 

**VIRTUAL POSTCARD PARTY #177 June 12, 2020**

Summary of last week’s suggestions:

* Call for federal policing reforms
* Adapting NC elections to COVID-19 emergency
* Thanking Gov. Cooper for standing firm on public health guidelines, including for the scheduled Republican political convention in Charlotte
* Thanking Hendersonville Police Chief Herbert Blake for speaking out publicly for safe and strict standards for policing

**FEDERAL / STATE / LOCAL**

**NORTH CAROLINA POLITICIANS MUST WELCOME FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO POLICE PATTERNS AND PRACTICES**

North Carolina must welcome federal investigation and oversight to reform policing at all levels in the state, to protect the public at large, with specific focus on abusive structures practices that put people of color at risk. All of our politicians must treat reform and the elimination of police brutality as critical values and as necessary for valid public safety.

**Email or send a postcard to Sen. Thom Tillis, candidate Cal Cunningham, Sen. Richard Burr, candidate Moe Davis, Gov. Roy Cooper, candidate Dan Forest, Sen. Chuck Edwards, candidate Brian Caskey, Rep. Chuck McGrady, candidate Brian Caskey, candidate Josh Remillard, candidate Tim Moffitt, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, and Police Chief Herbert Blake to demand that they publicly request from U.S. Attorney General William Barr that policing patterns and practices in North Carolina be reviewed, with the goals of improving public safety and the elimination of police brutality, with specific attention to police misconduct directed at people of color.**

**SUPPORT THE HEROES ACT**

The Heroes Act passed the House of Representative with approximately $375 billion in funds for state and local governments that have been laying off hundreds of thousands of workers and will have to lay off hundreds of thousands more because of the loss of tax revenues due to lockdowns required to manage the coronavirus pandemic. Moscow Mitch McConnell refuses to take up the bill in the Senate, preferring to push down the consequences to everyday people in every hamlet, village, town, city, and state---no services, no public safety, no safety net.

Current attention is also focused on racism, abusive police behavior, and deep-rooted misconduct. It is time that our local law enforcement officials step up to support all of the government partners that work hard to make things work well for the residents of Hendersonville and Henderson County.

**Contact Sheriff Lowell Griffin, and Police Chief Herbert Blake to urge them to publicly advocate with Sen. Burr and Sen. Tillis for passage of the Heroes Act, in vocal support for their state and local government partners, pledging to never ask for separate and special favors for law enforcement agencies, even as we must work through reform and possible restructuring of public safety to address the current crisis about police misconduct.**

**REACH OUT TO BURR, TILLIS, AND EDWARDS STAFFERS TO EXAMINE THEIR CONSCIENCES AND TO CHANGE THEIR GRAND OLD PARTY:**

**Write a postcard or an email to ask staffers to no longer do the bidding of their bosses.**

EXAMPLE OF A DIRECT APPEAL (long form for email; would need to be shortened for a postcard):
I address this to you who reads & processes your boss’s mail. You engage in this work in good faith, hoping to advance the things in which you believe & your own ambitions. The time has come to look closely & honestly at the state of our country & your opportunity to stand up for constituents & what truly needs doing. It’s time to examine the clichés we hear from your boss, about “small government”, “excessive regulation”, “tax cuts & free enterprise”, “law and order”, among others, to instead consider the complicated difficulties of good government; protecting health and safety & the environment seven generations into the future; economics based on evidence, accountability to all stakeholders, and the universality of corruption & self-dealing when power & enormous resources are in the hands of the few; & achieving justice under the even-handed & measured rule of law that doesn’t favor the powerful over the rest of us.

I ask you to say yes to a better vision, still tied to conservative principles, while, unfortunately, saying no to your boss & his craven corruption of true conservatism.

[For those sending via email, can continue with the following]: Please read these articles for a deeper current understanding of the situations we all face with such trepidation.

From the left:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/opinion/trump-george-floyd-police-brutality.html?searchResultPosition=1>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/opinion/trump-nixon.html?smid=em-share>

From the right:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/06/02/it-takes-village-create-monster/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/no-one-should-want-four-more-years-of-this-taste-of-ashes/2020/06/01/1a80ecf4-a425-11ea-bb20-ebf0921f3bbd_story.html>

**LOCAL**

**EAST FLAT ROCK ASPHALT DRUM PLANT**

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| [No Asphalt Drum Plant in East Flat Rock, NC - Friends of East Flat Rock](http://www.friendsofeastflatrock.org/)A conditional rezoning application #R-2020-03-C was submitted on behalf of SE Asphalt – Jeff Shipman on May 1,2020, which requests Henderson County conditionally rezone a 6.5 acre portion of land to a conditional district to construct a new asphalt drum plant located off Spartanburg Hwy (US 176) in East Flat Rock, North Carolina.[www.friendsofeastflatrock.org](http://www.friendsofeastflatrock.org/) |

**Please go to friendsofeastflatrock.org for more information and to lend support to their efforts to stop the rezoning for an asphalt drum plant.**

**LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERDESERVES OUR THANKS**

Compliment Hendersonville Police Chief Herbert Blake and his officers for their professionalism and hospitality during the protest rally on Saturday June 6.

Chief Herbert Blake

160 6th Ave. E.

Hendersonville, NC 28792

**OTHER CAMPAIGNS TO WORK ON:**

**CAMPAIGN ZERO**

Contact Campaign Zero at <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/> to learn more about working toward ending police violence in America.

**ERA-NC ALLIANCE Action Alert**

The U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 79 to remove the arbitrary time limit for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment on February 13, 2020.

We have moved to the Senate. **NOW is the time**for you to contact Senators Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, and Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader. These Senators have not yet indicated their support, and this is national legislation that impacts us all:

Dear Sen.                :

“Please vote ‘yes' to remove the time limit to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment by co-sponsoring and passing SJR 6. I strongly support equal rights for all and appreciate your voting 'yes' to drop the time limit. Thank you so much!!"

Also, please reach out to individual friends/relatives across the country and encourage them to contact their senators!

In addition to social online messaging, you can contact these Senators as below:

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| Senator Thom Tillis113 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. Washington DC 20510Phone: (202) 224-6342[www.tillis.senate.gov/email-me](http://www.tillis.senate.gov/email-me) | Senator Richard Burr217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510Phone: (202) 224-3154[www.burr.senate.gov/contact/email](http://www.burr.senate.gov/contact/email) | Senator Mitch McConnell317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510Phone: (202) 224-2541[www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactform](http://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactform) |