

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
October 17, 2021

Subject: Dialog with Jonathan Key, re: Vicki Hyatt vs. Tom Lotshaw, The Mountaineer.

This is actually a one-way dialog with Jonathan Key, Publisher of the Mountaineer, because I do not ever expect a response. This dialog is about the incestuous cesspool that is the Town of Waynesville in collaboration with the Mountaineer, and specifically, **Vicki Hyatt**, Liberal Hack News Editor of the Mountaineer.

This is an outgrowth and culmination of events surrounding the Homelessness Task Force, headed by “facilitator” **Amy Murphy-Nugen** (a.k.a. Down Home NC hack) and the Town of Waynesville government.

Questions arose early on regarding how “facilitator” **Amy Murphy-Nugen** (a.k.a. Down Home NC hack) was being paid. There were rumors that a Grant had been applied for, and “facilitator” **Amy Murphy-Nugen** (a.k.a. Down Home NC hack) was going to be paid by this grant and the Town of Waynesville. What better way to get to the bottom of things is there other than start asking questions, and in particular, making Requests for Public Records. This is the point where for every rock you turn over, a cockroach jumps out.

There were several levels of getting to the bottom of this Grant Request, which was applied to Dogwood Health Trust, by the way. The following is a brief summary, with details to follow.

- No Grant was ever applied for (re: Jesse Fowler, upon consultation with Rob Hites on how to respond to my Request for Public Information).
- A Grant was applied for, and I was provided with a two (2) page document, entitled “DOGWOOD HEALTH FOUNDATION IMMEDIATE NEEDS GRANT”, unsigned, undated, no letterhead.
- The actual application was produced, in .html format, listing Rob Hites as the applicant, undated.

The grant was denied by Dogwood Health Trust.

The document entitled “DOGWOOD HEALTH FOUNDATION IMMEDIATE NEEDS GRANT” contains fowl and derogatory comments about the citizens of the Town of Waynesville. No one has confessed as to being the author of this document, although it has all the characteristics of **Bill Cannon**, previous Town Attorney (now replaced by Martha Sharpe Bradley who worked for **Bill Cannon** for over three years), who was unceremoniously fired by the Town of Waynesville because he torpedoed his career by shooting himself in the foot by posting hateful political tweets on social media.

The following is a progression of steps leading up to an article posted in the Mountaineer - “Waynesville police raises cost more than expected” by Tom Lotshaw, Oct 15, 2021.

Here we go...

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Request for Public Information - Dogwood Trust. #1.

Date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 08:21:26 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Eddie Ward <eward@waynesvillenc.gov>

CC: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Amy Murphy-Nugen <abmurphynugen@wcu.edu>, Elizabeth Teague <eteague@waynesvillenc.gov>

Ms. Ward,

It was brought to my attention that the "facilitator" of the Homeless Task Force, Amy Murphy-Nugen, is being paid by the Town of Waynesville through a grant from Dogwood Health Trust through a grant. If all of that is correct, please provide the following information, or direct me to someone that can.

1. The application made to Dogwood Health Trust for the grant.
2. The approval of the application from Dogwood Health Trust (including amount).
3. The monthly amount that Amy Murphy-Nugen has been paid thus far for her duties as a "facilitator".

Thank you,

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Dogwood Trust. #3
Date: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 15:14:09 -0400
From: Monroe Miller
To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>
CC: Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Amy Murphy-Nugen <abmurphynugen@wcu.edu>, Elizabeth Teague <eteague@waynesvillenc.gov>, Martha Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>

Mr. Hites,

Will you please acknowledge this Request for Public Information?

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

[Editor's Note: I included the following five (5) page attachment to Rob Hites. This includes a conversation with Jesse Fowler telling me that no grant had ever been applied for. Jesse Fowler indicated to me he had a meeting with Rob Hites on how to respond to my Request for Public Information. This is the first time Rob Hites threw Jesse Fowler under the bus. Remember, it was Rob Hites who made the original grant application to Dogwood Health Trust.]

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
September 25, 2021

Rob Hites
Waynesville Town Manager
16 South Main Street, PO Box 100
Waynesville NC 28786
(828) 452-2491
rhites@waynesvillenc.gov

Subject: Request for Public Information - Salary for Amy Murphy-Nugen.

I sent you the following Request for Public Information on 9/24/2021 at 8:24am, to which I have yet to receive an acknowledgment.

Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Dogwood Trust. #1.
Date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 08:24:48 -0400
From: Monroe Miller
To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>
CC: Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Amy Murphy-Nugen <abmurphynugen@wcu.edu>, Elizabeth Teague <eteague@waynesvillenc.gov>

Mr. Hites,
Look like this goes to you.
Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Automatic reply: Request for Public Information - Dogwood Trust. #1.
Date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 12:21:43 +0000
From: Eddie Ward <eward@waynesvillenc.gov>
To: Monroe Miller

I will be out of the office from September 23rd until October 4th 2021. If you need immediate assistance please contact Town Manager Rob Hites at rhites@waynesvillenc.gov or 828 452 2491

On 9/24/2021 8:21 AM, Monroe Miller wrote:

Ms. Ward,

It was brought to my attention that the "facilitator" of the Homeless Task Force, Amy Murphy-Nugen, is being paid by the Town of Waynesville through a grant from Dogwood Health Trust through a grant. If all of that is correct, please provide the following information, or direct me to someone that can.

1. The application made to Dogwood Health Trust for the grant.
2. The approval of the application from Dogwood Health Trust (including amount).
3. The monthly amount that Amy Murphy-Nugen has been paid thus far for her duties as a "facilitator".

Thank you,
Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subsequently, I visited with Jesse Fowler later in the afternoon, and he indicated he had a meeting with you on how to respond to this request. He informed me that:

- He had been hired by the Town about a year ago.
- The City of Waynesville never applied to Dogwood Health Trust for a grant for Amy Murphy-Nugen! Consequently, they have never received funds from Dogwood.
- Amy signed a contract with the city over a year ago, to be paid when she submits an invoice. Money to pay her will most likely come from the General Fund, i.e. Waynesville taxpayers. She has not submitted any invoice yet.
- He expected to get me a copy of her contract late today or early next week.

Jesse Fowler was hired on 10/21/2020. [re: the Mountaineer, https://www.themountaineer.com/news/fowler-named-as-assistant-town-manager/article_54105520-0fd9-11eb-951a-8f90eed9134d.html].

It was then brought to my attention, by a diligent concerned citizen of the Town of Waynesville, two sets of Minutes of the Town of Waynesville Board of Aldermen. Both of these minutes contradict what I had been told by Jesse Fowler (both prior to his being hired on 10/21/2020).

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Special Called Meeting
February 4, 2020

...[Page 2]

Alderman Chuck Dickson reminded the Board that a grant had been written to the Dogwood Health Trust for the purpose of hiring a facilitator for the Task Force. He said that in that grant there were 4 items listed as the goals and objectives of the committee. He added that the grant would need to be spent in this calendar year.

- Research the demographics of the Homeless and the causes of homelessness
- Examine stigmatization, criminalization and discrimination associated with homelessness
- To conduct a gap analysis to identify existing community capacity and additional resources necessary to prevent temporary and chronic homelessness.
- Develop a collaborative community action plan to fill system gaps and improve existing programs

... [Page3]

Mayor Caldwell asked if anyone in the audience if they wished to speak.

Ms. Amy Murphy-Nugen – Western Carolina University professor

Ms. Nugen thanked the Board for opening the process of looking for solutions to homelessness in the community. She said she would like to work with the Task Force in any capacity, and because of her work at Western Carolina University, she feels she could be a facilitator and bring people together who have common goals and different perspectives on how to reach those goals. She stated she had 20 years of experience in affordable housing, community economic development, and addressing social determinants of health issues like homelessness.

...

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Regular Meeting

July 28th, 2020

... [Page 3]

Joey Reece
108 Maple Street
Waynesville, NC 28786

Mr. Reece addressed the Budget Amendment that was on the agenda for approval for Amy Murphy-Nugen for her role on the Homelessness Task Force. He said that he had understood that the Task Force would be a voluntary Task Force, and now the facilitator would be paid a large sum of money. He said it is bad timing to be spending money for a part time facilitator and he would be speaking with board members privately regarding his continued participation on the task force.

... [Page 14]

G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD

11. Consulting Proposals for Town of Waynesville Task Force on Homelessness

• Dr. Amy Murphy-Nugen

Dr. Amy Murphy-Nugen was selected to be the consultant for the Task Force on Homelessness when it was first formed. She has drafted two proposals to fund the activities of the Taskforce on Homelessness. Option A in the amount of \$53,487.50 and Option B in the amount of \$32,287.50. The major difference between the proposals is the time budgeted for community interaction.

Dr. Murphy-Nugen's hourly rate is proposed to be \$100 per hour, with \$4,487.50 budgeted for travel and supplies. Dr. Murphy-Nugen outlined her proposals in the information in the packet.

Manager Hites said that if either option is selected, a budget amendment will need to be completed. Two sample budget amendments have been prepared for the Board's consideration.

A motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter, seconded by Alderman Anthony Sutton to approve the contract with Dr. Murphy-Nugen and funding proposal option A.

A motion was made by Alderman Anthony Sutton, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson to approve Ordinance O-10-20 in the amount of \$53,500.

The motion carried unanimously.

WTF?

So, Mr. Hites, my original Request for Public Information seems to have standing, as it appears that an application was made to the Dogwood Health Trust for a grant, to which I would like to see the response from Dogwood Health Trust.

1. The application made to Dogwood Health Trust for the grant.
2. The approval of the application from Dogwood Health Trust (including amount).
3. The monthly amount that Amy Murphy-Nugen has been paid thus far for her duties as a "facilitator".

In addition, please provide the referenced contract Amy Murphy-Nugen signed with the Town of Waynesville.

Please acknowledge this request for Public Information.

Thank you,

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

[**Editor's Note:** Several emails transpired since the original email, mostly all directed to Rob Hites, City Manager, but he has successfully pawned off having other people respond in all cases. I have not received any direct email from Rob Hites. Here, he throws Jesse Fowler under the bus again when he provided Jesse with the following information to respond to my Request for Public Information. Remember, it was Rob Hites who made the actual grant application to Dogwood Health Trust.]

Subject: RE: Request for Public Information - Dogwood Trust. #3

Date: Thu, 30 Sep 2021 11:07:58 +0000

From: Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>

To: 'Monroe Miller'

CC: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>

Your public information requests:

1. The application made to the Dogwood Health Trust (attached)
2. The denial of our application for the Dogwood Health Trust Grant (attached)
3. Amy's contract (attached)
4. Amy Murphy-Nugen has not invoiced the town for her services yet, and so the monthly amount she has been paid is \$0.00

Jesse Fowler | Assistant Town Manager

Town of Waynesville, NC

16 S. Main Street, Suite 110 | Waynesville, NC 28786

(O) 828.452.2491 | (F) 828.456.2000

jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov | www.waynesvillenc.gov

DOGWOOD HEALTH FOUNDATION IMMEDIATE NEEDS GRANT

Description of Current Need/Project:

The Waynesville Community provides two shelters for the homeless. Each offers two meals per day, shower facilities and a total of 90 beds. The legal community treats many of the symptoms of homelessness such as substance abuse and mental health issues as diseases and does not seek to incarcerate individuals unless they have committed a violent crime.

Waynesville's compassionate approach to dealing with homeless individuals has created a destination for both regional and interstate homeless population that far exceeds the Community's ability to house and feed them. The shelters do not permit drug use or violent behavior so many homeless individuals find themselves on the street with no money, no place to stay and nothing to eat. They resort to shoplifting and petty theft for food, tents and money. The businesses that reside between the two shelters are constantly victimized by homeless individuals that have been refused service by the shelters.

The result of these behaviors is a community that is divided into two camps, the group that views the homeless as a group of society's victims in need of support and the group that views the homeless as petty thieves that shoot up drugs and threaten the Town's citizens.

At this juncture the Town needs to develop a process that will bring both groups together to develop a strategy to handle the influx of homeless individuals. No one in the community has the training and experience to lead the discussion, provide their expertise and help develop a community wide strategy that includes all stakeholders. We believe that a grant from the Dogwood Health Foundation would provide the funds to engage such an expert. The Town would match the Foundation's grant dollar for dollar in order to provide \$50,000 to attract a qualified consultant.

Does your organization serve diverse communities? If So, which ones.

Waynesville is unlike many southern municipalities in that it has a racial breakdown of 92% White, 4.4% Hispanic and 2.7% Black. The Town's most telling diversity is that of income. Waynesville is made up of a wealthy, retired group that reside along the mountain ridges, a group that own businesses and a group that is under employed residing in substandard dwellings and prone to substance abuse. The Town had a thriving industrial sector in Hazelwood into the sixties. Like many other rural communities every industry but two has closed. The Town's median household income is \$34,602 and per capita income is \$25,072. Many of retired mill workers have very little retirement income and their children cannot find jobs that pay a living wage. Another element of income disparity is Waynesville's housing shortage. Affordable housing is being purchased by part time owners and Air BNB speculators. The lack of well-paying jobs, affordable housing and the proliferation of cheap drugs is forcing many people to drug addiction and homelessness. As the numbers of homeless increase, the business owners are demanding that the Town keep them away from the Town's retail areas. The friction between the retail and tourist-based businesses and homeless community increased to the point that the issue became the leading political issue in November's local election. The challenge facing the Town is to develop a line of communication between the wealthy, business and homeless residents. The process would serve to bridge the economic diversity in the Waynesville Community. The reason for our request is to engage an individual with the experience and skill base to bring these competing economic groups together to develop a community strategy to combat the income gap within the Waynesville community.

How does your organization embrace diversity?

Waynesville is unique among NC Towns. It has a history of accepting newcomers with different political views and personal lifestyles. Its residents vary from wealthy retirees from Florida to "Sovereign Citizens" who don't recognize the legitimacy of the US government. It is a challenge to provide a customer focused,

small town, level of service to citizens that are angry that we are not a carbon copy of Palm Beach or that citizens must obey State and local laws. The Town provides one of the largest recreation programs in western NC. It prices its recreational amenities so that citizens at all income levels may participate. The Town runs a summer camp program that provides affordable summer recreation programs to help families with summer day care. It provides financial support to numerous nonprofits that provide a range of services to Haywood County residents. Waynesville supports REACH, a domestic violence organization, the Open Door, an organization that feeds and shelters the homeless citizens of Waynesville, the Pigeon Street Community Center that provides services to the neighborhoods where many of Waynesville's Black and Hispanic residents reside and Mountain Projects which provides affordable housing and other social services to lower income residents of our community. The Town Board reflects the diverse nature of our community. It's five-member board is comprised of both Republicans and Democrats, an openly gay member and a female Mayor Pro Tempore. The Town Board is extremely sensitive to the needs of all racial and income classes within the Town.

Tell us what equity means to your organization and how it influences the work of your organization?

It's the policy of the Town of Waynesville to treat everyone with dignity and compassion regardless of income, race or social status. Our Police purchase food for elderly folks when they answer a call and realize that the couple cannot afford groceries. As we move through the workday our employees are alert to social conditions in the community and frequently contact non profit groups and social services when they encounter families in distress. The Police frequently purchase groceries for elderly citizens after they answer a call at the residence and discover the residents don't have food in the house. Waynesville serves the wealthy residents on the mountain ridges and work to accommodate their service challenges that result from steep, narrow access roads and frequent power outages. We recognize that our topography and weather create anxiety for our elderly residents and the Town provides personal visits during inclement weather, especially when the power is out.

Will this grant help you address any equities and disparities? If so, which one?

The issue of how a Town of 10,000 residents deals with a growing population of homeless residents is splitting the community. The community sponsors two homeless shelters which were created to help residents of Haywood County that find themselves without habitation. Many are victims of rampant drug addiction, some have psychological issues, and some may have simply been kicked out of their parent's homes when they reach eighteen. The escalating homeless population is being caused by the popularity of our current homeless shelters and the law enforcement communities' recognition that homelessness is not a crime. Waynesville is receiving an influx of non-local homeless persons from all the western counties and other States such as Arizona, California, Alaska, Utah, and Georgia. Our inability to handle large numbers of homeless residents is driving them to break into business and residences to squat and steal items that they can sell for cash. The social dilemma that we face in Waynesville is a split in the community between citizens that wish to help the homeless in any way possible and the group that are the victims of the chronic shoplifting, robberies and begging. During a candidate forum the two groups squared off and after two hours of debate it became clear that Waynesville needs to hire a consultant that can provide expertise in strategies for dealing with community homelessness as well as skills in consensus building. With no one at the table that has a background in homelessness the Town sponsored "Committee on Homelessness with flounder.

From: Dogwood Health Trust ION Grants
To: Rob Hites
Subject: ION Grant Decision
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020 9:07:53 PM

Town of Waynesville
16 South Main Street
Post Office Box 100
Waynesville, North Carolina 28786

Dear Robert,

On behalf of Dogwood Health Trust, thank you for the time and work you put into completing and submitting your application, Waynesville Taskforce on Homelessness, for our Immediate Opportunities and Needs grants. We made an effort to minimize the demands of the application process, but know that every moment you spent on it was time not spent on other important aspects of your organization.

Our board has completed the review of your grant application in accordance with established policies and procedures set forth by Dogwood Health Trust. We regret to inform you that we are unable to fund your request at this time. Please know that this is not a reflection on the work of your organization, but instead reflects the overwhelming number of requests we received from around the region.

Although we were unable to provide funding at this time, we will offer additional funding opportunities in the future, and will continue to communicate our Foundation's focus areas, funding priorities, and grant cycles on an ongoing basis through our website, our e-newsletter, and other communication channels. You may also wish to explore support from our Leverage Fund, which matches area organizations with experienced grant writers to pursue state or national opportunities of \$100,000 or more.

In the meantime, we would appreciate your feedback on our grantmaking process through a short (2-question) survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L6DTXMQ>. This is completely optional and anonymous and will not affect future grant applications.

Sincerely,
Leah Jones-Marcus
Team Lead, ION Grants

If needed, please schedule a 10 minute meeting with me to discuss your application:
<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=19117279>

[**Editor's Note:** Have skipped several emails here by Martha Sharpe Bradley running interference for Rob Hites.]

Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Dogwood Trust. #6

Date: Tue, 5 Oct 2021 09:58:38 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>

CC: Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Amy Murphy-Nugen <abmurphynugen@wcu.edu>, Elizabeth Teague <eteague@waynesvillenc.gov>, Martha Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>

Mr. Hites,

We seem to have a stand off here.

Regarding Item 1, I am basically looking to see that you were the Town of Waynesville government employee that pressed the "send" button and the person responsible for sending the material that Jesse Fowler sent to me on 9/30/2021, i.e. Dogwood Foundation Grant- 12-17-19.pdf. You see, there is some pretty damning stuff in that material that some would consider on the level of hateful political tweets made by Martha Bradley's former boss, Bill Cannon, and he got fired. Usually, when one completes a pre-formatted Word Document and submits it to, say, Dogwood, via their online portal, one usually gets some kind of confirmation that the grant request was acknowledged. So here is a last chance for you to have Martha Bradley send me your email confirmation from Dogwood that you sent the Grant Request. Otherwise, I will be contacting Leah Jones-Marcus directly at Dogwood Trust.

On the second item, Item 2, I had received an automated response from Eddie Ward on 9/24/2021 indicating she would be back 10/4/2021 (yesterday). I presume that this is the individual that Martha Bradley was talking about, as being the only person in the Town of Waynesville that has access to an executed copy of Amy Murphy-Nugen's contract. Don't worry, I will make a separate Request for Public Information to her.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Dogwood Trust. #6
Date: Tue, 5 Oct 2021 20:30:58 +0000
From: Martha Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>
To: Monroe Miller
CC: Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Elizabeth Teague <eteague@waynesvillenc.gov>, Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>

Mr. Miller – Mr. Fowler accessed the Town’s profile on the Dogwood Health Trust portal and downloaded the attached webpage confirmation (in .html format) associated with the task force grant application. Other than the documents Mr. Fowler sent to you on Sept. 30, Town staff have been unable to locate any other documents associated with submitting the grant application.

Best,
Martha

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Martha Sharpe Bradley
One Sharpe Lawyer*
www.sosharpe.com
37 Church St., Ste. 2800
Waynesville, NC 28786
T/F (828) 220-4292
*Law Office of Martha Sharpe Bradley, PLLC

[Editor’s Note: The following was originally sent in .html format, and is found on www.haywoodtp.net in its original form.

[https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/211005application-20970\[12\].html](https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/211005application-20970[12].html)

It has been converted to a readable image and follows next.]

Dogwood ION Grant Application**Organization and Contacts****Organization Information**

Organization Name
Town of Waynesville

Legal Name If different than above	EIN or Tax ID number
Town of Waynesville	56-6001367

Address
16 South Main Street
Post Office Box 100

City	State	Postal Code
Waynesville	North Carolina	28786

Website
www.waynesvillenc.gov

Mission/Purpose Statement

The Town of Waynesville is an incorporated municipality with a population of 10,000 residents and provides a range of municipal services to diverse income groups. It is the county seat of Haywood County and the largest of the four municipalities in the county. The Town limits include residents from both mountain valleys and along ridges up to 4,800 feet. The Town is comprised of both wealthy, retired residents and working-class individuals with a per capita income of \$25,072. Waynesville's goal is to provide a high level of service at an affordable level of taxation and fees.

The Town of Waynesville is committed to providing and supporting low-income housing. The Town appoints the board of the Waynesville Housing Authority who offers rental units for town residents who meet eligibility requirements determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Authority operates the Waynesville Towers, a five-story apartment complex with 61 units. The Towers' units were built in 1981 and were the Authority's last building project. The Authority has housing units at 17 Babb St., 395 Boyd Ave., 48 Chestnut Park and 9 Chatham St. in Waynesville. Haywood County, the Town and developer Landmark Realty entered into a public - private partnership to repurpose the old Haywood County Hospital, located in Waynesville, with federal low-income housing tax credits to provide fifty rental units for veterans, persons with disabilities and low incomes earlier in 2019. The Town works closely with the local non-profit Habitat for Humanity organization and supports Mountain Projects, a Haywood County Community Action Agency, providing affordable housing and other social services to lower income residents. The Town supports the Open Door Ministries, a faith-based organization providing on-site meals and emergency assistance to persons in need, which includes persons without stable housing.

Which one best applies to you?
Government Entity

What is your organization's total annual budget?

31418170

Are you applying as a fiscal sponsor on behalf of an organization?

Yes

If so, for who?

Town of Waynesville

Organization Primary Contact

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Suffix
Mr.	Robert	Hites	Jr

Title
Town Manager

Office Phone	Extension	Mobile Phone
828-452-2491	2221	828-550-5238

E-mail
rhites@waynesvillenc.gov

Mailing Address
Post Office Box 100

City	State	Postal Code
Waynesville	North Carolina	28786

Primary Contact for this Request

Same as Organization Primary Contact
Yes

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Suffix
Mr.	Robert	Hites	Jr

Title
Town Manager

Office Phone	Extension	Mobile Phone
828-452-2491	2221	828-550-5238

E-mail
rhites@waynesvillenc.gov

Mailing Address

Post Office Box 100

City	State	Postal Code
Waynesville	North Carolina	28786

Request Information

SECTION ONE: Tell us about you and the need or opportunity you face.

Project Title
Waynesville Taskforce on Homelessness

Description of Current Need/Project

Tell us information about how the money will be used

There are increasing numbers of persons without housing in the Town of Waynesville. Police Officers have encountered approximately ten encampments of homeless persons, as well as others sleeping under bridges, in cars, and abandoned buildings. The numbers are impacting Haywood Pathways Center, a Waynesville faith-based non-profit, providing short-term shelter for up to sixty adults in crisis or chronically homeless. The shelter is often full and does not accept all individuals. During daytime hours persons must leave the facility. Some walk to the Open Door Ministry, located across town. Others experiencing homelessness walk to the Open Door as well. These persons are stigmatized because of their status as homeless. Business owners and residents complain to Town officials that these persons are dangerous, commit crimes and cause public nuisances. During a recent Town government election, all candidates agreed that preventing and ending homelessness were top issues and supported a taskforce to address homelessness.

This grant will fund a person who is knowledgeable about housing and homelessness issues, with a skill-set of data collection, group facilitation, collaboration, and strategic planning to coordinate the Task Force. He/She will be essential to insuring Task Force objectives are reached. Task Force objectives include:

- (1) With input from Town Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the coordinator will organize the Task Force on Homelessness and schedule meetings;
- (2) Coordinate research on the demographics of persons who are homeless in Waynesville and causes; inventory current housing stock and existing services available to prevent or respond to temporary and chronic homelessness;
- (3) Examine stigmatization, criminalization and discrimination associated with homelessness;
- (4) Conduct a gap analysis to identify needs, existing community capacity and additional resources necessary to prevent and respond to temporary and chronic homelessness, and
- (5) Develop a collaborative community action plan to fill system gaps and improve existing programs.

Request Amount
Please note, this amount cannot exceed \$25,000.
25000

Will this grant address a one-time, developing, or immediate need?
Yes

SECTION TWO: Your answers to these questions will help inform Dogwood Health Trust's knowledge about diversity and equity in the region.

Does your organization serve diverse communities in Western North Carolina?

Examples of diversity include race, ethnicity, level of education, gender identity, age, immigration status, sexual orientation, the job they have, the neighborhood they live in, veteran status, socioeconomic status, or whether or not they have a disability

Yes

If so, which ones?

The Town of Waynesville serves everyone, regardless of race, color, creed, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or political beliefs. Residents are eligible for services if they reside within the geographic town limits. Our policies and procedures related to service provision do not differentiate between groups but rather concentrate on the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and working toward exemplary customer service to all. Waynesville is unlike many southern municipalities in that it has a racial breakdown of 92% White, 4.4% Latino and 2.7% Black. The Town's poverty rate is 22.2 percent. The most telling diversity is that of income and socio-economic status. Waynesville is made up of several groups: wealthy retirees who reside along the mountain ridges, small business owners, retirees from local industries now closed, working families, and young persons in school or working in the service industries.

The Town budget reflects our commitment to serve diverse groups. The Town provides one of the largest recreation programs in western NC. It prices its recreational amenities so that citizens at all income levels may participate. The Town runs a summer camp program that provides affordable summer recreation programs to help families who otherwise may lack summer day care. It provides financial support to numerous nonprofits that provide a range of services to Haywood County residents. Waynesville allocates funding for REACH, a domestic violence-sexual assault organization; the Open Door; the Pigeon Multicultural Community Center, which serves many of Waynesville's Black and Latino residents and Mountain Projects which provides affordable housing and other social services to low income residents of our community.

Which communities is your organization serving or will be served by this grant? (Check all that apply)

Haywood County

How does your organization embrace diversity? How is diversity reflected in your organization's board and staff?

Waynesville is unique among North Carolina Towns. It has a history of accepting newcomers with different political views and personal lifestyles. Its residents vary from wealthy retirees from Florida to "Sovereign Citizens" who don't recognize the legitimacy of the US government. The Town Board reflects the diverse nature of our community. The five-member board is comprised of both Republicans and Democrats, an openly gay member and a female Mayor Pro Tempore. The Town Manager is male, while the Assistant Town Manager is female. The Town Board is sensitive to the needs of all racial groups and income classes within the Town.

Tell us what equity means to your organization and how it informs the work of your organization?

It is the policy of the Town of Waynesville to treat everyone with dignity and compassion regardless of income, race, gender, political affiliation, sexual orientation or social status. As they move through the workday, Town employees are alerted to social conditions in the community and frequently contact non-profit groups and social services when they encounter families in financial or other distress. As set out above, the Town budget reflects the values of equity: all persons should be free from intimate partner violence; persons should be able to access food and access affordable daycare and recreation. The Town supported the founding of the Waynesville Housing Authority so that persons could obtain housing, regardless of their income.

Will this grant help you to address any inequities or disparities?

Yes

If so, which ones?

Health and Housing

With the support and facilitation of the Task Force Coordinator, the Task Force on Homelessness will develop a community action plan to address health inequities correlated with homelessness. The American Public Health Association states, "Ending homelessness is a public health issue, as those experiencing homelessness have high rates of chronic mental and physical health conditions, co-occurring disorders and barriers to care." Persons experiencing homelessness are less likely to see a doctor and more likely to access emergency services when necessary. Persons experiencing homelessness are less likely to comply with prescribed medications. Research indicates that children are more likely to succeed in school and have better job prospects in the future when they don't suffer the stress of wondering where they will sleep. The correlation between disabilities and homelessness is high, with almost 20% of individuals experiencing homelessness in 2016 reporting severe mental illness, and 17% reporting chronic substance use problems, according to national reports.

With the support and facilitation of the Task Force Coordinator, the Task Force on Homelessness will develop a community action plan to address housing inequities related to homelessness. The Task Force Coordinator will support and facilitate the Task Force's examination of community experiences in securing and maintaining safe, affordable housing. The Task Force will investigate services necessary to accessing housing and helping people maintain their housing once housed. The Coordinator will help provide data concerning assistance, services received and gaps in services needed by persons experiencing homelessness through research and data collection. While less than 15% of the homeless population is "chronically homeless," the Task Force will examine their needs and the community resources available to them.

SECTION THREE: Please verify the following before you submit your application.

By checking the box below, I certify that:

- This organization does not promote or engage in criminal acts of violence, terrorism, hate crimes, the destruction of any state, or discrimination based on race, national origin, religion, military and veteran status, disability, sex, age, gender identity or sexual orientation, or support of any entity that engages in these activities.
- Any funds received for this proposal will be used for the stated charitable purpose, and in accordance with the grant terms and conditions enclosed in the grant agreement letter.
- The Trust may publicize this project or program in all publications, including web-based communications, should the proposal be funded.

Yes

[**Editor's Note:** This sets the stage for the 10/12/2021 Town of Waynesville Board of Alderman (and woman) meeting where “facilitator” **Amy Murphy-Nugen** (a.k.a. Down Home NC hack) was to give her final report to the Aldermen. Reporters from the Mountaineer and SMN were present, and the only article in either paper at this point was written by Tom Lotshaw. So now begins the one-way dialog with Jonathan Key.]

Subject: Waynesville police raises cost more than expected, by Tom Lotshaw.

Date: Sat, 16 Oct 2021 11:03:07 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Jonathan Key <jkey@themountaineer.com>

CC: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Tom Lotshaw <tlotshaw@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, Cory Vaillancourt <cory@smokymountainnews.com>, Scott McLeod <info@smokymountainnews.com>, Amy Murphy-Nugen <abmurphynugen@wcu.edu>

So, Mr. Key,

I guess the question of Vicki Hyatt being demoted as Editor and your replacing her with Tom Lotshaw as Editor has been answered. Looks like Vicki Hyatt, Liberal Hack News Editor, has won again, and completely pussy-whipped Lotshaw into posting an inane article about "Waynesville police raises cost more than expected". I wonder how long Lotshaw is going to put up with that. I guess he will follow a long list of people that you have not been able to keep:

Kyle Perrotti
Luke Weir
Allison Olcsvay
Caroline Klapper
Kevin Fuller
Etc...

Lotshaw took a photo at the 10/12/2021 meeting. Were they all there to hear about "Waynesville police raises cost more than expected"?



Several dozen people spoke against a recommended action plan proposed by the Waynesville Task Force on Homelessness. Amy Murphy-Nugen, the task force's chair and facilitator, presented the plan to the Board of Aldermen Tuesday. Alderman Anthony Sutton said it will take time for aldermen to digest the plan and public input and get more community feedback to determine next steps.

Tom Lotshaw

First of all, Lotshaw needs to refresh his skills on using the F stop on the camera. Everyone except Amy Murphy-Nugen is out of focus. Second, he was there at the meeting, and the caption says "Several dozen people spoke against ..."

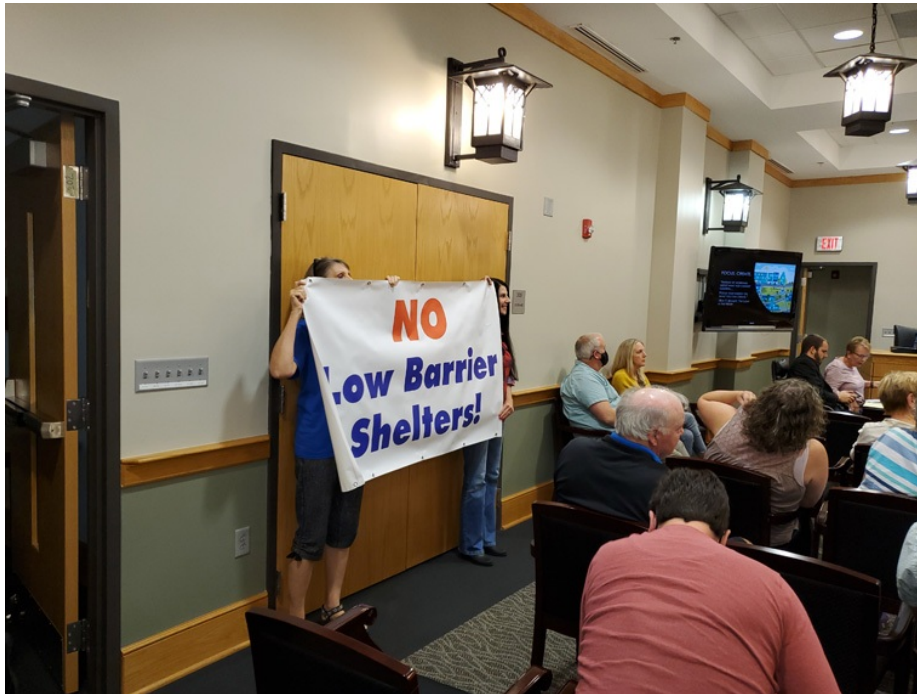
WTF?

Fourteen people, and one person who was not there (in abstention) and had someone else read her comment, spoke. All comments against Amy Murphy-Nugen, and none for. If you want an accurate rendition of the meeting, you can either -

Request an audio recording of the meeting from the Town, or

Read my newsletter - [Vol #12, Issue # 7: Oct 13, 2021 Amy Murphy-Nugen](#)

Here is a photo I took, from my Samsung S10+ phone.



Perhaps Lotshaw could start taking pictures from his phone. The F stop setting is preset.

Lotshaw was presented with an issue, which he completely ducked. That was to flush out who wrote the various versions of information submitted to Dogwood Health Trust for a Grant Application to help pay for Amy Murphy-Nugen, that contained content that was derogatory to the citizens of Waynesville. I guess since that did not fit Vicki Hyatt's agenda as Liberal Hack News Editor, we now know who the real "Editor" is. Perhaps Lotshaw's new title should be "Copy Boy".

Good luck at hanging on to Lotshaw. The sooner Vicki Hyatt "retires", the better everyone will be.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.