

## Questions From CAN members answered by Emily Ball

1. What is the status of the Ramada Inn Permanent supportive housing project? **Will close any day now, delays due to complex corporate real estate transactions.**
2. How do you count the unhoused? How accurate is the result? **See the summary in the Homelessness Planning presentation and much more detail in the second. The total number of unhoused is likely undercounted.**
3. While the PIT count is required, do you have an ongoing count of people in all shelters? **See the Homelessness Planning Presentation**
4. Does the homeless plan have anything to do with panhandling? If not, who should? **Not specifically, CAN should speak with the city attorney and district attorney. It is my understanding that Asheville's position is that panhandling is protected under freedom of speech.**
5. Do you have any influence on homeless repeat offenders, arrests, convictions? If not how to influence? **ANot specifically, CAN should speak with the city attorney and district attorney.**
6. Do you believe that the city and county can come to one system and one set of policies? **Yes, see the details in the video**
7. Why does Greenville, SC seem to have so many fewer homeless downtown than Asheville? **I do not have experience with SC laws and Greenville's, will look into what they are doing.**
  - a. Are there policies and initiatives such as their "Keep your change to be the change" we could incorporate here to reduce panhandling?
  - b. What are they doing to not have people sleeping on sidewalks and camping everywhere?
8. Is it possible for the city's homeless plan to include a policy that would prohibit high access shelters, including Code Purple shelters, from being located in residential neighborhoods? **I do not have influence or decision making power on zoning. CAN might discuss this with other city staff.**
9. What percentage of our homeless population were local residents prior to becoming homeless? **See the 2022 Homeless Count Presentation**
10. Is there a rise in our homeless numbers that correlates to Asheville's increasingly high cost of living? **See the Homelessness Planning and 2022 Homeless Count Presentations**
11. Should we make panhandling illegal city wide? It is most revealing that panhandling is illegal in the Central Business District and in Biltmore Village. We cannot , after all....let the tourists "see" our homeless epidemic. **See the answer to #4.**
12. What number should people call if they see homeless camps? **APD or you can contact Homeward Bound outreach: Mike DeSerio is the outreach team lead and can be reached at 828.768.3435 or mike@homewardboundwnc.org.**
13. How are these encampments being handled at this point? **APD or Homeward Bound Outreach**
14. What is being done to address the chronic sleeping on the sidewalk around Merimmon on the Trader Joe's corner and camping on Lexington under the 240 bridge area and Merimmon 240 exit - grassy area?  
**Answered: APD or Outreach**
15. Given that an outside organization was hired to consult on the homeless issue, what does this mean about the city's future interactions with existing, non-city programs? **If anything, I believe our work with the National Alliance to End Homelessness has brought existing, non-City programs closer together in partnership with the City, each other, and the larger community's homeless service system. The Alliance is leading a process that will create a roadmap for our community to follow, but we will need to work together locally across all sectors to make progress. My goal is to support our community in building out a strong Continuum of Care, where we have a clear structure around a) who's involved in and responsible for strategy development, policy adoption and implementation, and process improvements, b) how to get involved in those activities c) how we measure effectiveness of that work. We have strong local service providers who are essential participants throughout that structure, as are people who are currently or formerly homeless. That structure, though, won't be**

**effective unless it also includes participation from the wider community, including neighborhood associations.**

16. What does the city see as its best role in dealing with homelessness? Legislative? Programming? Support? Land grants? **My primary focus is on the City's role as the lead agency of the Continuum of Care, meaning our work is to provide community leadership on the issue of homelessness that convenes partners and facilitates development and continuous improvement of an effective homeless service system.**
17. Do the city's numbers differentiate between the varied forms/causes of homelessness? **See the 2022 Homeless Count Presentation**
18. Blunt question but here it is: how does/will the increase in the homeless population affect tourism? With new TDA distribution regulations, is there a specific way those funds can be used to help? **Homelessness negatively affects all aspects of our community's quality of life, most significantly for the people who experience it directly but also for other community members and sectors, including tourism. Ending homelessness benefits our entire community and is important for the health and wellness of everyone who lives here. I am not yet familiar with the new parameters of TDA funding uses but do anticipate that the expanded eligibility could have a positive impact on our community's work on homelessness.**
19. The city's first 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness wound up around 5 years ago. Homelessness has increased. What was learned from that plan?
  - a. **From my perspective as a community member and nonprofit service provider during that time, the plan successfully introduced some big, new ideas to our community: Housing First, data collection through HMIS, establishing a lead entity, focusing on chronic homelessness. Because of the plan, we made progress on all of those during the 10-year period. What I think was lacking was widespread adoption and implementation of those tenets and focus areas, along with clear leadership and responsibility for implementing the plan. The plan also didn't identify clear targets or specific activities to meet those targets. Ten years is also a very long time, during which many parts and people of our community and homeless service system changed.**
  - b. **After we receive the recommendations from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, we will need to collectively develop an implementation plan. In my opinion, to be most effective, that plan will need a shorter timeline, a systems focus, to be somewhat aspirational but really very tactical, and to be developed by the people who will be directly responsible for acting on it. We will also need a clear feedback loop for reporting out, accountability, and making changes together based on what is and isn't working.**
20. Are you aware of efforts by our city and state representatives to seek softer versions of housing-cost control as "inclusionary zoning" to help create more affordable options for those homeless who are ready to live independently but cannot afford today's prices? **I'm not, although it may be happening related to work by groups like the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.**
21. When doing the point in time count or the HMIS study, how are age groups delineated by age? Is a person under 21 a youth? **See the 2022 Homeless Count Presentation**
22. Do the counts include children with the homeless parent? **See the 2022 Homeless Count Presentation**
23. Are people asked how long they have been in Asheville? **See the 2022 Homeless Count Presentation**
24. Are they asked where they came from prior to Asheville? ( There is a thought out there that people come here because there are so many more services ) **See the 2022 Homeless Count Presentation**
25. There will be 300+ units of permanent housing for the homeless in east Asheville. Those units will be provided by ABCCM Veterans Restoration Quarters, Homeward Bound Days Inn, Shangri-La Ramada Inn and the BeLoved tiny home community. How many additional units is the city trying to achieve? **See the answers in the video**