

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Alison Stuebe
Cc: CHRIS BLUE; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Support for Town of Chapel Hill Fund for Criminal Justice Debt

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

If your email is related to a development application or a particular issue being addressed by the Council, your comments will be made part of the record. If applicable, we encourage you to attend any public meetings related to the items addressed in your email.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Alison Stuebe [mailto:alison.stuebe@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Support for Town of Chapel Hill Fund for Criminal Justice Debt

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Members of Town Council:

I am writing to voice my strong support for establishing the Town of Chapel Hill Fund for Criminal Justice Debt. There is ample evidence that court fees and costs disparately impact members of our community with

limited resources. Furthermore, because systemic racism causes people of color to be disproportionately involved in the criminal justice system, fees and fines widen inequities.

I am an obstetrician, and I have cared for numerous patients who have been subject to pre-trial detention because they were unable to afford to post bail. This period of incarceration adversely impacted their health, separated them from their family, and compromised care for their children. While women with access to resources would have been able to post bail and return home, these women were punished because they were poor.

Put simply, judicial fees and fines are unjust. I urge Council to vote to adopt this resolution to establish the Town of Chapel Hill Fund for Criminal Justice Debt.

Sincerely,

Alison Stuebe, MD, MSc
Chapel Hill, NC

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Jackie Jenks
Cc: CHRIS BLUE; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Support for the Criminal Justice Debt Fund

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From: Jackie Jenks [mailto:jjenks@ifcmailbox.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:10 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Support for the Criminal Justice Debt Fund

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Dear Members of Town Council,

I regret that I am not able to attend tonight's meeting and be there in person to encourage you to support agenda item #16, establishment of a Criminal Justice Debt Fund.

It is a laudable value of the Town of Chapel Hill to be a welcoming community for everyone. Unfortunately, for the low-income members of Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC), it is increasingly difficult to live here sustainably and make ends meet. The high cost of housing makes meeting other basic needs difficult, if not impossible. People survive paycheck-to-paycheck by accessing groceries, hygiene items, meals, and emergency financial assistance through IFC, and they cannot afford unplanned expenses.

While wealthier members of our community can more easily pay court fines and fees, such costs often result in hardships for our neighbors who are working low-wage jobs or are on a fixed income. Of course, we know that people of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, and they are also disproportionately represented among those living in poverty in our community.

Fortunately, there is an effort to address these disparities. Council members Buansi, Stegman, and Parker have led a collaboration of county stakeholders and community groups to create a proposal for a criminal justice debt fund that would bring some relief to those who are otherwise negatively impacted by an inequitable system. I am grateful for their leadership on this issue and encourage you to vote in favor of this proposal.

Respectfully,

Jackie

Jackie Jenks, MSW

Executive Director

Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

110 W. Main Street

Carrboro, NC 27510

919-929-6380 ext 14

www.ifcweb.org

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Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:15 PM
To: Allison De Marco
Cc: CHRIS BLUE; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: In support of the Chapel Hill Fund for Criminal Justice Debt

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

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From: Allison De Marco [mailto:allsd@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: In support of the Chapel Hill Fund for Criminal Justice Debt

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Dear Mayor and Council members,

I am writing to share my enthusiastic support for the proposed Chapel Hill Fund for Criminal Justice Debt. I played a small part in working with Gene Nichol and Heather Hunt of UNC's North Carolina Poverty Research Fund and former Orange County Public Defender James Williams to plan the conference on the criminalization

of poverty held at NCCU Law School just a few years ago. Through that work I learned about the hardships low-income community members, disproportionately of color, experience in our criminal justice system. The imposed fines and fees lead not only to debt but also to loss of jobs and loss of driver's licenses. The creation of this fund will be one way to advance racial equity in our community by mitigating the impacts of oppressive systems. Thank you so much for your hard work on this proposal. I look forward to it passing tonight and moving into the pilot phase. I hope this will serve as a model for other municipalities to do the same.

Thanks so much,
Allison De Marco

Allison De Marco, MSW PhD
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