



## Black Mountain Town Square: *Building a Grander Front Porch*

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& Judith Shuford*

March 6, 2013

Buncombe County Manager Wanda Greene  
Buncombe County Office  
200 College Street  
Suite 300  
Asheville NC 28801

Dear Ms. Greene:

For the past three years the Black Mountain Town Square Steering Committee, appointed by the Board of Aldermen, has worked to develop a 1.3-acre plot of land located at the intersection of US70 and NC9. This intersection is the major crossroads in Town used by thousands of people who come to the area every year. The property was purchased by the Aldermen and taxes were raised to help pay for the purchase.

The Town Square Steering Committee did a survey of Black Mountain's citizens via the Public Policy Institute at Western Carolina University to determine the best use for the property. The survey showed, with a 95% confidence level, that preserving the mountain views, having some parking and some commercial opportunities were the preferences. The Committee submitted a concept plan, which the Aldermen approved in 2010. The Committee then moved forward with a capital campaign that has netted about \$250,000 to date. The estimated cost of the entire project is \$4.1 million with \$2.1 million being the cost of the land. We have moved into the public phase of fund raising, which will continue through the spring.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your consideration and support from Buncombe County to assist with some of the cost of this project, which will enhance the heart of Black Mountain. The completed Town Square will contain a variety of options for visitors such as picnic tables, a children's fountain, a clock tower, an informational kiosk, and green space. A pavilion is planned to accommodate a variety of uses such as weddings, musical events, vendor opportunities, and community gatherings. This significant up-grade for the Town is a once in a generation opportunity for space that previously housed a gas station and convenience store.

Our specific request is for \$50,000 to cover the cost of constructing public restrooms, which are essential to accommodate large numbers of people. Additional details about the proposed restrooms and other Phase 1 projects will be presented before the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to provide additional information or respond to your questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Gill, Ph.D. Chair  
Black Mountain Town Square Committee

Cc: Don Collins  
Mike Sobol