



NC Restaurant
& Lodging Association

NCRLA STATEMENT TO ASHEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Good evening, Mayor and Council. My name is John Beatty, and I am the Area Director for the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association. The Restaurant and Lodging Association is the statewide organization that represents the interests of 2,000 hotels in North Carolina.

NCRLA supports local planning and zoning authority. In fact, we recently stood side-by-side with your representatives in Raleigh to oppose legislation that would repeal the city's authority to zone short-term rentals. We recognize that City Council has a responsibility to carefully review development proposals, including hotel proposals, in order to weigh the impact on the community, both negative and positive.

We commend City Council for taking a long-term view to land use as it relates to ensuring a well-planned and livable community.

We acknowledge the infrastructure challenges that residents, visitors, and commuters face. And we acknowledge that traffic, sidewalks, and other infrastructure issues exist.

We are concerned that the proposed study focuses solely on hotel development rather than the issue of overall land use planning and development in the community.

We would urge Council to consider a holistic look at land use planning, including an analysis of transportation alternatives for residents, visitors, and commuters.

We urge the city take a broader look at the economic drivers in Asheville and the jobs created by various development and projects.

Finally, since hotel development is already prohibited in Asheville without Council approval, we believe that Council does not need to take further action, such as imposing a moratorium.

Thank you for your time and attention.

John Beatty
NCRLA Area Director