

Board of Commissioners' Agenda

October 18, 2022

Commission Meetings are held at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment is taken at the beginning of the meeting.

The meeting will broadcast via Facebook Live @Buncombegov.

Call To Order

[▲top](#)

Discussion / Adjustment / Approval To Follow Agenda [▲top](#)

Consent Agenda [▲top](#)

- [Approval of September 27, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Approval of September 27, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes - Closed Session](#)
- [Approval of October 4, 2022 Briefing Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Approval of October 4, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Approval of Home and Community Care Block Grant \(HCCBG\) Advisory Committee Waiver](#)
- [Budget Amendment for State Library Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)
 - [Ordinance](#)

Public Comment

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Good News [▲top](#)

- ["I Voted" Sticker Contest](#)
 - [More Information](#)

Presentations [▲top](#)

- [Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation](#)

- [Proclamation](#)

Public Hearings

[▲top](#)

County Manager's Report [▲top](#)

- [Environmental Focus Area Update](#)
- [Hurricane Ian Storm Preparedness](#)

Old Business [▲top](#)

- [Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee Recommendations Action Plan](#)
 - [More Information](#)

New Business [▲top](#)

- [Budget Amendment for Justice Services Grant Awards and Update](#)
 - [Ordinances](#)
 - [More Information](#)

Board Appointments [▲top](#)

- Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee
 - Patricia Killion
 - Melina Arrowood

Announcements [▲top](#)

- November 1 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.
- November 1 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in

Closed Session / Open Session

[▲top](#)

Adjournment

[▲top](#)

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2022 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 18, 2022, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; John Hudson, Budget Director; Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Edwards motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, add **Environmental Focus Area Update** to **County Manger's Report** and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of September 27, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of September 27, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes - Closed Session
- Approval of October 4, 2022 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of October 4, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Advisory Committee Waiver
- Budget Amendment for State Library Fiscal Recovery Funds
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mignon Durham, Susan Van Ness, Mike Kennedy, and Bill Grunwald expressed their concerns and disapproval for the Pinners Cove (rezoning) new project.

Cassandra Wells asked the Board to consider a cost-of-living adjustment for some Asheville City Schools employees.

Jessica Coffield and a few other residents expressed their support for and provide information about Asheville Sister Cities.

GOOD NEWS

- **"I Voted" Sticker Contest**

Neggy Fox, Election Services, presented a certificate of recognition to the finalists and congratulated 10-year-old, Polly Crutchfield for creating the winning sticker.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**

Vice Chair Edwards read and presented the proclamation. Paulina Mendez, Justice Services, and April Burgess-Johnson, Helpmate Executive Director, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Board.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Environmental Focus Area Update**

Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability, and Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture and Land Resources, provided an updated on the Environmental & Energy Stewardship aspect of the Strategic Plan. The creation of the Environmental & Energy Stewardship subcommittee has assisted in establishing priorities and goals. The major focus areas are preserving designated land and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Hurricane Ian Storm Preparedness**

Angie Ledford and Fletch Tove, Emergency Services, informed the Board on the lessons learned from Tropical Storm Fred in order to prepare for Hurricane Ian. Many procedures are now in place for the County to better respond to weather-related emergencies.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee Recommendations Action Plan**

Keith Miller, Tax Assessor, presented an overview of the Assessment Department's Action Plan to implement the Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee recommendations. The Tax Assessment staff reviewed and analyzed each recommendation and developed next steps, costs, and a timeline for implementation. The Board addressed their concerns and questions that they had after listening to the presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment for Justice Services Grant Awards and Update**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment and Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director, provided details of the Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant and Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative Grant.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the two budget amendments as presented. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Sloan moved to accept the two grants and approve the two grant-funded positions. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

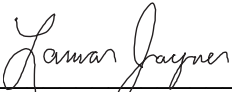
Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Patricia Killion** to the **Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *November 1 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *November 1 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Sloan moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action
Meeting Date: 10/18/2022

Consent Agenda

Department: Health & Human Services (HHS)

Presenter(s): Stoney Blevins, Director

Contact(s): Jennifer Teague, Aging & Adult Services Program Manager

Subject: Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Advisory Committee Waiver

Brief Summary: A waiver regarding term limits for HCCBG Advisory Committee members is being requested.

The NC Administrative Code defines the County Block Grant Advisory Committee as a "committee, appointed annually" by the Board of County Commissioners. However, the current limit of two, one-year terms are detrimental to the functioning of the board for the following reasons:

- 1) Committee members spend an extensive amount of time throughout the year(s) learning about the funding, the providers and the process. Turnover every 2 years could impact funding recommendations and result in uninformed members making recommendations each year.
- 2) There is a lack of community members applying for the committee. At present, we have 7 members on the committee and 4 open seats. Without this waiver all of our current members will roll off at the next yearly appointment, potentially leaving no one on the committee.

The Policy and Procedures for Board Appointments by the Board of County Commissioners states that the "policy may be waived if the Commissioners determine that the removal of an individual made ineligible by this policy would be detrimental to the functioning of that board, committee or authority."

Health and Human Services staff have researched term limits of our neighboring counties and have been in discussion with Land of Sky Area Agency on Aging and found that other western NC Counties such as Transylvania and Henderson allow for six years of continuous service.

Staff recommends the following term limits for this committee:

“One-year terms with the option to reappoint annually up to a maximum of 6 terms before rolling off the committee.”

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve waiver

County Manager’s comments and Recommendation: Recommends approval



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: October 18, 2022

Consent Agenda

Department: Library

Presenter(s): John Hudson, Budget

Contact(s): DK Wesley, Asst. County Manager & Michael Clark, Library

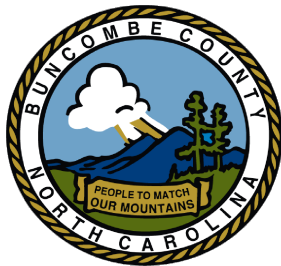
Subject: State Library Fiscal Recovery Funds

Brief Summary: This budget amendment establishes a grant of \$143,075 for Fiscal Recovery Funds passed along to public libraries through the State Library of North Carolina. Funds, given to address adverse impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, will be used on materials and equipment. Reports on spending must be filed with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented

ORDINANCE #22-10-05



BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Grant Projects Ordinance

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 18, 2022

WHEREAS, the Budget Director recommends and the Board now desires to amend the FY2022-2023 Grants Projects outlined below in Exhibit "A" to the budget,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the FY2022-2023 amendments listed in Exhibit A below be hereby adopted.
2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 18th day of October, 2022

Granting Agency:	NC Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources
Grant Name:	State Library Fiscal Recovery Funds

Description: This budget amendment establishes a grant of \$143,075 for Fiscal Recovery Funds passed along to public libraries through the State Library of North Carolina. Funds, given to address adverse impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, will be used on materials and equipment. Reports on spending must be filed with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Funding Source:
NC Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources

Exhibit A: Account Description	Increase (Decrease)	
	Revenues	Expenditures
State Library Fiscal Recovery Funds	\$ 143,075	\$ 143,075
TOTAL	\$ 143,075	\$ 143,075

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:**


Clerk to the Board

By: 
Chairman of the Board



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action
Meeting Date: 10/18/2022

Good News

Department: Election Services

Presenter(s): Neggy Fox

Contact(s): Neggy Fox

Subject: "I Voted" Sticker Contest

Brief Summary: Buncombe County recently held a contest for young people to design the next "I Voted" sticker for the 2022 General Election. The community could vote on the four finalists, and 10-year-old Polly Crutchfield created the winning sticker. Finalists will be presented with a certificate of recognition.





Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action
Meeting Date: 10/18/2022

Presentations

Department: Justice Services

Presenter(s): Paulina Mendez and April Burgess-Johnson

Contact(s): Tiffany Iheanacho and Paulina Mendez

Subject: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Brief Summary: Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Buncombe County for October 2022.

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, domestic violence, which can include physical, mental, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse, is a means of intimidation and violence to influence and control a partner involved in an intimate relationship; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men experienced some form of intimate partner violence, including sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking, during their lifetime; and nearly half of transgender/non-binary people experience intimate partner violence (IPV); and

WHEREAS, domestic violence survivors in rural areas, those who struggle socioeconomically, those who are immigrants, and those who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and those who are members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community continue to be among the most affected; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence accounts for 21 percent and intimate partner violence accounts for 15 percent of all violent crime in the United States; and these crimes are under reported or not reported at all; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious public health issue that results in billions of dollars spent annually in medical, mental health, and lost work productivity costs; and

WHEREAS, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic violence survivors experienced increased isolation from support services, reduced capacity of crisis centers, increased symptoms of mental health conditions, and financial stress; and the impacts of limited protections, displacement, and/or the need to rely on abusers for physical and financial survival were also heightened by the pandemic; and

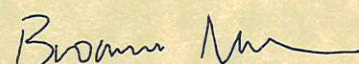
WHEREAS, Buncombe County recognizes domestic violence is not just a singular niche problem but instead a large-scale issue that impacts individuals, families, children, schools, places of work, housing, mental health, substance use, and our military and veteran communities; and

WHEREAS, we know there is hope; and partners at the Buncombe County Family Justice Center collaborate to offer a safe location for survivors of domestic violence to receive forensic medical exams, assistance creating safety plans, case management, counseling, and legal support in one location; and the Buncombe County Family Justice Center served 2,289 survivors in FY2022; and

WHEREAS, by working together, we can raise awareness, educate, and create healthier community norms to break the cycle of violence in order to build safer communities for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** in Buncombe County and urge all our community members, including our youth, to join with us in making the commitment to be create a safe environment for all by speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions and standing up against violence.

Adopted this the 18th day of October, 2022.



Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioner



Strategic Plan Update

Environmental & Energy Stewardship

Presented by

Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability

Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture and Land Resources



Environmental & Energy Stewardship

Subcommittee Overview

Mission:

In order to provide recommendations for action to the Board of Commissioners, the Subcommittee is authorized to examine opportunities in environmental and energy stewardship including, but not limited to, the following:

- ✓ Conservation easement strategies
- ✓ Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Renewable energy development and access
- ✓ Preservation of farmlands and natural resources
- ✓ Solar and other renewable energy
- ✓ Solid waste management and recycling
- ✓ Air and water quality
- ✓ Green building





Recommended to BOC:

- Fleet Vehicle Resolution
- Solar on Schools by 2025
- Open Space Bond
- 20% Land Conservation Goal



Environmental & Energy Stewardship Priorities

- 1) Water Quality
- 2) Renewable Energy Transition
- 3) Open Space and Conserved Lands
- 4) Climate Resiliency
- 5) Clean Energy Financing



Strategic Plan Goals

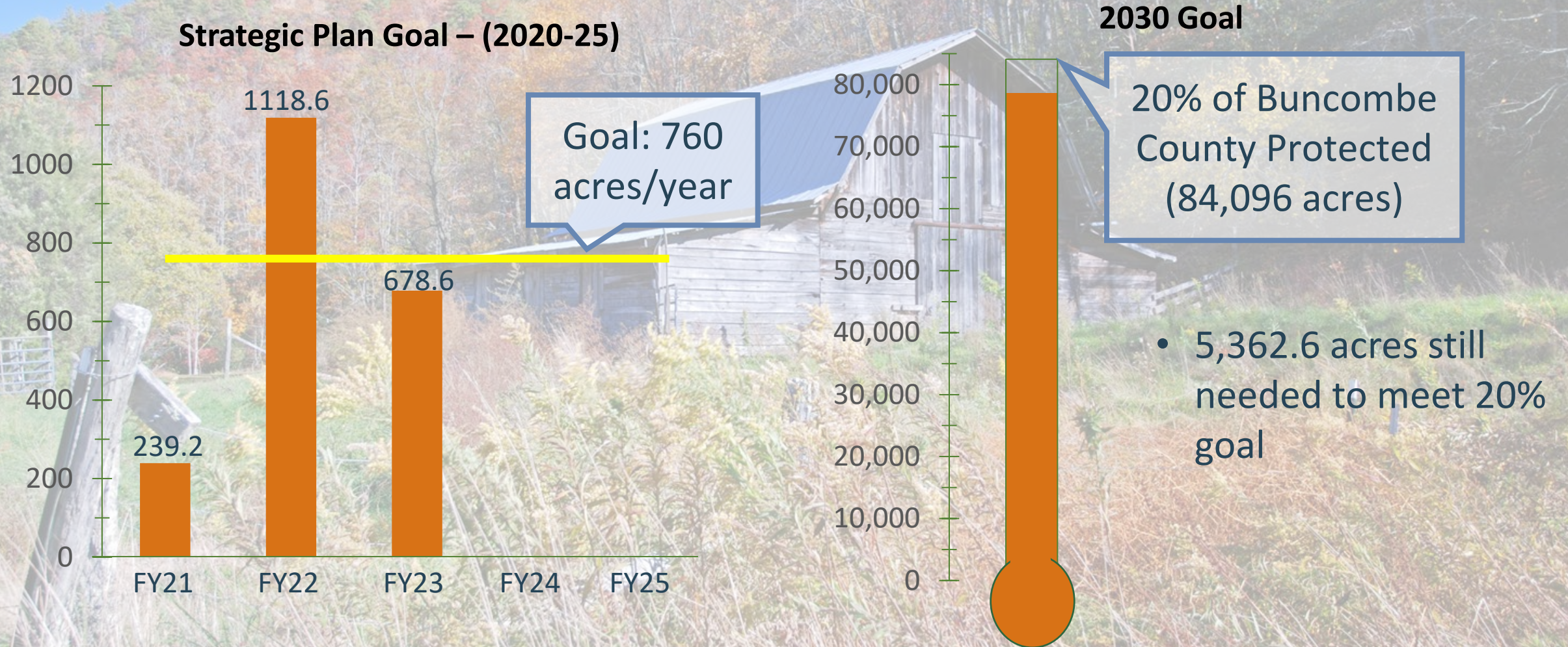


Strategic Plan Goals: Environment

1. Preserve farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts of land
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions



Preserve Farmland and Environmentally Sensitive Tracts



Century Farm

274 acres

JASPERWOOD FARM

NEWFOUND

\$ 1,118,450.71 in grant funding

Diversified production

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Progress
 - 5 MW Solar Farm in Woodfin to go live in early December
 - 15 on-site renewable projects ongoing at County owned facilities
 - 13 new EVs order for FY23 (4 have been received)
 - Flexible workplace policy
- Challenges
 - Supply chain delays & unavailable products
 - Recycling rates lower due to reduced commercial cardboard & concrete/brick recycling



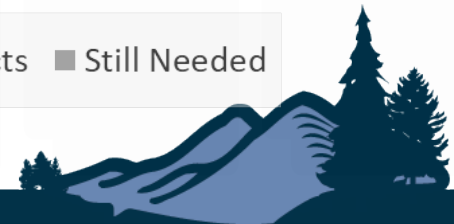
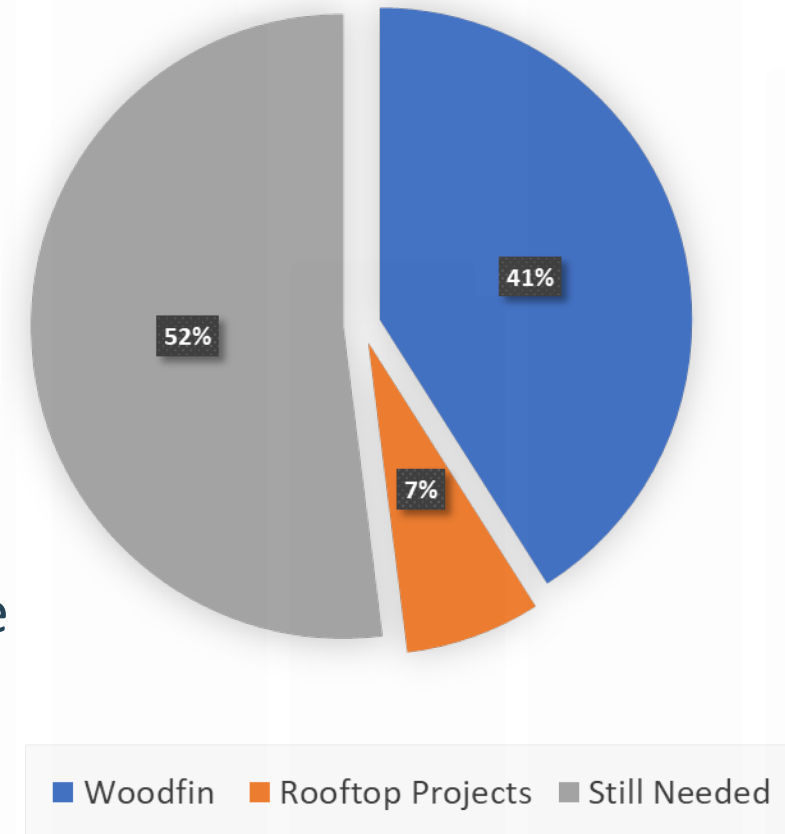
*BC Animal Shelter



2030 Goal

In 2018, Buncombe County adopted a goal of reaching 100% Renewable by 2030 for its county operations

- Renewable Energy needed to meet the goal is ~**20,000 MWH**
- Current on-site solar projects = 7%
- Woodfin Landfill utility scale project = 41%
- Remaining= 52% still needed
 - Approximately 35% of GHG emissions are vehicle fuels; zero emission vehicle procurement will enable significant progress to continue



Community Initiatives

Goal: Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Solar on Public Facilities
 - 23 Renewable Projects ongoing on external public facilities
 - 5 new projects coming to bid
- LMI Weatherization and solar
 - 365 residences weatherized (47% BIPOC)
 - 16 LMI solar installations ongoing
- Solarize Campaign
 - 180 Residential solar contracts (1.6 MW)
- ARPA Funding
 - \$1MM for Solar on Community Fire Depts. (TBD)



*Montford North Star Academy



Questions?

Contacts:

Jeremiah.LeRoy@buncombecounty.org

Jennifer.Harrison@buncombecounty.org





Hurricane Ian Storm Preparedness

Presented by

Angie Ledford & Fletch Tove

Emergency Services



Lessons Learned from TS Fred

Issue Encountered	Lesson Learned
Floodplain Management and Permits & Inspections staff do not have bandwidth to collect Preliminary Damage Assessment data while performing their required inspections	Need for stand-alone Damage Assessment Response Team
During a storm or other significant event the County's radio system can be overwhelmed with Traffic	Need plan to divert non-emergency storm calls to alternative process
Communication must keep pace with rapidly changing situation	Need to pre-script messages to cover Response through Recovery
Using multiple spreadsheets to capture damage assessment information is disjointed with potential for data to be duplicated or overlooked	Need for centralized database for Damage Assessment data
County garage is susceptible to flooding, potentially cutting off repairs, fleet (including ambulances) and some fuel supplies	Continuity of Operations planning for garage contingencies to include shifting locations and/or secondary sites.



Damage Assessment Response Team Development

Planning Group

- CAPE
- County Manager's Office
- Emergency Services
- General Services
- IT/GIS
- Permits & Inspections
- Planning
- Solid Waste



Damage Assessment Response Team (cont'd)

Development Process

- ✓ Initial Damage Report form developed by GIS staff
- ✓ Pre-scripted messaging to cover response through recovery phases
- ✓ Damage Assessment Response Team Guide written
- ✓ Poll Department Directors for staff available for reassignment



Damage Assessment Response Team (cont'd)

35 Employees Volunteered for Temporary Reassignment

- Agriculture & Land Programs
- Air Quality
- County Manager's Office
- Elections Services
- Emergency Services
- Employee & Family Health
- Finance
- HHS
- Legal & Risk
- Library
- Strategy & Innovation
- Tax Assessment
- Tax Collections



Damage Assessment Response Team (cont'd)

Development Process (cont'd)

- ✓ Damage Assessment Response Team Guide distributed to team members
- ✓ iPads purchased for collecting damage assessment field reports
- ✓ Orientation sessions held at the end of August
- ✓ North Carolina Division of Emergency Management conducting additional training on October 24 & 25



Storm Damage Report Hotline

- ✓ Managed by Emergency Services – HHS Economic Services staff support call taking
- ✓ Previous telephone script revised to accompany Initial Damage Report Form
- ✓ Coordinated with IT to update phone message and ensure designated staff had access to answer calls and retrieve voicemail

The image shows a digital form titled "Storm Damage Report Hotline". It is divided into two main sections: "Property information" and "Damage Description".

Property information

Do you rent or own the property?

☐ Rent

☐ Own

Is this property insured?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I'm not sure

Damage Description

Type of Damage*

☐ Structural Damage



Non-Emergency Storm Call Procedure

- ✓ Plan developed to keep this traffic off of County Radio System
- ✓ Requested VIPER Channels from NC Emergency Management
- ✓ Communicated procedure to Fire Chiefs



Human Services / Mass Care

- ✓ Met with Red Cross, HHS Preparedness and City of Asheville Emergency Management to review plans
- ✓ Pre-designated shelter locations
- ✓ Community Paramedic outreach to un-housed communities to inform them of flood risk



EOC Operations

- ✓ Staffing schedule and Incident Action Plan
- ✓ Logistics planning
- ✓ Convert conference room at Emergency Services Office
- ✓ Information pushed to Fire Chiefs three times per day



EOC Operations

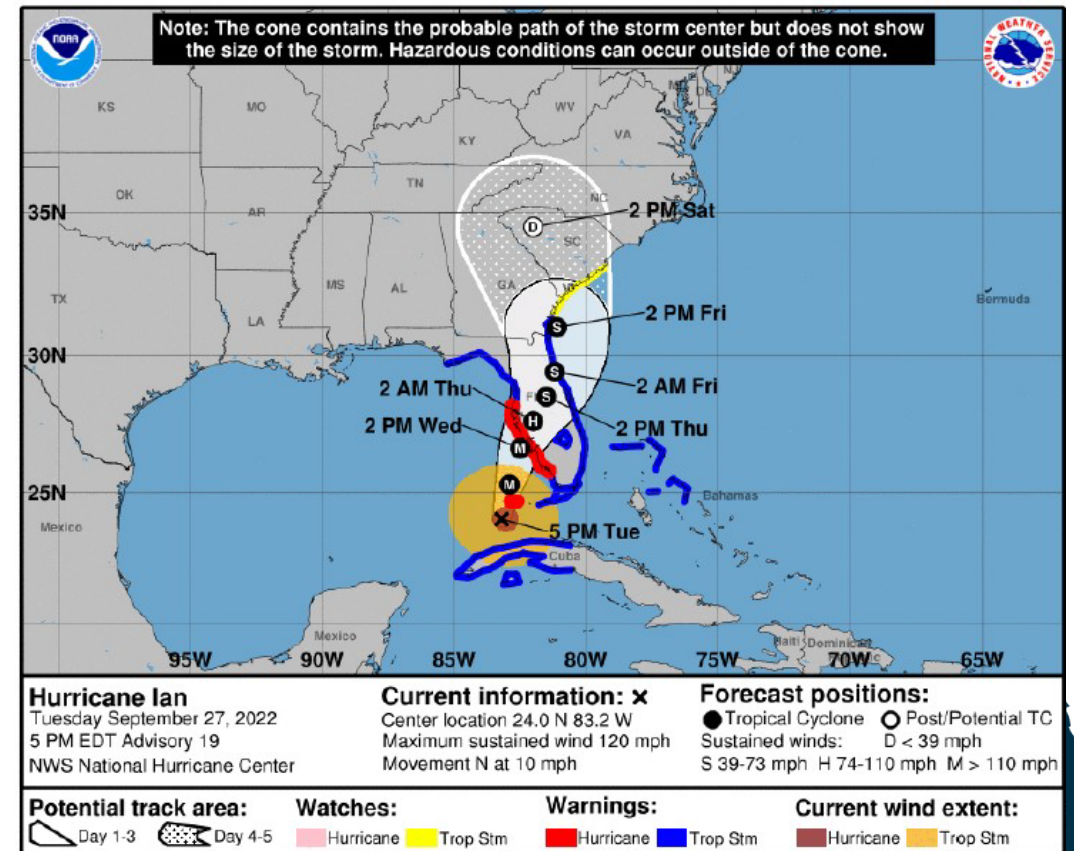
- ✓ Verify contact numbers for utility companies
- ✓ Briefing call with Fire Chiefs 24 hours from impact
- ✓ Plan for operational coordination of Water and Structural Rescue resources
- ✓ Coordination with City of Asheville Emergency Management
- ✓ Wait for Impact



Roster/Stage Water Rescue & Structural Collapse Teams

Three to Five Days from Impact

- ✓ Pre-storm conversations with NCEM regarding anticipated storm impacts at County, regional and State levels.
- ✓ Equipment readiness checks begin
- ✓ Begin to poll Fire Chiefs for staff availability



Roster/Stage Water Rescue & Structural Collapse Teams

One Day from Impact

- ✓ Final team roster
- ✓ Trucks & Trailers loaded and pre-trip inspections performed
- ✓ Briefing with Team Leaders



Vehicle Inspection Form Vehicle Condition Assessment

Vehicle Body	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Check steering for excessive play/ Steering system	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Windshield wipers/ Clean windshield	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
All Lights (headlights, hazards, marker lights)	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Battery Connections	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Check for gas, oil and fluid leaks	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Check doors, latches and handles	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Horn	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Emergency Lights/Siren	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Radios	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Tires	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Seat belts	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Engine oil	☒ Functioning (good condition) ☐ Damaged (needs maintenance) ☐ Not Applicable
Transmission fluid	☒ Functioning (good condition)

NCTF2

EMTK1

17:29

Submitted Time: 09/30/2022



Roster/Stage Water Rescue & Structural Collapse Teams

Day of Storm

- ✓ Team members arrive and check-in
- ✓ Medical Evaluation
- ✓ Receive equipment and location assignments
- ✓ Briefing on current forecast and safety measures



Roster/Stage Water Rescue & Structural Collapse Teams

Participating Departments

- Buncombe County Emergency Services
- Fairview Fire Department
- Jupiter Fire Department
- Leicester Fire Department
- Reynolds Fire Department
- Skyland Fire Department
- Swannanoa Fire Department
- Upper Hominy Fire Department
- West Buncombe Fire Department



Ian Had a Change of Plans

- ✓ The day prior to the storm there began to be a significant eastern shift in the forecast path of the storm
- ✓ However there was still some risk of impact so plans and staffing were maintained Friday with a “wait and see approach”
- ✓ Preparedness actions taken provided valuable training for all staff involved





Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action
Meeting Date: 10/18/2022

Old Business

Department: Property Assessment

Presenter(s): Keith Miller

Contact(s): Keith Miller / Burnett Walz

Subject: Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee Recommendations Action Plan

Brief Summary: In July, the Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee presented their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Those recommendation were focused on addressing the key elements of the resolution that established the Committee.

The presentation provides an overview of the Assessment Department's Action Plan to implement the Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee Recommendations.

Staff has reviewed and analyzed each recommendation and developed next steps, costs, and a timeline for implementation.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Provide staff with feedback on the Action Plan.



Assessment Department Plan of Action

Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee Recommendations



Background

- Recommendations presented to the BOC in July
Ad Hoc Appraisal Committee Recommendations
 1. Increase education & outreach
 2. Increase capacity in assessment department
 3. Develop assessment policies to optimize tax revenue
 4. Enhance permitting compliance

Staff Recommendations

1. Increase education and outreach
 2. Improve assessment data quality
- Staff has been working to develop action plans for the Committee recommendations
 - We'll touch on FY23 actions being implemented now and future actions for FY24



Committee Recommendations: Increase Education and Outreach

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Leverage social media, faith-based organizations, and non-profits to engage and educate the community

- Partnering with County Communications Team to develop comprehensive communications and engagement campaign (2-year plan, FY23/FY24) to inform the community
 - Attend community meetings at various locations
 - Quarterly assessment 101 newsletters
 - Robust print and social media outreach
 - **Est. Cost** = \$100K annually (begins FY23) for outside contractor to provide support

Reassess limits on exemptions to expand eligibility and participation

- Consider lobbying legislature to reevaluate methodology for qualification
 - Example: Based on AMI by county, consider household size / dependents, and increasing exemption amounts
 - **Est. Cost** = no new costs, at this time



Committee Recommendations: Increase Education and Outreach (cont.)

Partner with local board of realtors to provide assistance / education on the assessment and / or appeal process

- Conduct Community Appeals Clinics - partnering with local Realtors
 - **Est. Cost** = no cost for Land of The Sky Realtors Association; requires existing staff resources to support in FY23

Provide expert community ambassador to provide education on the appraisal process

- Evaluate the need for Community Ambassador based on the response of the Appeals Clinics
 - **Est. Cost** = requires existing staff resources to support in FY23



Committee Recommendations: Increase Capacity in Assessment Dept.

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Develop process to correct the percentage of properties with incorrect attributes

- Currently reviewing all MLS listings - not just closed transactions
- Partnering with Realtors to communicate process for updating property characteristics prior to MLS listing
- Community mailer to be sent in Dec. requesting residents to update/validate property characteristics
 - **Est. Cost** = \$50K annually (begins FY23); 1 FTE— \$90K (salary & benefits, request for FY24)

Develop key metrics to trigger increase in staff

- Currently leveraging transaction-based model for headcount requests
 - **Est. Cost** = 1 FTE— \$90K (salary & benefits, request for FY24)

Increase frequency of property reappraisals (2-3 year frequency)

- *Staff does not recommend increasing frequency at this time*
 - **Est. Cost** = \$1.2M+ per reappraisal (includes current staffing, mailing, media, etc.) & 2 FTE's @ \$90K each (salary & benefits) – total cost \$1.4M



Committee Recommendations: Develop Assessment Policies to Optimize Tax Revenue

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Differentiate short-term rentals (STR's), investments and/or secondary home's assessment approach from that of single-family homes used as a primary residence

Allocate short-term rental revenue to fund HHS Homeowner Grant Program

- No legal pathway to value STR's differently
 - <https://canons.sog.unc.edu/2022/08/appraising-rental-property/>
- Assessment staff will make best efforts to identify STR's and complete an analysis to determine what influence STR's may have on the overall valuation of County-wide residential property
- Pursue initiative related to improving data on personal property assets for all rentals
 - **Est. Cost** = \$12K (begins FY23); requires existing staff resources to support in FY23



Committee Recommendations: Develop Assessment Policies to Optimize Tax Revenue

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Focus lobbying efforts to increase revenue streams

- Consider lobbying Legislature on valuation exclusion or homestead exemption for full-time county residents
 - Fixed amount rather than percentage discount has greater impact to lower valued homes
 - All things held constant, would lead to a reduction in tax revenue
 - **Est. Cost** = no new costs, at this time



Committee Recommendations: Enhance Permitting Compliance

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Partner with local board of real-estate professionals and builders' association to ensure accurate property attributes are reported by homeowners

- Some overlap with the action pertaining to MLS listings – will be partnering with realtors to communicate importance of accurate property attributes (will be an element of the communications plan)
- Conducting informational sessions with realtors to provide education on the process
 - **Est. Cost** = no new costs, at this time

Enhance internal process for communication between the County's Assessment & Permitting Dept's

- Process has been implemented for enhanced communication with Permitting Dept. on all property characteristic changes (as discovered / daily basis)
 - **Est. Cost** = no new costs, at this time



Staff Recommendations

Develop one-stop website hub that will provide access to property records, maps, appeals, taxes, dashboards, etc.

- Working with IT and CAPE to comprehensively overhaul Assessment website
 - High-level objectives:
 - Enhance accessibility and the user experience
 - Provide an easy to navigate site for all things assessment
 - Enhance transparency of key metrics and assessment data
 - **Est. Cost** = \$50K (launches FY23); requires existing staff resources to support in FY23

Implement A.I. software to enhance accuracy of assessed property values

- Contracted with S.A.S. Analytics to provide A.I. software solution
 - **Est. Cost** = \$120K (begins FY23); requires existing staff resources to support in FY23

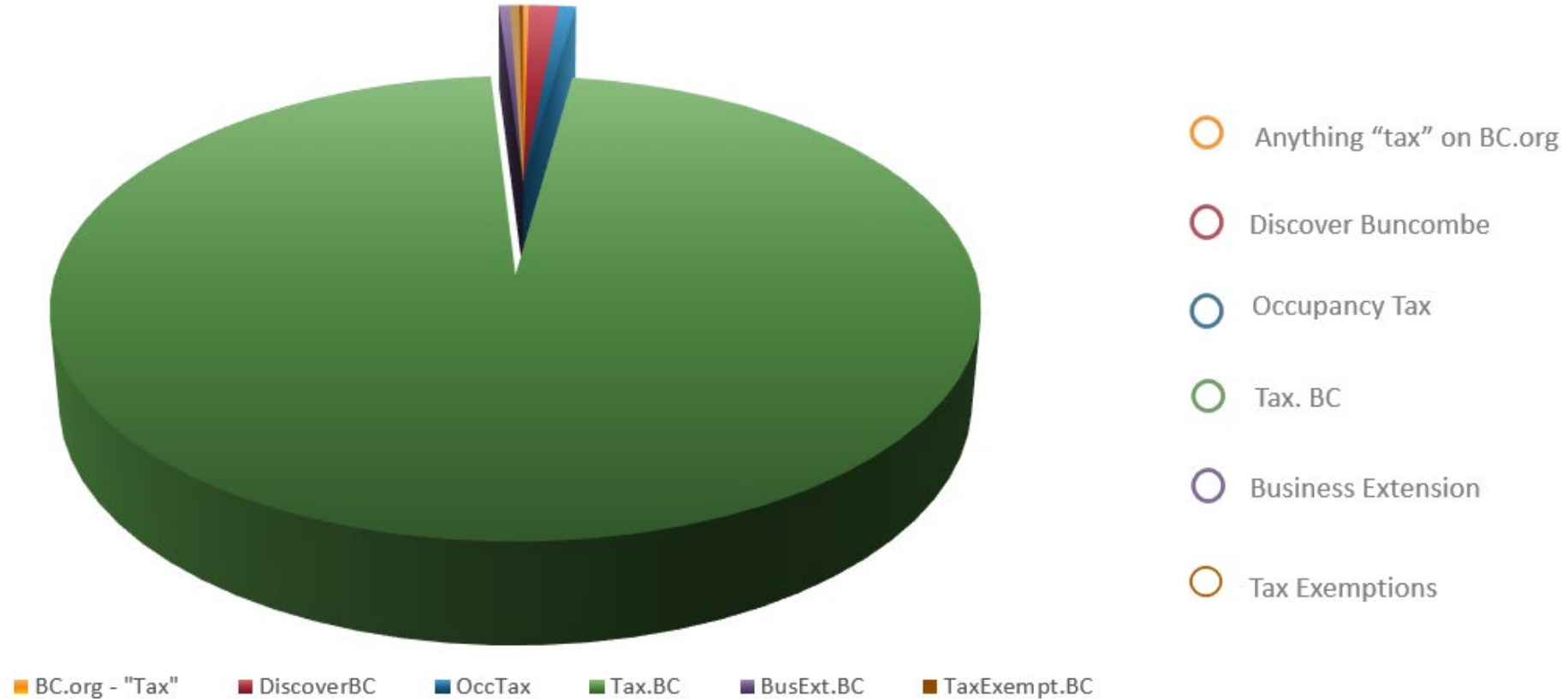
Re-evaluate market area (i.e. neighborhood) boundaries to improve accuracy

- Approximately 2,500 neighborhoods to evaluate
- Data intensive, time-consuming process
 - **Est. Cost** = 1 FTE– \$100K (salary & benefits, request for FY24)



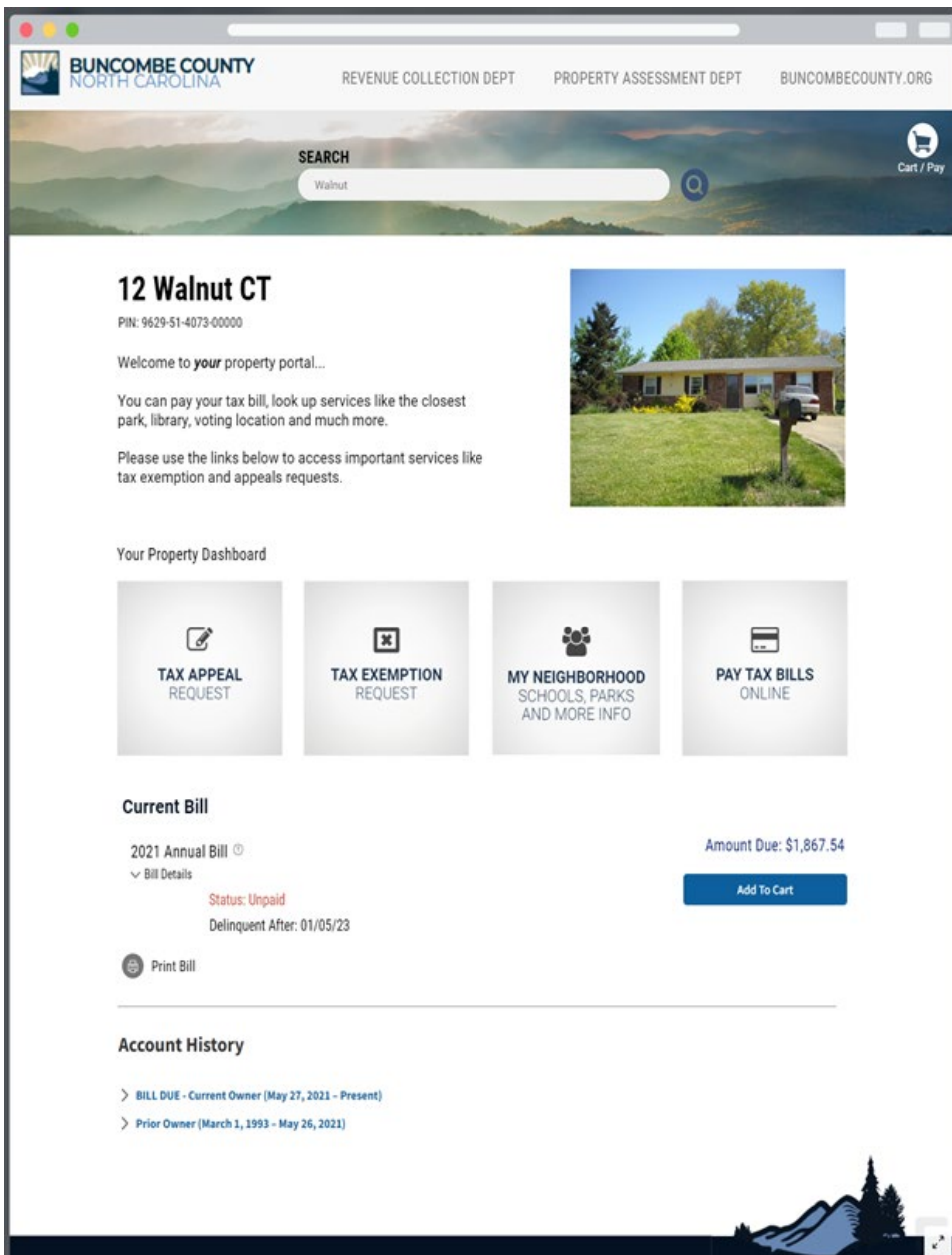
Current User Behavior

Current User Search Terms on Buncombecounty.org



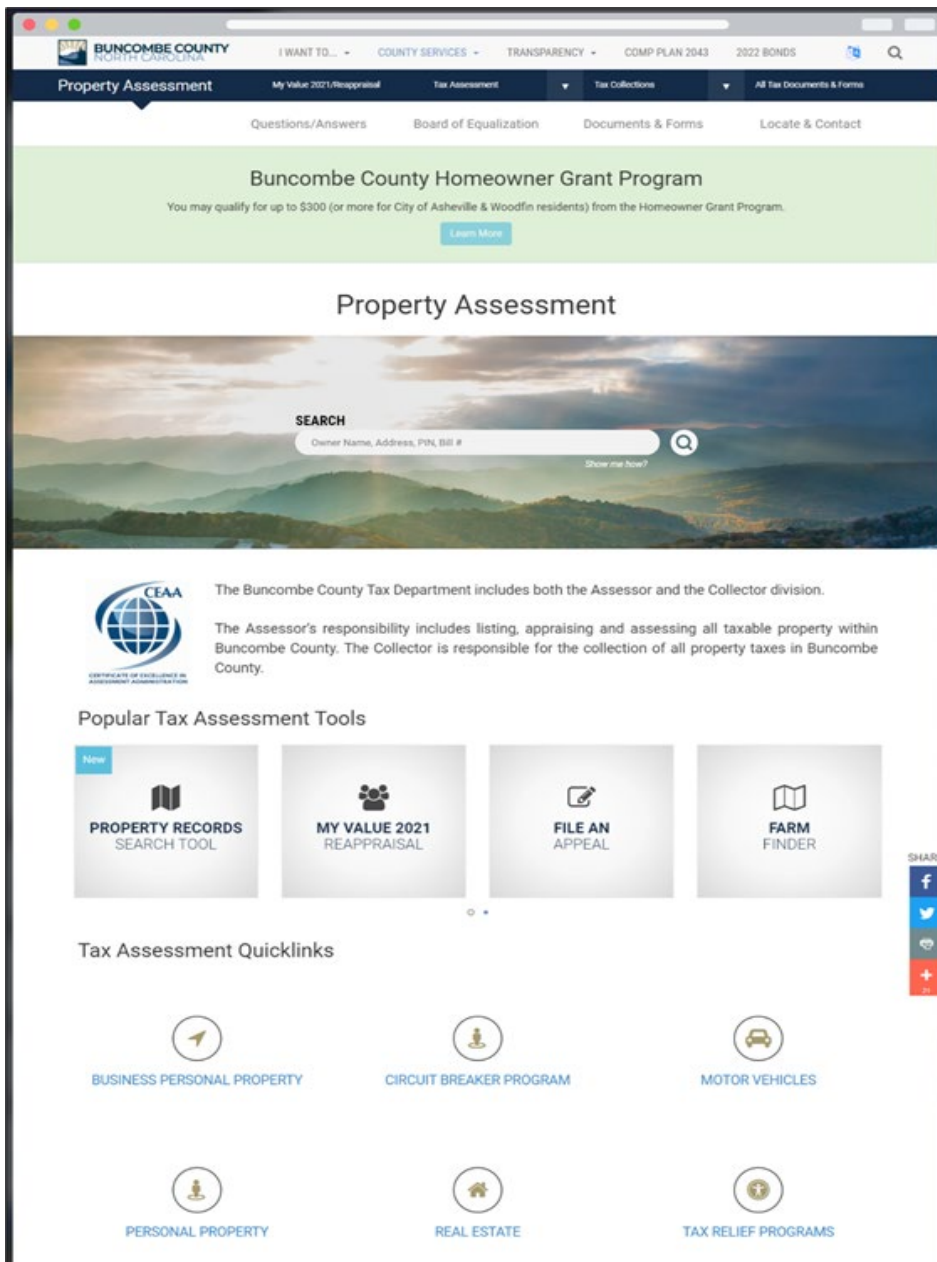
Personal Property Page

- Tax appeal and exemption requests
- Displays taxes owed and direct link to pay
- Viewing account history
- Neighborhood information



Property Assessment Homepage

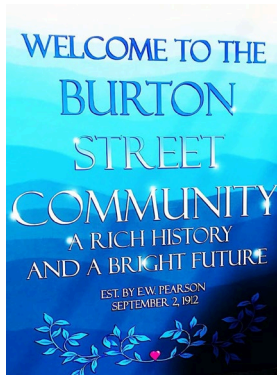
- Request tax appeal and exemption
- Displays taxes owed with direct link to pay
- View account history
- Access neighborhood information



Engagement and Feedback Opportunities



**PODER
EMMA
COMMUNITY
OWNERSHIP**



Public Engagement

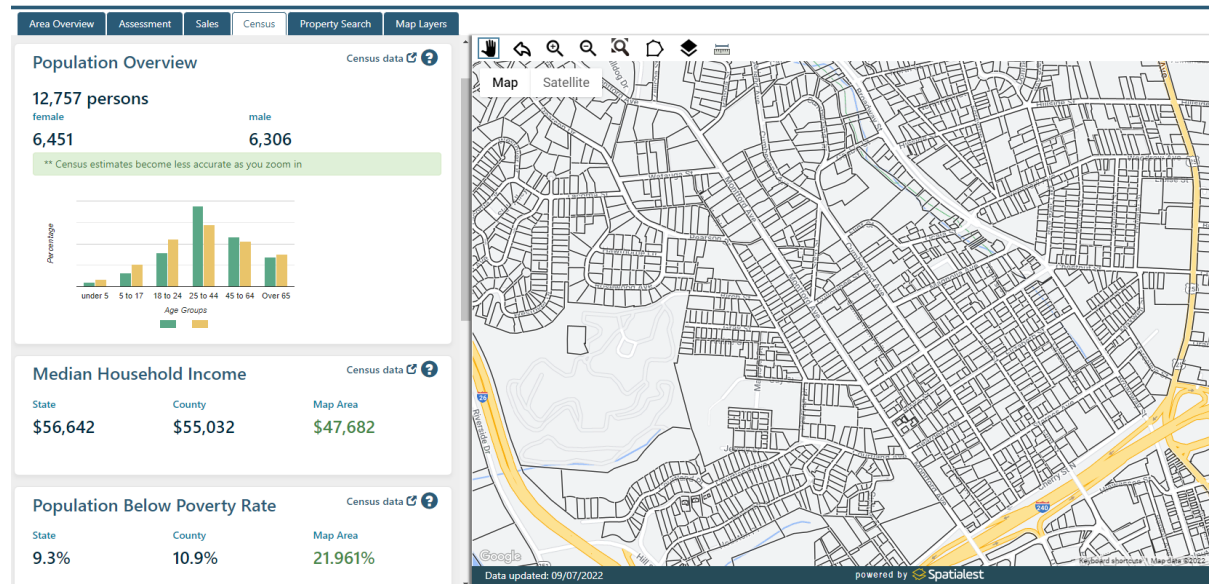
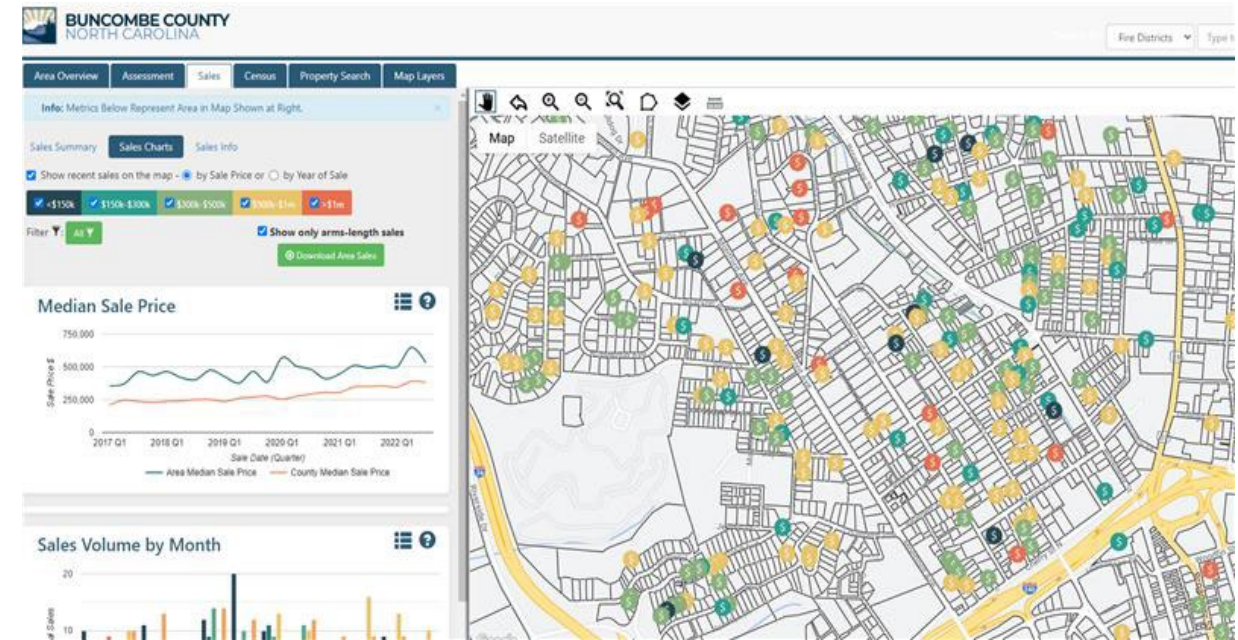
Planned in-person meeting with the Legacy Neighborhoods Association on Oct. 19, 2022.

Members will be able to engage in discussions about their experience with the current Assessment website and offering feedback on proposed changes.



Spatialest Functionality

- Spatialest allows the user to conduct research on the County's property market and assessed values
- Easy to navigate tool that's highly scalable
- We have ability to display key metrics like:
 - Median sales prices
 - Sales Ratio
 - Census data
- Objective is to enhance transparency
- \$50K included in FY23 budget



Summary: Actions, Costs, Timeline

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Action	FY23 (all costs included in budget)	FY24
Outreach Campaign Support (contractor)	\$100,000	\$100,000
Lobbying efforts to expand exemptions	No new costs	No new costs
Appeals Clinic (Land Of The Sky Realtors)	Existing staff resources required to support	Existing staff resources required to support
Community ambassador to provide education on the appraisal process	Existing staff resources required to support	Existing staff resources required to support
Real estate listing mailer and MLS process	\$50,000 & existing staff resources required to support	\$50,000 & 1 FTE (\$90K salary & benefits)
Develop key metrics to trigger increase in staff	n/a	1 FTE (\$90K salary & benefits)
Increase frequency of property reappraisals	n/a	\$1,200,000 + 2FTE (each \$90K salary & benefits)-NOT RECOMMENDED
Short Term Rentals – Business Listing	\$12,000 & existing staff resources required to support	\$12,000 & existing staff resources required to support



Summary: Actions, Costs, Timeline, cont.

Action	FY23 (all costs included in budget)	FY24
Lobbying for homestead exemption	No new costs	No new costs
Educate realtors about data accuracy	No new costs (overlaps with ed. campaign)	No new costs (overlaps with ed. campaign)
Enhance communication between the County's Assessment & Permitting Dept's	No new costs	No new costs
One-stop Assessment website (Spatialist)	\$50,000; existing staff resources required to support	\$40,000; existing staff resources required to support
Implement A.I. software to enhance accuracy of assessed property values	\$120,000; existing staff resources required to support	\$120,000; existing staff resources required to support
Re-evaluate market area (i.e. neighborhood) boundaries to improve accuracy	n/a	1 FTE -\$100K (salary & benefits)



Questions?



Appendix



Assessed Value Reduction - \$ Amount

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- Consider a \$25K or \$50K reduction in assessed home values for County Residents
- Approximately 90K single family homes in the county
 - 72K full-time residents
 - 18K non-residents (out of state mailing address) and multiple property owners
- These homes currently generate approximately \$148M in tax revenue which has been held constant for the analysis
- \$25K reduction for County Residents requires 6.4% increase in tax rate to \$.00519 to keep revenue constant
 - Approach has higher benefits for homes valued at or less than \$500K (represents 85% of County Residents)
- \$50K reduction for County Residents requires 13.5% increase in tax rate to \$.00554 to keep revenue constant
 - Leads to a 10%-20% reduction in tax bill for homes at \$500K or less

\$25K Value Reduction to County Residents				
<i>*Tax increase of 6.4% required to keep revenue constant</i>				
	Property 1	Property 2	Property 3	Property 4
Taxable Value	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
% of County Residents in value category	39%	46%	13%	2%
Tax Amount (Non-Residents)	\$ 1,298	\$ 2,595	\$ 5,190	\$ 10,380
Exemption Amount	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Adjusted Taxable Value	\$ 225,000	\$ 475,000	\$ 975,000	\$ 1,975,000
Property Tax Amount (Residents)	\$ 1,168	\$ 2,465	\$ 5,060	\$ 10,250
% Reduction	-10.0%	-5.0%	-2.5%	-1.3%

\$50K Value Reduction to County Residents				
<i>*Tax increase of 13.5% required to keep revenue constant</i>				
	Property 1	Property 2	Property 3	Property 4
Taxable Value	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Tax Amount (Non-Residents)	\$ 1,385	\$ 2,770	\$ 5,540	\$ 11,080
Exemption Amount	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Adjusted Taxable Value	\$ 200,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 1,950,000
Property Tax Amount (Residents)	\$ 1,108	\$ 2,493	\$ 5,263	\$ 10,803
% Reduction	-20.0%	-10.0%	-5.0%	-2.5%



Assessed Value Reduction - % of Total

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- Consider a 10% or 20% reduction in assessed home values for County Residents
- 10% reduction for County Residents requires 8.8% increase in tax rate to \$.00531 to keep revenue constant
- Approach has equal benefits across property values
- 20% reduction for County Residents requires 19.5% increase in tax rate to \$.00583 to keep revenue constant

10% Value Reduction to County Residents				
<i>*Tax increase of 8.8% required to keep revenue constant</i>				
	Property 1	Property 2	Property 3	Property 4
Taxable Value	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
% of County Residents in value category	39%	46%	13%	2%
Tax Amount (Non-Residents)	\$ 1,328	\$ 2,655	\$ 5,310	\$ 10,620
Exemption Amount	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000
Adjusted Taxable Value	\$ 225,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 1,800,000
Property Tax Amount (Residents)	\$ 1,195	\$ 2,390	\$ 4,779	\$ 9,558
% Reduction	-10.0%	-10.0%	-10.0%	-10.0%

20% Value Reduction to County Residents				
<i>*Tax increase of 19.5% required to keep revenue constant</i>				
	Property 1	Property 2	Property 3	Property 4
Taxable Value	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Tax Amount (Non-Residents)	\$ 1,458	\$ 2,915	\$ 5,830	\$ 11,660
Exemption Amount	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000
Adjusted Taxable Value	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,600,000
Property Tax Amount (Residents)	\$ 1,166	\$ 2,332	\$ 4,664	\$ 9,328
% Reduction	-20.0%	-20.0%	-20.0%	-20.0%



SOG - Appraising Residential Rental Properties

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Author Name: Chris McLaughlin

Published: 08/15/22

Rental units, be they long-term rentals owned by institutional investors or short-term rentals on platforms like Airbnb, represent a growing share of North Carolina’s housing stock. This is true in big cities like Charlotte, where corporate landlords have purchased tens of thousands of houses and now own 5% of all residential properties. It’s also true in rural areas like Transylvania County, where the number of short-term rental units has increased by over 50% in the past three years.

As rental units arise in more neighborhoods, more questions arise about how they should be treated for property tax purposes. In some communities, both landlords and residents argue that rental housing should be appraised differently than owner-occupied housing.

Some large landlords claim that their rental units should be appraised using the income approach instead of the sales comparison approach normally used by tax assessors for residential property. These corporate taxpayers believe that an income approach would result in lower tax appraisals for their properties.

In communities where short-term rentals (“STRs”) have become more common, some homeowners want county tax offices to slap higher appraisals on neighboring houses rented out on Airbnb, VRBO and similar websites due to their use as income-producing properties. They believe that houses producing substantial rental income should receive higher tax appraisals than owner-occupied houses.

The problem with these arguments is that the Machinery Act creates one standard for all tax appraisals. Regardless of the type of property involved, a tax appraisal must reflect the property’s “true value in money.” In other words, property must be appraised at its market value, “that is, the price estimated in terms of money at which the property would change hands between a willing and financially able buyer and a willing seller, neither being under any compulsion to buy or to sell and both having reasonable knowledge of all the uses to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used.” GS 105-283.

This statutory requirement does not provide much comfort to critics arguing that a house used as a rental should be appraised differently from a similar house in the same neighborhood that is owner occupied. Under GS 105-283, if both properties would attract similar sales prices, then they should receive similar tax appraisals regardless of whether they are occupied by tenants or owners.

The statutory appraisal standard created by GS 105-283 is the reason why Airbnb properties should not be appraised at higher levels than similar neighboring properties based solely on their use as STRs. Assuming all properties in a neighborhood could be used for STR purposes, then the tax appraisals for all of those properties should be similar if they are otherwise similar in size, construction quality, and finishes. If a STR property has features that other properties lack (pool, hot tub, updated kitchen, finished basement, etc.), that property would likely receive a higher tax appraisal. But that increased appraisal would be based on those additional features and not on the fact that the property is being used as a STR.

The same reasoning would apply to corporate landlords who argue for lower appraisals on their rental houses based solely on the fact that they are investment properties and not owner-occupied residences. Two recent Property Tax Commission (“PTC”) appeals illustrate this point.

One appeal, In re: Mingo Creek Investments II, LLC, involved 40 rental townhomes owned by a corporate landlord that Wake County had appraised individually using the sales comparison approach. The landlord, Mingo Creek, argued that the townhomes should be collectively appraised as a single investment property using the income approach which (arguably) would have produced a lower tax value.

The second appeal, In re: American Homes 4 Rent Properties One, LLC, involved the appraisal of two rental homes in Charlotte owned by American Homes 4 Rent, which leases out several hundred houses across North Carolina. Similar to Mingo Creek, American Homes 4 Rent argued that Mecklenburg County erred when it used the sales comparison approach to appraise its rental property and should instead have used the income approach. Not surprisingly, the landlord claimed that the income approach would have produced lower appraisals for the rental properties.

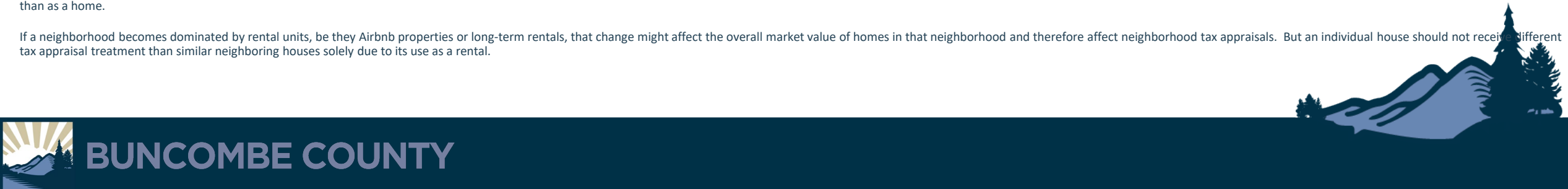
The Property Tax Commission rejected both appeals, concluding that these residential properties should not receive different appraisal treatment simply because they are used as rental housing.

In the Mingo Creek case, the PTC found that the townhomes were “properly appraised as a collection of individual units that happen to held by the same owner, and not as a single property with multiple units. . . . The owner’s choices regarding the property, such as whether or not to sell individual units, how to operate the subject property, or what rental rates to charge are not significantly relevant to the market value of the subject property especially when . . . these properties are typically bought and sold on an individual basis.”

In the American Homes 4 Rent case, the PTC accepted the county’s arguments that ownership should not be a factor in the tax appraisal process. The end use of the rental properties was the same as that of owner-occupied properties; all were used for residential purposes by the occupants. Because the properties were used similarly, they should also be appraised similarly.

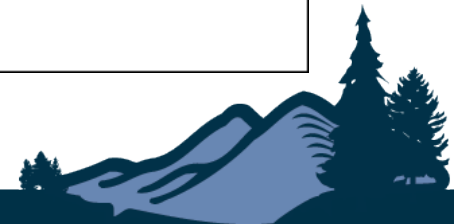
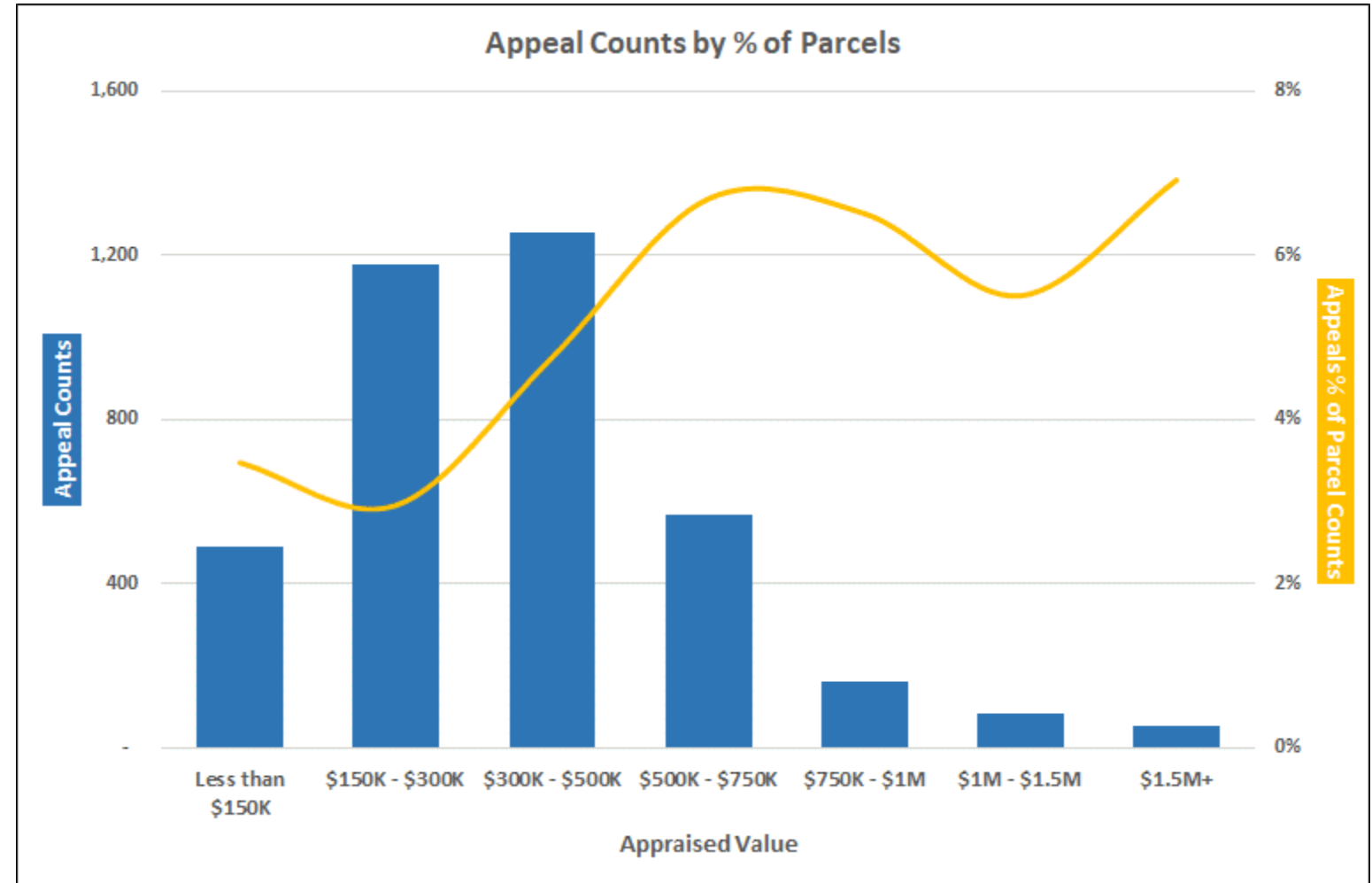
These two Property Tax Commission decision affirm the generally accepted wisdom that all residential real property should generally be using the sales comparison approach. The appraisal method for a house should not change just because the owners view it as an investment rather than as a home.

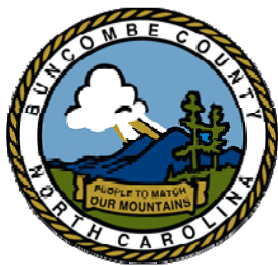
If a neighborhood becomes dominated by rental units, be they Airbnb properties or long-term rentals, that change might affect the overall market value of homes in that neighborhood and therefore affect neighborhood tax appraisals. But an individual house should not receive different tax appraisal treatment than similar neighboring houses solely due to its use as a rental.



Measuring Success

- Appeals data will be a key means of measuring success
- Success will be parity in the % of appeals by home value
 - The yellow line will be flatter
- Will also pursue stratifying data by neighborhood





Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: October 18, 2022

New Business

Department: Justice Services

Presenter(s): John Hudson, Budget Director

Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director

Contact(s): Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director Joshua

Pierce, Diversion Services Program Manager

Hannah Legerton, Youth Justice Division Manager

Subject: Justice Services Grant Awards and Update

Brief Summary: Justice Services has been awarded two grant awards from the US

Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Affairs (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP):

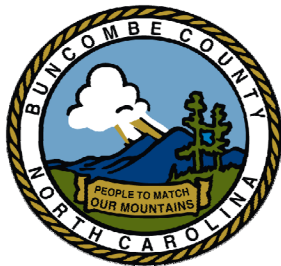
1) "Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant" to sustain and enhance Buncombe County Treatment Courts including: Adult Drug Treatment Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and Sobriety Court. This award will scale up service delivery, improve access to treatment, enhance treatment capacity, and enhance operations in all three courts by adding one (1) FTE clinician/therapist, and one (1) contracted peer support specialist. Intended outcomes: increase public safety, reduce recidivism, and improve access to treatment for eligible participants. Award dates: 10/01/2022 - 9/30/2026. Award amount: \$750,000. In-kind funds over four years: \$250,000.

2) "Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative" to reduce violent crime by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs, including efforts to address gun violence. This award will: create one (1) FTE grant manager position dedicated to expanding the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Initiative; enhance the work of currently contracted partners; develop a multi-sectoral coalition focused on community violence prevention and intervention; and contract with a Community-Based Organization to hire Community Health Workers trained in violence prevention and youth leadership development. Award dates: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025. Award amount: \$1,496,756; no match is required.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Accept two DOJ grants, approve two FTE grant-funded positions, and approve two budget amendments

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented

ORDINANCE #22-10-06



BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Grant Projects Ordinance

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 18, 2022

WHEREAS, the Budget Director recommends and the Board now desires to amend the FY2022-2023 Grants Projects outlined below in Exhibit "A" to the budget,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the FY2022-2023 amendments listed in Exhibit A below be hereby adopted.
2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 18th day of October, 2022

Granting Agency:	United States Department of Justice
Grant Name:	Adult Drug Court FY2023 - FY2027

Description:

Justice Services has been approved to receive a Bureau of Justice Affairs (BJA) "Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant" to sustain and enhance the Buncombe County Treatment Courts including: Adult Drug Treatment Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and Sobriety Court. This award will be used to scale up our existing court program service delivery by providing improved access to treatment, enhancing treatment capacity; and enhancing operations in all three treatment courts by adding one (1) new full-time position of a clinician/therapist and a contracted peer support specialist. Intended outcomes include increasing public safety, reducing recidivism, and improving access to behavioral health treatment for eligible participants. Grants award dates: 10/01/2022 - 9/30/2026. In-kind funds over the four year grant period: \$250,000.

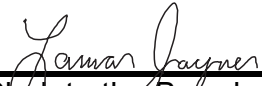
Funding Source:

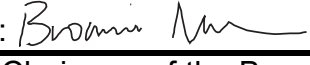
United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Affairs (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

Exhibit A: Account Description	Increase (Decrease)	
	Revenues	Expenditures
Adult Drug Court FY2023 - FY2027	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000
TOTAL	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000

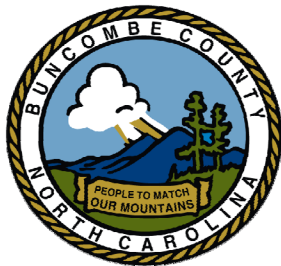
ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:**


Clerk to the Board

By: 
Chairman of the Board

ORDINANCE #22-10-07



BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Grant Projects Ordinance

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 18, 2022

WHEREAS, the Budget Director recommends and the Board now desires to amend the FY2022-2023 Grants Projects outlined below in Exhibit "A" to the budget,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the FY2022-2023 amendments listed in Exhibit A below be hereby adopted.
2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 18th day of October, 2022

Granting Agency:	United States Department of Justice
Grant Name:	OJP - Community Violence Initiative

Description: This award will fund work to prevent and reduce violent crime by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs, including efforts to address gun violence. This funding will: create a new Grants Manager position dedicated to support the initiative; enhance the work of current partners; support a multi-sectoral coalition focused on community violence prevention; contract with a CBO to hire Community Health Workers trained in violence prevention. There is not a required match. The award period is 10/1/2022-9/30/2025.

Funding Source:
United States Department of Justice

Exhibit A: Account Description	Increase (Decrease)	
	Revenues	Expenditures
OJP - Community Violence Initiative	\$ 1,496,756	\$ 1,496,756
TOTAL	\$ 1,496,756	\$ 1,496,756

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:**


Clerk to the Board

By: 
Chairman of the Board



Justice Services Grant Awards and Update

Presented by

Tiffany Iheanacho, Director

Justice Services Department



Overview

- Purpose
- Treatment Court Enhancement Grant
 - Background
 - Objectives
 - Grant Award
- Community Safety + Violence Prevention Initiative
 - Background
 - Objectives
 - Grant Award
- Request for board action



Purpose

Department of Justice Grants: Treatment Court
Enhancement, Community Safety & Violence Prevention Initiative



Strategic Plan and Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) Alignment



2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Resident Well-Being

Our residents are safe, healthy, and engaged in their community.

- **Goal:** Reduce jail population and enhance public safety
- **Objectives:**
 - Increase the number of successful graduates from diversion programs and treatment courts.
 - Reduce crime rate, including violent and property crimes, within the County's jurisdiction.

REAP 2025

Quality of Life

Improve Quality of Life Outcomes Through Racial Equity Initiatives.

- **Goal:** Improve justice outcomes for the most impacted communities
- **Objectives:**
 - Work with justice stakeholders and community partners to develop and implement a plan to reduce community violence and increase community safety
 - Enhance community safety by providing trauma-informed criminal justice responses for the Black community



Treatment Court Enhancement Grant



Background

Treatment Courts:

Recovery-based intervention for all three treatment courts: ***Adult Drug Treatment Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and Sobriety Court***

High risk/high need individuals, connecting them to agencies that provide a full continuum of behavioral health services including outpatient, intensive outpatient, detox, medication management, MAT, inpatient residential, and various supportive services

Treatment court teams include Justice Services, Probation, Judges, DAs, Public Defender(s), and treatment providers and operate following National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) best practices

Previous Grant:

- Previous DOJ funding supported Adult Drug Treatment Court and Veterans Treatment Court only
- Overarching goals: connect participants to treatment and increase public safety by reducing recidivism
- Previous BJA grant supported operational costs that have since been approved to be provided by the County, allowing for innovative program enhancements over the next four years to better serve participants



Outcomes/Data

Adult Drug Treatment Court & Veterans Treatment Court

- 56 successful graduates completing program(s) since 2019
- 24% recidivism rate (2019 – 2020) compared to 30+% estimated national average

Sobriety Court

- 80 successful graduates completing program since 2016
- 69% success rate compared to national average of 60%
- 16% recidivism rate (national average estimated at 12% in 2012)



Treatment Court Program Enhancements

Full time in-house Licensed Clinician

- Provide clinical assessments for incumbent and prospective participants (in custody) increasing access to appropriate treatment and expediting program admissions
- Clinical/treatment presence on treatment court teams (best practice)
- Facilitate evidence-based intervention groups for women and black males to address disparities
- Serve and support participants in all three treatment courts

Peer Support Services

- Credentialed full time contracted position to serve and support participants in all three courts
- Connect participants to appropriate crisis, detox, inpatient, behavioral health, or other support services in the community including housing, transportation, education, employment or other resources
- Assist with referral/admission processes
- Consistent presence on all court teams with “lived-in” experience



Grant Award

Award Amount: \$750,000 (+\$250,000 in-kind) October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2026

Creates 1FTE Licensed Clinician position to provide in-house assessments and clinical oversight, and Both positions will serve/support all three treatment courts.

1 Peer Support Specialist (contracted position) with community based organization TBD; \$248,528 budgeted over grant life-cycle (4 years)

Expands in-kind court *evaluation* support to all three courts, provided in-kind via Western Carolina University Department of Criminology and Criminal justice

Contributes toward the implementation of evidence-based group intervention strategies for underrepresented groups (women and black males) participating in Justice Services programs

County has no obligation to fund at the end of grant award



Community Safety + Violence Prevention Initiative



Background

- Builds on foundational work of Safety + Justice Challenge's Community Safety + Violence Prevention Initiative
- Aligns with 1M award from Buncombe County Fiscal Recovery Funds
- New DOJ/OJP funds: Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative
- To prevent and reduce community violence by implementing a comprehensive, evidence-based, community-led, data-driven and trauma informed violence intervention and prevention program

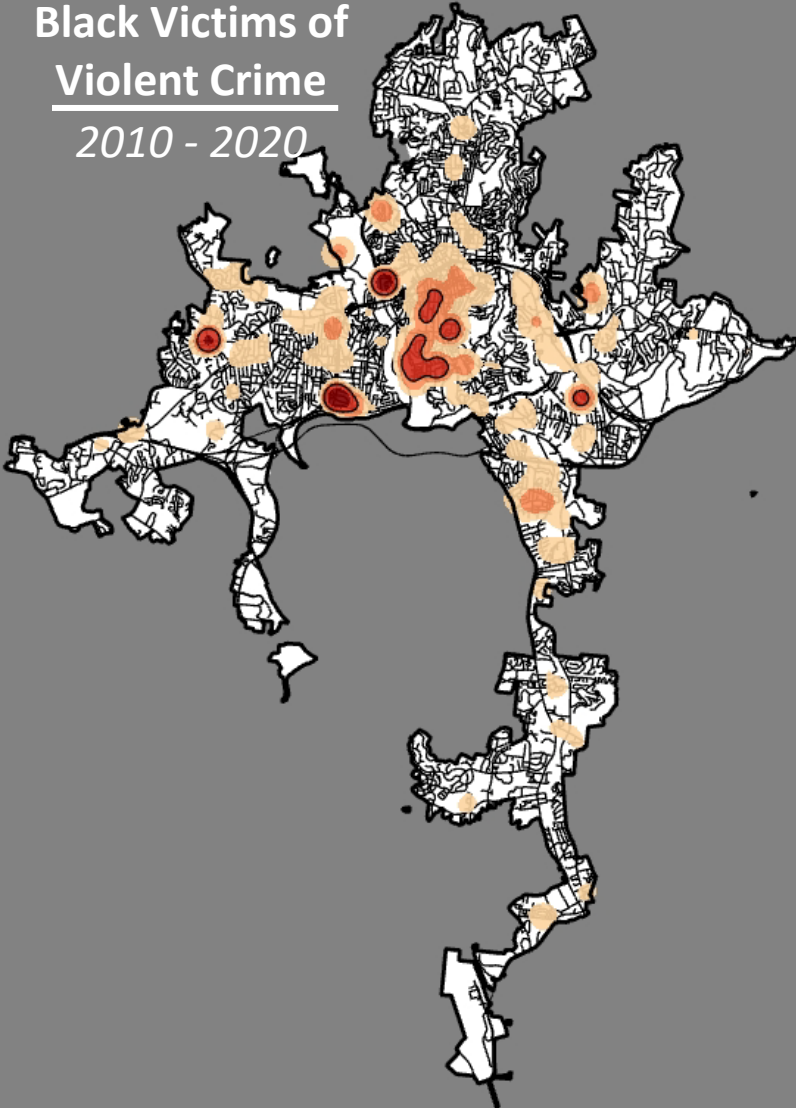


Addressing Racial Disparities in Victimization

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Asheville, NC: 10 Year Review (2010-2020)

Black Victims of Violent Crime 2010 - 2020



From 2010-2020, **1/3** of the violent crime victims have been Black; despite comprising approximately **11%** of the population.

Increase in Black victims of violent crime each year; rising from **148** victims in **2010** to **236** in **2020**.

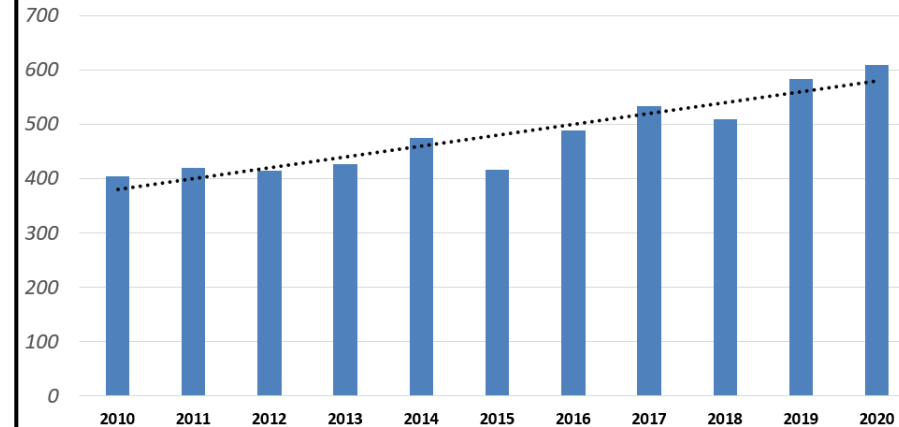
The risk of being a victim of violent crime is greater for Black residents.

Black victims make up an even larger percentage depending on crime type:

- **Homicide - 62%**
- **Aggravated Assault - 39%**
- **Armed Robbery - 23%**

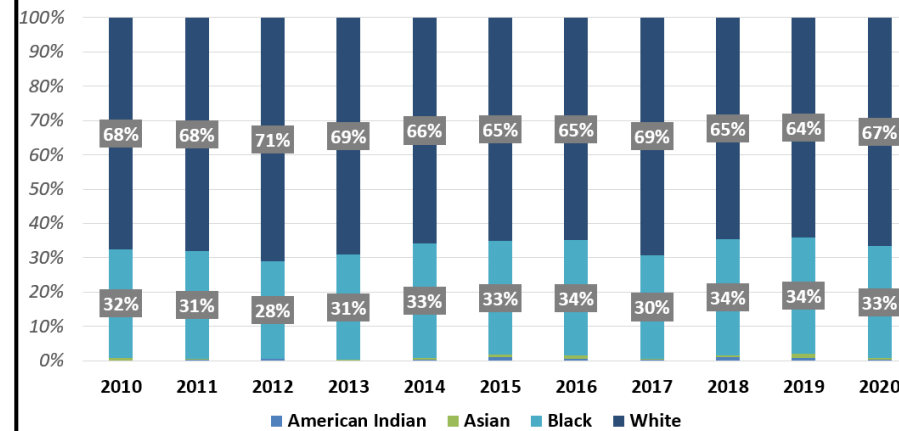
Visualization from Asheville Police Department (2021, June),
Addressing Racial Disparities in Victimization [Conference
Presentation], Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Leadership
Institute Meeting, Asheville, N.C.

Asheville's Violent Crime



Crimes are defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Part I offenses, which include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

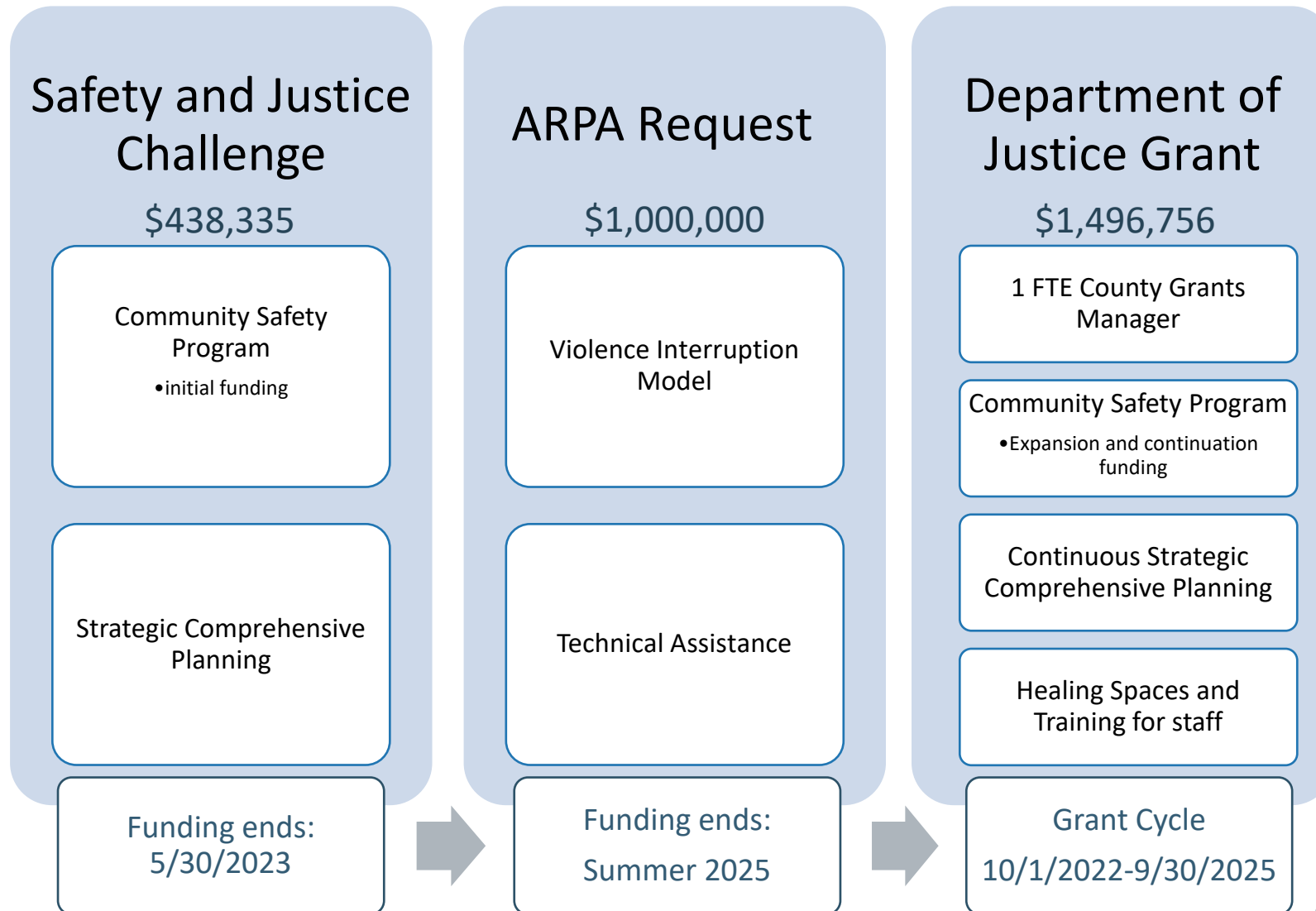
Asheville's Violent Crime Victimology



Crimes are defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Part I offenses, which include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.



Current Funding Landscape



Community Safety + Violence Prevention Initiative

Fiscal Recovery Funds

- CHASM Training & Technical Assistance
- Violence Interruption Model
 - Contracted TBD through RFP:
 - 1 Project Manager to supervise CHWs
 - 3 Community Health Workers (CHWs)
- Program support (e.g. youth stipends, community projects)
- Community-Based Participatory Researcher (contracted)

OJP Award

- Creates on 1FTE County Grants Manager
- Continues work of current SJC Community Safety Program
- Adds 3 additional contracted CHW positions to Violence Interruption Model
- Community co-facilitation (contracted) to implementation of Buncombe County Violence Prevention and Community Safety Plan



Grant Award

Award: \$1,496,756 (No match required), October 1st 2022 – September 30th 2025

Creates 1FTE Grants Manager position dedicated to expanding the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Initiative

Enhances work of currently contracted partners: SPARC, My Daddy Taught Me That (MDTMT), Resources for Resilience

Aligns with 1M award from Buncombe County Fiscal Recovery Funds:

- Fund 3 additional Community Health Workers (CHWs) trained in Violence Prevention and Youth Leadership Development (contract with local Community Based Org. TBD)

Supports community co-facilitation of multi-sectoral coalition focused on community violence prevention & intervention

County has no obligation to fund at the end of grant award



Request for Board Action

- Accept 2 US Department of Justice Grants:
 - 1) Treatment Court Enhancements
 - 2) Community Safety + Violence Prevention Initiative
- Approve Budget Amendments
- Create 2 FTE grant-funded positions

