a comment about the homeless response, safety and solutions ordinance. I am against the ordinance because I believe it is classist and discriminatory. And I believe that we should be giving plenty of leftover food or unpurchased food. That is about to go bad. We should be doing everything that we can to get it in the, the hands of people who need it versus throwing it away. And I think we need to work to house and feed our community members versus penalizing them and increasing the policing. Thank you.	Open Comment
1/24/2022 11:21 PM	Hi, my name is captain Shaw. My address is 61 Westwood place in Ashland, North Carolina. This message is in regards to the proposal to regulate the sharing of food in public parks. As a resident of Asheville, I'm strongly opposed to any ordinance, which regulates how people gain access to food and resources in public spaces, sharing food and resources in these spaces creates community connections with people from all walks of life, which is vital to healthy communi and diverse communities in as, and I am strongly opposed to any effort to impede this basic human right. Thank you.	Open Comment

1/24/2022 11:25 PM

Hi, my name is Jillian. I am a lifetime Asheville community member, and I am calling after reviewing some of the documents released by the Asheville free press on request from the city regarding your upcoming ordinance to deal with, I guess, starving on house. People would probably be the best way to describe what was in that document. Yeah. At, at a lot of turns inhumane doesn't even seem to start to do describe the policy that is being proposed, but I'll get through as many points as I can before this recording cuts off. First off, you all are leaving wording regarding specifically bullet point a in that provided of the proposed Asheville ordinance. So incredibly vague that not only are folks trying to provide food to the unhoused, likely to be incarcerated criminalized and potentially locked up in what is apparently one of the deadliest detention facilities in the state, but also potentially intimidating unhoused folks themselves from even seeking resources because of statements like participation in some sort of service meant to distribute food. Additionally, regarding specifically bullet point C on the same document, it's kind of entertaining that your, your press statement describes freely giving out permits, considering there's city fees and charges associated with an application fee, even receive a permit. So I don't know what kind of logic you all are operating on that it makes sense to make money off of people trying to feed the unhoused that you refuse to feed. But that's an interesting way to make something quote unquote, freely accessible. Additionally, the facts under that same bullet point that you are limiting these permits to only two in a 12 month consecutive period for each group, person or organization that effectively limits you to nothing but performative photo ops in terms of support, consistent stable access to food is a baseline for people being able to operate on any level in terms of trying to function under a society that is forcing them into a deep, deep kind of poverty, the way the city of Asheville is. And I.

Open Comment

1/24/2022 11:29 PM	<p>Hi, my name is Jillian. I am calling to continue a message that got cut off. So I guess you can consider this under a different section of the public comment if that's helpful to you. Yeah, but to pick up on that release document from actual free press regarding the proposed ordinance, restricting the ability to feed unhoused folks, I'd like to return again, to bullet point C and, and discuss that even the loophole that was left in of your 12 month limitation referring into individual parks. I don't know what level of privilege you all operate under to think that our unhoused community has access to the transport, much less the technology connectivity, to be able to even map out how they would need to hop from public park to public park, to be able to feed themselves under a system where groups are not able to provide meals in a consistent location that is beyond incomprehensible, how that would even be mildly accessible to the folks who need that most you'll keep talking about like health concerns and safety concerns in your press release and, and on a base level, restricting nutrition in the middle of a pandemic in the middle of the winter to a population you are unwilling to shelter. My guess is that that is much, much more of a tangible health risk to those that are being denied basic SU than any kind of stepping on a plastic fork that might have gotten overlooked anyway, to con with this document, I also wanted to touch God. There's so many things to touch on here. I also wanna touch on the fact that you are limiting the items that even can be distributed. If a group was to get a permit to items just pertaining to the distribution and consumption of food. When your police force is actively engaged in slashing tents, flattening belongings, I don't understand how limiting people's ability to receive things. As basic as replacement tents, we bags Coke, fair minimum medical services like bandaids or ointment. Like again, in what way, restricting and.</p>	Open Comment
1/24/2022 11:33 PM	<p>Hi, this is Jillian Asheville community member. I don't know how I've survived in this city, this long actually, but for most of my life. And this is the third message I've been cut off in. So I'll make this my last, yeah. To pick up on the fact that you all are criminalizing in this proposal, not just the distribution of food by anyone who does not pay you to meet your ordinances, new, highly restrictive requirements, but also restricting anything non-food related, which covers a vast, vast amount of other very essential items that our community is scrambled and to provide to each other and the absence of a city government that is able to actually in any tangible way, reduce the suffering. It causes to its most impoverished residents. Yeah. To wrap that up, I guess I just kind of in reading your, your press release and talking, like seeing you talk about the health, the safety, the unsightly trash, it becomes really clear after reading the release documents that you are not looking at removing UN unwanted trash in any way. You're looking at removing unwanted people, but our community will not be in for the sake of profit. Our community will not be invisible for the sake of tourism. Our community will be not be invisible because this poverty, this deprivation of resources and this increasing need for community care is a direct result of the policies of the city of Asheville and the policies being pursued in such a way that create immense amounts of unnecessary scarcity and suffering. You all are directly responsible for these quote unquote health and safety concerns that your apparently so concerned about. Now, there is so many better ways to be addressing the situation aside from Haring people. I don't know how you sleep at night.</p>	Open Comment

1/25/2022 7:50 AM	Hello, this is Lydia Toke ferry, and I'm calling about the new city ordinance. That's being proposed, making it a criminal to help our unhoused neighbors. I'm strongly opposed to denying people, the basic humanity of assist their neighbors or being assisted by their neighbors, especially in the winter. People need food, people need clothing, and it's absolutely unbelievable and unlawful that that should be that, that is considering being criminalized. The that's all I have to say.	Open Comment
1/25/2022 8:01 AM	Hi, my name is Shonda Diego and I live here in Nashville. I'm just calling to voice my opposition against the ordinance to criminalize and regulate food and resource sharing. I think the town, the city, if they're going to put any effort into, but any time or money into like changing these resources, they should be adding programs to give food, to unhoused people instead of spending their time, trying to make it illegal. Yep. That is my opinion. Thank you.	Open Comment
1/25/2022 8:41 AM	Hi, my name is Amy. I've been a resident of Asheville for almost five years now. And I just wanted to call and say, do not support this ordinance. I think other solutions need to be sought out and that this is going to be more harm than good. And I just ask that people think about the UN as people and not as a problem. Thank you. Take care.	Open Comment
1/25/2022 8:44 AM	Hello, my name is Eliana Franklin, and I'm a constituent here in Asheville. And I have heard recently about a proposal to criminalize food sharing, which would limit the food that can be shared with homeless populations or unhoused populations in the city of Asheville. And I just wanted to express that I do not support that. And I think that we need more programs to allow distribution and to provide aid and food to unhoused populations. So I hope that you all consider this. Thank you for listening to my common.	Open Comment
1/25/2022 8:59 AM	Hi, my name is Nicole Lopez and I was born and raised in Asheville and I live here. Now I'm calling in to make a comment against the ordinance re that would be restricting distribution of food and resources in public parks.	Open Comment
1/25/2022 8:58 AM	Hi, my name is Julia Cantwell. I'm citizen of Nashville, North Carolina. And I am asking that you guys drop the ordinance that would the kni food sharing in parks. This ordinance would violate articles, 20.1 20.2 21.2 2220 5.1 28, 29 0.2 and 30 of the United States. Universal. I mean, of the United nations universal declaration of human rights. It will violate any person's freedom of peaceful assembly on a busy day at the park, it will violate a person's equal access to public service in his country. It will violate a person's right to social security, who is entitled to the resources of each state of the economic, social, and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity. It will violate a person's right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services and the right to security in the event of unemployment sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. I just, I think this would be really disgusting. It, it would, it would really limit one neighbor's ability to bring aid to their community. And I think it's, it's really common sense that this is, this is really ridiculous. And when you make, when you destroy someone's place to live and you don't let them eat either it's it's, this is violence and this is, this is murder. I think common sense really says, but this is really inappropriate. Please don't pass this ordinance. Thank you.	Open Comment