IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009

I. CITY CLERK -

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL -

MAYOR -

*1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Mayor Appoints Attorney To Planning Commission - Sunderman and Cornelius reappointed (Council received on 08/03/09).

*2. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler will discuss City budget issues at a news conference on 08/06/09 at 10:00 a.m. in the Mayor’s Conference Room.

*3. NEWS RELEASE - RE: City To Add Four Officers with Stimulus Grant.


DIRECTORS -

HEALTH -

*1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Lincoln Public Health Leader Named To NACCHO Executive Board.

III. COUNCIL RFI'S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS -

JON CAMP -

1. Request to Greg MacLean, Public Works & Utilities Director - RE: 9th & Harrison Traffic Warning Device (RFI #90 - 07/22/09)


IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL -

*2. E-Mail from Pat McCashland - RE: Against Telecom Tax increase.

*3. E-Mail & Attachment from Walter Canney - RE: In Support of Telecom Tax increase.

*4. E-Mail from Joyce Gleason - RE: Proposed fee for Nature Center-Please do NOT charge a fee.

*5. E-Mail from Helen Chastain - RE: Proposed fee for Nature Center-Please do NOT charge a fee.


*7. Letter from Mark Kurtenbach - RE: Concerns over the safety and traffic flow on Old Cheney Road between 70th Street & 84th Street.

*8. E-Mail from L. J. Frost - RE: Strongly disagree with any decision to close the Bethany & South Branch libraries.


*10. E-Mail from Spencer Ashburn - RE: An increase in the tax on cell phones is unacceptable!


*12. E-Mail from Elizabeth Philson - RE: Please reconsider raising cell taxes.

*13. E-Mail from Adam Sparling - RE: Please do not vote for a raise in cell tax.

*14. E-Mail from Sara & Robert Friedman - RE: In Support of the increase in the telecom tax.

*15. Letter from Rosina Paolini - RE: The Importance of Direct Learning with Nature.

*16. 2 E-Mails from Chuck Lien - RE: Please vote against any telecom tax increases on his cell phone or land line.

*17. E-Mail from Chad Baker - RE: I do not support any tax increase, cell phone or otherwise.

V. ADJOURNMENT

*HELD OVER UNTIL AUGUST 17, 2009.
Mayor Chris Beutler today appointed Jeanelle Lust, the managing partner of a local law firm, to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission. She will replace Gene Carroll, who was elected to the City Council in May. The Mayor also reappointed Lynn Sunderman, the current chair, and Michael Cornelius, the current vice chair, to the Commission. Planning Commissioners serve six-year terms, and appointments must be approved by the City Council and County Board.

"Jeanelle brings a strong legal skills and experience to the Planning Commission, a body that makes major decisions for the future of our City and County," Beutler said. "This background is especially important at this time when I have asked the Planning Department to review large numbers of regulations with an eye toward simplifying procedures and making the overall environment more customer friendly."

Lust has been with the law firm of Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson and Endacott since 1994. As a trial lawyer, she focuses on commercial litigation and handles all aspects of nursing home litigation. She graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and from the Creighton University School of Law. She is active in the Nebraska Bar Association and is a charter Fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America. The Lancaster County Board appointed her to serve on the Indigent Defense Council, and she also has served in leadership roles with the Capital Humane Society and the Lincoln Children's Zoo.

The nine-member Planning Commission is responsible for helping to develop a comprehensive land use plan for Lancaster County and for making policy recommendations to the City Council and County Board. State statute requires counties to form planning commissions if a primary class city (population 100,000 to 300,000) is located in the county.

- 30 -
DATE: August 5, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler will discuss City budget issues at a news conference at
10 a.m. Thursday, August 6 in the Mayor's Conference Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.
The public hearing on the City budget is set for Monday, August 10 beginning at 2:30 p.m.

NOTE: The City Council was scheduled to vote on changes to the Mayor's budget at 9 a.m. Wednesday,
August 12 in the City Council Chambers. That meeting has been moved to 3 p.m. Wednesday in Room 113.
Mayor Chris Beutler today announced that the City will accept $679,136 in federal stimulus funds to hire four full-time Police Officers. The U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office announced last week that Lincoln will receive part of the $1 billion awarded nationwide through the COPS Hiring Recovery Program.

“This community has identified safety and security as the top priority for City government, “ Mayor Beutler said. “But the budget has not always allowed us to increase our police force as our City has continued to grow in size and population. With the federal COPS program, we will be in a much better position to finance our future law enforcement needs.”

The grants provide 100-percent funding for salaries for three years. The City is required to fund the position for at least one year beyond that. Before accepting the grant, Beutler said the City examined the need for police officers and the additional costs in the future. Lincoln has a low crime rate, down 13 percent from last year. But response time has risen from 3.6 minutes in 2006 to 4.1 minutes in 2008, a 12 percent increase.

“We should not add police to the force because it is popular with the public or because it is good politics,” Beutler said. “We should add police because we have a need to be addressed. After looking at the facts, I am strongly convinced that keeping Lincoln a safe, low-crime community requires us to add to our police force.”

The Mayor said the COPS grant process was very competitive. Only 14.3 percent of the agencies that applied received this grant funding, and the Mayor congratulated the Police Department for its successful proposal.

Police Chief Tom Casady said the grant was awarded just before the start of an academy class, so three of the four officers funded begin their training today as part of a class of 13 recruits. The remaining funded position will be filled from the academy class that begins in January.
“We are delighted, in this difficult economic period, to be able to add police officers,” Casady said. “Four officers will help us keep up with Lincoln's population growth, and continue to provide the quality services that promote a safe and secure community.”

The City last accepted a COPS grant in the 2004-2005 fiscal year when 2 officers were hired, bringing the total force to 317.

Four other Nebraska agencies were awarded funding: the Beatrice Police Department, the City of Omaha, the Dawson County Law Enforcement Center and the Omaha Tribe Police Department. More information is available at www.cops.usdoj.gov.
Mayor Chris Beutler today said his proposed budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year puts Lincoln in the best position to face the future. And he said the modest revenue increases he has proposed are necessary to maintain the City's quality of life.

“We saved the pools, libraries and rec center services that will keep our kids off the streets and engaged in positive activities,” Mayor Beutler said. “We saved a senior companion program, police non-injury accident reporting, a Health Department program that helps women have healthy babies, and badly need parks maintenance. We are investing in job creation and growth with the Fast Forward Fund and the Development Services Center.”

Beutler said the half-cent increase in the telecommunications tax will equal about only 50 cents on a $100 monthly phone bill. And he rejected the idea that the City should instead rely on “vacancy savings” to balance the budget. “We must end the practice of budgeting less than the amount needed to fund the jobs in the budget, an accounting gimmick that increases overtime costs, leads to backdoor service cuts and lessens transparency,” Beutler said.

The Mayor's proposed budget proposes a spending increase of .04 percent at a time when the national recession has negatively impacted sales and property taxes, 70 percent of the City's revenue sources. Since taking office, Beutler's budgets have cut nearly $10 million in spending and 143 jobs, more than 6 percent of the City workforce. The City has moved to end the $2-for-$1 retirement match and has negotiated contracts that increase salaries by an average of about 1 percent, the lowest increase in 40 years.

“I am confident that Lincoln's citizens are wise enough to know that making our community great requires us to make some the tough choices,” Beutler said. “We simply cannot cut anymore without damaging our quality of life.”

The Mayor urged citizens to educate themselves on the City budget before the City Council's public hearing Monday, August 10. The Council will have a regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. that day. The public hearing is scheduled for 2:30 to 10:30 p.m. with a 30-minute break at 6.

- more -
The City Council will meet again Wednesday, August 12 to vote on changes to the Mayor's recommended budget. This meeting had been scheduled for 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers, but it has been moved to 3 p.m. and will be held in Room 113, next to the Chambers. The Council is scheduled to adopt the budget at its 5:30 p.m. meeting Monday, August 24.

In insert on the City budget was published in the Neighborhood Extra Saturday, August 1. The insert is available at the County City Building, Lincoln City Libraries and on the home page of the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov.
CONGRESS

House adjourns until after Labor Day, while the Senate stays in town to debate a Supreme Court nomination. Members of the House of Representatives returned to their districts today to enjoy a month-long summer break, but they are expected to face an earful from constituents about the high profile issues they will face upon their post-Labor Day return.

Meanwhile, the Senate will stay in Washington an additional week to consider and vote on the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved her nomination this week, on a vote that was largely across party lines. Republicans have indicated they will not filibuster the nomination and Sotomayor is expected to be confirmed.

The House was successful in one of its goals for the summer – completion of all 12 of the FY 2010 appropriations bills. With floor approval of the Defense Department measure this week, the house is ready to confer with their Senate colleagues in September to reconcile any bills upon approval in that chamber. The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved 11 of the 12 spending bills (Defense remains), but has been slower to gain floor approval, and expects to have only four (Homeland Security, Legislative Branch, Energy and Water, and Agriculture) approved on the floor prior to the recess.

Of course, the major topic of conversation in Washington has been health care reform, and both Senate and House Democrats continue to struggle with consensus on this contentious issue. House leaders had hoped to bring a measure to the floor this week, but were stymied by opposition by a group of moderate and conservative Democrats, who are trying to lower the cost of the bill. However, concessions made to these “Blue Dog” Democrats appear to have riled liberal Democrats in the chamber, who now are considering withholding their support.

In the Senate, intense bipartisan negotiations among some members of the Senate Finance Committee was halted late this week, as was hope that a bill could be considered in that panel next week. There is some speculation that Senate leaders are hoping to secure the 60 votes necessary to go forward with a bill on the floor without the help of Republicans and avoid the concessions to GOP members that would make reform ineffective in their eyes.

At any rate, it is almost certain that the October 1 deadline presented earlier this year by President Obama for approval of health care reform will not be met.

Both the House and Senate are expected to be back in session on September 8.

HOUSING AND CD

Senate panel approves FY 2010 HUD spending. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of an FY 2010 appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development this week.

Formula grants under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at HUD would receive $3.99 billion in FY 2010 under the Senate bill, an increase of $350 million from FY 2009, but less than the $4.17 billion approved by the House for FY 2010. The Senate would also allocate $1.825 billion for the HOME program, the same level as FY 2009 and $175 million less than the House recommendation for FY 2010.
The short-term fix for the HTF represents the continuation of a rift between the House and the Senate over the timing for renewing the 2005 SAFETEA-LU law. The Senate and the White House are pushing for an 18-month extension of current law with a $26 billion HTF infusion, but Chairman Jim Oberstar (D-MN) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has resolved to accept nothing less than a full, multi-year surface transportation authorization this year.

HR 3357 has been sent to the President, who is expected to sign it into law shortly.

The Senate bill also includes $250 million for a new Choice Neighborhoods program, an Obama Administration recommendation that would take the place of the HOPE VI program. Like HOPE VI, the new initiative would continue to focus on improving public housing, but also address better access to schools, transportation, jobs and other services. Since the program has not been officially authorized, the House chose to simply fund HOPE VI at $250 million.

The Senate bill would also fund a new Sustainable Communities program at $150 million, as a set-aside within the CDBG program. Also an Obama proposal, the initiative would operate jointly with the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency to promote integrated housing and transportation planning efforts on both the regional and local level. The House also included $150 million for this effort.

The bill will be considered on the Senate floor in September.

TRANSPORTATION
Congress sends $7 billion fix of Highway Trust Fund to the White House. Both the House and Senate quickly approved legislation (HR 3375) this week that would transfer $7 billion from the general fund into the ailing Highway Trust Fund (HTF). The HTF is expected to run out of funds before the end of August, absent an infusion of funds. A similar infusion of $8 billion was required last summer to keep the HTF afloat.

The Senate version of the legislation includes $42.5 billion for the federal-aid highway program, which is higher than both the House measure and President Obama's budget request of $41.1 billion. Programs at the Federal Transit Administration would receive $10.8 billion in the Senate bill, up from the $10.48 billion in the House-passed bill. The Airport Improvement Program would receive $3.5 billion, the same level as the House.

The Senate is expected to consider the bill on the floor in September.

FTA releases final guidance on New Starts/Small Starts. On Wednesday, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published two notices in the Federal Register that provide guidance on procedures and policies for the New Starts and Small Starts fixed guideway programs. The first of these -- a Final Guidance -- does not make any changes to the draft guidance released on May 20, 2009 regarding the project rating and evaluation process. The guidance became effective on July 29th.

The second notice, the Additional Proposed Guidance, identifies additional changes that may be adopted by the end of 2009. FTA specifically mentions that it does not intend to address concerns about requiring a “medium” rating on cost effectiveness. Comments are due on August 18, and both notices are accessible from the following link: http://tiny.cc/Blviv.

Finally, a House subcommittee approved a measure to eliminate some railroad anti-trust exemptions. The House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy this week approved a bill (HR 233) that would remove an exemption for railroads from a 1914 anti-trust law that requires Justice Department approval of mergers.

Currently, only the Surface Transportation Board (STB) – a body with a history of close ties to the railroad industry – must approve mergers. Supporters of the bill say the antitrust exemption has resulted in the reduction of Class I freight railroads from 63 to seven. Four of those railroads now provide 90 percent of rail transportation.

The bill now must be considered by the full Judiciary Committee. Similar efforts are ongoing in the Senate, where supporters hope to attach the measure to legislation to reauthorize the STB.

FLOOD INSURANCE
House extends flood insurance program. The House approved legislation (HR 3139) this week that would provide a six-month extension of the National Flood Insurance Program at the Federal Emergency Management Agency
Congress has been working for more than two years on changes to the program that would be included in a long-term reauthorization, but has been unable to come to a consensus on two major sticking points: adding coverage for wind damage to the program, and forgiving a $20 billion debt in the program that is the result of payouts from a series of storms and hurricanes in the Gulf Coast in 2004 and 2005.

During the last Congress, the House approved a reauthorization of the program that included wind coverage but not the debt forgiveness, while the Senate chose to support the debt forgiveness but not the wind coverage. The Obama Administration has taken the same position as the Senate.

The short-term extension approved by the House, also includes language that would expand FEMA’s special designation flood coverage to include areas undergoing state or locally funded levee construction, reconstruction and improvements. Currently, FEMA considers only areas with federally funded levee improvements eligible for the program.

Bill supporters hope that the Senate would approve the measure, if not next week, then in September when they return from a summer recess.

**ELECTIONS**  
House approves bill regarding tracking absentee ballots. The House approved legislation (HR 2510) this week that would direct the federal Election Assistance Commission to reimburse states for costs associated with establishing an absentee ballot tracking program for federal elections.

The legislation does not require states to establish absentee ballot tracking systems, but to qualify for grant funding, states must implement systems that allow voters to confirm whether their absentee ballots for federal elections have been received and counted, through either official Web sites or toll-free telephone numbers. California has an online system and 98,000 voters checked their status during the November 2008 elections.

There is no Senate companion to HR 2501, but the Senate Rules and Administration Committee is hoping to consider a measure in September that addresses the difficulties facing overseas military voters.

**FEDERALISM**  
OMB revises lobbying guidance. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) this week issued revised guidance (OMB Memorandum M-09-24) governing federal employee communications with registered lobbyists about stimulus funds.

The new guidance clarifies that communications about specific projects and applications between federal employees and registered lobbyists are proscribed only during the period of time between the submission of applications for competitive stimulus funds and the announcement of awards. The guidance also expands that communications ban to include all persons, not just registered lobbyists. The guidance specifically exempts “the elected chief executive of a state, local or tribal government” from the communications ban. (However, most federal agencies already have policies that limit communication with grant applicants after applications have been submitted.)

The OMB guidance also clarifies that all people, including registered lobbyists, are allowed to communicate with federal employees regarding logistical questions about stimulus grant programs at any time. It also allows all people, including registered lobbyists, to communicate with federal employees at “widely attended gatherings.” Beyond those two exceptions, federal employees will still have to report all communications with registered lobbyists about specific projects within three business days, including private communications that occur before or after a “widely attended gathering.” The guidance provides federal employees with a one-page form that they can use to report such communications.

**STIMULUS WATCH**  
Department of Commerce  
The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced grant awards from its stimulus funding programs:

http://www.ecca.energy.gov/  

Department of Energy  
The DOE has begun to award stimulus formula funds through the Energy and Environment Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program:

http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/  

Department of Housing and Urban Development  
HUD is approving the final round of plans submitted by state housing finance agencies for the Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP). TCAP allows state housing finance agencies to fund affordable rental housing projects across the nation while stimulating job creation in the hard-hit construction industry:


Department of Justice  
The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office has awarded $1 billion in Recovery Act funding through its COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP). An announcement Toolkit provides additional information on how the applications were reviewed and how final awards were selected:

The Office of Justice Programs continues to release grant awards on a rolling basis:

http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/recovery/awards.htm  

Department of Transportation  
Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood created a review team to expedite the grant application approval for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds.

OMB Memorandum M-09-24 can be found at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_fy2009/m09-24.pdf
Grant awards will be announced in January 2010 instead of February 17, 2010. Applications for TIGER discretionary grants are due September 15, 2009.

**GRANTS & NOTICES**

**Federal Transit Administration**


**Housing and Urban Development**
The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity announced the availability of FY 2009 funding for HUD’s Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP). Over $26 million is available for this three-part program. Allocated funds are to be used to assist “in the investigation and enforcement of alleged violations of the Fair Housing Act and substantially equivalent State and local fair housing laws.” Applications are due September 18, 2009: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=48727&mode=VIEW](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=48727&mode=VIEW).

**Bikes Belong Foundation**
The Bikes Belong Foundation awards funding to support the construction of bike trails and bike lanes and to support advocacy projects that expand bike ridership and influence public policy as it relates to bicycling. Bikes Belong reviews grant applications on a quarterly basis. Applications must be emailed by August 24, 2009 to be considered for the fall award cycle. See: [http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants](http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants).
LINCOLN PUBLIC HEALTH LEADER NAMED TO NACCHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lincoln, Neb. (August 5, 2009) --

Bruce Dart, Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department in Lincoln, Nebraska, formally assumed the duties of President of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) this month at the Association’s Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

A public health practitioner since 1980, Dart has been Health Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department since 2001, an agency that serves over 275,000 Nebraskans. He has served as President of the Nebraska Public Health Association and on numerous state and local public health/health services committees focusing on community health and health care access issues.

"I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to serve our nation's local health departments as president of the Board of NACCHO," said Dart. "This is a time of both great struggle and opportunity for health departments across the country. As we come together to address community health issues, the efforts of all who comprise NACCHO will help us on the local level truly make a difference."

Dart is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and was formerly Nebraska Environmental Health Administrator of the Year. He has dedicated his career to improving environmental and social conditions that impact the public's health and building support for healthy communities among local constituents.

Dart received his MS in Administration (Health Services) from Central Michigan University and his PhD in Health Services from Walden University.
NACCHO is the national organization representing the nation’s nearly 3,000 local health departments. These agencies work every day on the front lines to protect and promote the health of their communities. NACCHO develops resources and programs and promotes national policies that support effective local public health practice.

###
Good day all,

I have attached the response to questions forwarded to me by Councilman Camp, as well as a letter we sent to EMS inc. to provide explanation for the increase.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or Sherrie (441-6686) at your continuance.

Niles Ford  
Fire Chief  
Lincoln Fire & Rescue  
1801 "Q" Street  
Lincoln, NE. 68508  
402-441-8350

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.  
Martin Luther King Jr.

From: Jon Camp  
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2009 2:17 PM  
To: Sherrie A. Meints  
Cc: Niles R. Ford; Don R. Herz; Tammy J. Grammer; Doug Emery; John Spatz; Adam A. Hornung; Jayne L. Snyder; Eugene W. Carroll; Jonathan A. Cook; joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com  
Subject: Proposed ambulance rate increases

Sherry:

I reviewed the materials appended to Resolution 09R-135, which will be introduced July 27, 2009, requesting ambulance rate increases. Please provide answers to the following questions:

1. What is the current balance owed by the EMS Enterprise Fund to the City?

2. Please provide information on the proposed budget item for the EMS Enterprise Fund for $60,000 for a "lease/purchase" of 2 more ambulances.
   a. What is the proposed lease term?
   b. The assumed interest rate?
   c. The total price per vehicle?
   d. Will these be the same vehicle type and manufacturer as the current 11 ambulances LRF has?

3. Please provide the mileage on each of the current 11 ambulances--identify per ambulance please.
4. The materials attached to the Resolution project and increase $123,919 in gross charges with a resulting approximate $36,642 in additional revenue.

Please explain these calculations. For example, although your rates in the past have projected certain total gross charges, because of insurance and Medicare reimbursement shortfalls, you have not netted those project total gross charges.

a. Are you saying that the $123,919 reduction to $36,642 is totally due to this loss of reimbursements?

5. What is the projected amount of increased wages/compensation/benefit costs for personnel in the EMS Enterprise Fund?

6. What is the current rate for the category "Standby: Fire Apparatus"? You are asking for a rate increase to $137.

Thank you for providing this information as soon as possible. If you need to consult with other individuals who assisted in providing this information, please share my questions with them. You are also welcome to call me.

Jon
On Sunday 7-26-09, LFR received a request for information from Councilman Camp. Listed below are the questions from Councilman Camp and corresponding responses from LFR.

1. What is the current balance owed by the EMS Enterprise Fund to the City?  
   As of 6-30-2009, the inter-fund loan balance was $628,388.

2. Please provide information on the proposed budget item for the EMS Enterprise Fund for $60,000 for a "lease/purchase" of 2 more ambulances.
   a. What is the proposed lease term?  
      7 Years
   b. The assumed interest rate?  
      5%
   c. The total price per vehicle?  
      $154,260 ambulance, $10,000 cot; Total of $164,260
   d. Will these be the same vehicle type and manufacturer as the current 11 ambulances LRF has?  
      The vehicle type will be the same, an E450 type 3. It is possible the manufacturer may change; it depends if we go out for bid or if we are able to piggy-back on another government agency contract.

3. Please provide the mileage on each of the current 11 ambulances--identify per ambulance please.
   Medic Unit Mileage as of 7-27-09:
   
   M6  150,661
   M3  147,028
   M5  137,889
   M2  134,959
   M21 133,736
   M7  126,913
   M24  116,056
   M214 110,211
   M25  107,548
   M8  107,091
   M211 102,014
4. The materials attached to the Resolution project and increase $123,919 in gross charges with a resulting approximate $36,642 in additional revenue.

Please explain these calculations. For example, although your rates in the past have projected certain total gross charges, because of insurance and Medicare reimbursement shortfalls, you have not netted those project total gross charges.

a. Are you saying that the $123,919 reduction to $36,642 is totally due to this loss of reimbursements?

Based on our previous collection history, our payor mix is: Medicare 42%, Medicaid 13%, Commercial Insurance 29%, and Self Pay is 16%.

We will not see any additional revenue from any increase of charges for Medicaid and Medicare. All ambulance services are required by law to accept the Medicaid and Medicare allowed amount and may not bill the patient above this amount. 55% of the $123,919 ($68,155) is expected to be uncollectable and written off as a contractual allowance for these two payor types.

Commercial insurance is 29% of the payor mix; resulting in $35,936 in gross charges. Our percentage rate for collecting on accounts where the primary payor is a commercial insurance is 81% of gross charge payments. This will result to an expected increase in revenue of $29,108.

The remaining $7,534 results in payments from the 16% of patients who are listed as self-pay. Our collection history shows only a 38% collection rate on these types of accounts.

5. What is the projected amount of increased wages/compensation/benefit costs for personnel in the EMS Enterprise Fund?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>08/09 Adopted Budget:</th>
<th>$2,542,785</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/10 Mayors Proposed:</td>
<td>$2,581,957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Difference of 1.54%

6. What is the current rate for the category "Standby: Fire Apparatus"? You are asking for a rate increase to $137.

We are requesting that a Standby - Fire Apparatus charge be approved by the City Council should we have a request for a Fire Apparatus to standby at an event.
You need additional information. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Our intent is to have our budget with some adjustments be equal to or less than the overall CPI-U plus 2 percent. It

% Increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Standby</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paramedic Event Team</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedi Paramedic Team</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paramedic Ambulance Team</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Transport</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS TEAR &amp; Release</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS Paramedic Intercal</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Medical Service Team</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS Non-Emergency</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS 2 Emergency</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS 1 Emergency</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELER Non-Emergency</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELER E. Expedition</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposed Old Rates % Change

The following is a list of the proposed rates:


Dear Ms. Anderson:

Lincoln, NE 68510
3925 0 Street Suite 11
John Anderson
EMS Inc.

June 25, 2009

Lincoln, NE 68520
404-7363
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105

Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4105
Dear Members of the City Council of Lincoln:

Please allow me a minute of your time to introduce a recycling program that can benefit the City of Lincoln. You may want to share this information with civic organizations and churches in your community, as well.

The program - TGA Wireless Device Recycling - helps the environment at the same time.

**Here's how it works:**

TGA Wireless Device Recycling is a turn-key operation. We provide a small collection bin (or more than one, depending on your needs) and you collect wireless devices (cell phone, PDA, Blackberry) from employees and/or the public. A bin could be placed at City Hall, for example. You ship the wireless devices to us (using prepaid shipping labels we provide), we process them and pay you (or your favorite charity) for those devices. Every device we process is reused or recycled, following a "no landfill" policy. Also, devices are data scrubbed by our 102-point security scrubbing (certified in writing) so that recycled devices cannot be compromised. That's all there is to it. TGA Wireless Device Recycling is an easy program to implement and there is no cost to you.

This program does three very important things:

1. Raises money for your city (or favorite charity)
2. Reduces our carbon footprint
3. Keeps cell phones out of landfills

Some brief information is attached. Please review and, as needed, forward to the appropriate person or committee.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you are ready to take advantage of this program.

**Go green. Support charity.**

Best regards,

**Dale Briere**

TGA Wireless Device Recycling
217-549-4109 | dбриere@tgaglobal.com
www.tgaglobal.com

Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing this e-mail.
Wireless Device Recycling Program

Technology Global Alliance (TGA) has developed a turn-key wireless device recycling program that is Free for its clients. The idea is to help organizations positively dispose of their old wireless phones, Blackberries, PDA’s and aircards while improving the environment and supporting charity.

Fast Facts

- Only 3% of people recycle their wireless devices.
- Making a new wireless device consumes ~10 gallons of gas and emits CO2 equivalent to burning ~6 gallons of gas.
- If the 3 billion wireless device owners recycled, carbon emissions saved would be equivalent to taking 4 million cars off the road.
- Resetting your old wireless device before donating it does not erase your data which can easily be taken using inexpensive software.


Our offering is very simple and costs you nothing. We have partnered with a world-wide leader in wireless device recycling to pick up your devices; data scrub them, retrofit them and sell them. Proceeds from the sale are donated to the charity of your choice. The environment is the major winner since these devices avoid the landfill.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. You agree to participate.
2. We provide pre-paid shipping labels and coordinate packing and shipping.
3. We send each device through a 102-point security scrubbing process to ensure all data is removed. This is certified in writing.
4. We repair broken devices. If they can’t be fixed, usable components are recycled. A strict “no landfill” policy is followed.
5. We deliver an inventory report showing the value of your devices.
6. We cut a check to the charity of your choice and provide a receipt (alternatively, you can choose to keep the proceeds).
7. We calculate the carbon footprint reduction resulting from the devices you recycled and provide a report quantifying the impact you have made on the environment.

Technology Global Alliance • Your Trusted Expense Reduction Advisor

Dale Briere • 217-549-4109 • dbriere@tgaglobal.com • www.tgaglobal.com
We do not need a tax increase to solve this problem.

Pat McCashland
Mayor Beutler,
I read your explanation of the slight communications tax and overall budget comments, and write in complete support. The ongoing mantra of no taxes and budget cuts here and elsewhere, reminded me of a “tongue in cheek letter” that appeared in the World Herald about 10 days ago. I had clipped it and can’t help but pass it on to you and our Council.
I for one, would pay even a little more tax to assure that our Libraries, parks and pools are fully operated and available; that our streets and other infrastructure got a little more attention, and to assure that we maintain the kind of City and services that every survey reports the Citizens want. I particularly would support just a little more money for painting of traffic lanes, and even going back to identifying medians with paint instead of a couple of small pieces of glass. (maybe just old eyes)
I close saying you have done a good job with budgets, but if we go much farther the City will need a saw, not a knife, as were right at the bone!

Walter A. Canney
2111 S 66th St.
Lincoln, NE 68506
We have to pay for services

Poor Mayor Jim Suttle and Omaha’s budget problem. He says we have to raise taxes to keep our city services going.

So, he’s suggested an entertainment tax of 2 cents on the dollar. Does that mean I’d have to pay an extra 48 cents the next time I head to the Qwest Center for my $24 Billy Joel fix?

Or 8 cents more just to go to a movie? And my martini would cost an extra penny. And my property taxes would skyrocket another $60 this year.

At this rate, I’d be broke in a couple of hundred years or so.

Let’s just dump taxes altogether. Then, we could just close all the schools and homeschool.

Then, get rid of all the cops. The National Rifle Association loves guns. I’m sure that group would love to pitch in and patrol our streets.

And who needs firefighters. I’m pretty sure my neighbor’s hose would reach my house.

And we could all just pitch in and shovel the snow off our neighborhood streets, clean the pet waste out of our parks and unclog the sewers.

Katie Kelly, Omaha
Please, please, please do NOT charge a fee for students to attend the nature Center---I am more than happy to pay an increased tax to continue to provide such access to students and student groups to enjoy the benefits of this fine Center. I am not sure about the status of a Foundation for Parks and Recreation, but perhaps we should consider a separate foundation for The Nature Center and actively promote it. It is one of the special advantages of living in a city like Lincoln and it should be available to all citizens. Maybe a more prominent way to make contributions to the Center would be one alternative---a large, well-advertised (or several such) collection points for "suggested donations" and then even offer suggested amounts that might have been charged. This is how Metropolitan Museum of NYC collects donations---as people enter, the "suggested donation" fee is proposed by the person at the ticket counter, but student groups and others who feel they cannot pay the full amount (or any) are not refused entry.

Thank you for your serious reconsideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Joyce Gleason
3125 W. Summit Blvd
68502
Pioneers Park was created and maintained by volunteers, donations and citizens of Lincoln to be enjoyed by all citizens of Lincoln, not exclusively by those who can afford fees. Fees also involves costs in enforcing and restrictions of public places often invite vandalism. Let us eliminate new structures until economics improve and maintain those already enjoyed by its citizens. Helen Chastain
NO TELECOM TAX INCREASE!!

J L Exteriors Inc.
Lance Roach
7341 Shirl Dr.
Lincoln, Ne 68516
office/fax: 402-421-2005
cell: 402-730-6333
e-mail: jlexteriors@yahoo.com
www.jandlexteriors.com

CALL FOR ALL YOUR EXTERIOR NEEDS
August 3, 2009

Mr. Chris Beutler
Mayor, City of Lincoln
City-County Building
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mayor Beutler:

I am writing to you to voice my concern over the safety and traffic flow on Old Cheney Road between 70th street and 84th Street. I live in the Barrington Park neighborhood, immediately east of the Edenton neighborhood, and use this section of Old Cheney road extensively.

Specifically, it is my belief that the following conditions exist that increase the safety risk to pedestrians and drivers on this road:

1. **Street Design**: The lanes are narrow, with no permanent shoulder. In situations where a motorist may need room to maneuver a vehicle to avoid an accident or injury, there is no place to maneuver. This is particularly evident between 80th and 84th Streets, just south of Lincoln Christian School; there is a deep culvert on the south side of Old Cheney for which there is no permanent guarding.

2. **State of the Road Surface**: The Old Cheney road surface is in need of repairs. This section of road is heavily traveled, particularly during morning and evening peak traffic times. There are numerous places where the paved intersection into the neighborhoods meets grade that the grade has washed away, creating additional hazards.

3. **Traffic Flow**: The traffic flow is normally heavy and is increased when school is in session to transport students to and from Maxey Elementary in the Edenton neighborhood. With only a 2-lane road to support the heavy traffic load, there are frequent delays. In addition, there is a school crossing zone at the intersection of 77th and Old Cheney. The heavy traffic situation is exacerbated by a hill west of 80th street, impeding vision to enter Old Cheney Road from oncoming westbound traffic. During the winter months when traction is difficult on icy roads, Old Cheney backs up significantly.

4. **Turning Lanes**: No turning lane exists for traffic to turn into either the Edenton, Edenton South, or Barrington Park neighborhoods off of Old Cheney; this results in traffic congestion and poses a significant safety risk.

There have been many road improvements in the Southeast Lincoln area in the past few years, including those made to 84th street and Pine Lake Road. My specific request is: When is this section of Old Cheney Road scheduled to be widened or repaired? I would submit that this should be addressed sooner rather than later in order to avoid the significant traffic risks and safety hazards because of the current design and state of this road.

I would appreciate any response you can provide. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Mark Kurtenbach

cc: Greg MacLean, Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Doug Emery, Eugene Carroll, R. Adam Hornung, John Spatz, Jane Snyder
I strongly disagree with any decision to close the Bethany & South Branch libraries. I regularly patronize the Anderson Branch library and have noticed often times there are three individuals staffing the service desk and with one paid shelver also on duty. Often times the desk staff is sitting idly simply visiting with one another. And during these times, there are not many patrons in the library. It seems that rather than closing libraries, maybe a reduction in staff could be considered. Also closing additional days of the week or shorter hours could be considered. I read recently where another new library is being built (Webster Library). It seems that the patrons in the older neighborhoods should continue to be served along with those in the newer areas of Lincoln. Thank you for your consideration.
Council Members:

I am opposed to the Telecom tax proposed for our phones. My husband and I have a small business and have 3 land lines, two cell phones and this would impact our operational expenses. If efficiencies such as staff vacancies are continuing, why would we actually need this tax at all?

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Barb Haith
FEH Billing
(402) 489-2344
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
   General Council

Name:   Spencer Ashburn
Address: 4608 Hawthorne Dr
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone:
Fax:
Email: spencer.ashburn@gmail.com

Comment or Question:
An increase in the tax on cell phones is unacceptable!! Please save us from this injustice!!
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Bob Hall
Address: 800 Lakewood Dr.
City: Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: 402-310-3775
Fax: 
Email: bobcat@inebraska.com

Comment or Question:
8/4/09

To: Council@lincoln.ne.gov

From: Bob Hall

Re: Off-premise advertising

Dear Council Members,

I am a small businessman in the Lincoln area who has been in the real estate business for the past fifty years.

Within the past sixteen months I have installed a digital information sign on the Northeast corner of 27th and "O" street. This is an on-premise sign restricted to on-premise businesses that are located in the building.

Historically in order for a small business to avail themselves of off-premise advertising they must become involved with a company that has access to off-premise sites, which entails "BILLBOARD ADVERTISING" which is extremely expensive, and out of reach for small business.

As I understand, Robinson Outdoor Advertising Co. was one of the first to launch into billboards in the 1930's or early 1940's. This was followed by the Naegle Co. which was followed by Lamar. There were several small companies along the way that were absorbed by Lamar. My point is this LAMAR HAS A MONOPOLY ON OFF-PREMISE ADVERTISING. Is this fair to small business?

In my opinion, and other small business owners, why can't we share in off-premise advertising ourselves, and not have to deal with a monopoly, which by all rights should be declared unconstitutional.

Why can't the city council rewrite the sign code in such a way that very little of the existing code is changed, but that a new portion of sign code would permit on-premise signs to be an all-purpose information sign.

Here are my suggestions which would help small business, along with general information.
A. All new digital signs can not exceed 100 square feet in size.

B. There would be an assessment fee of $1.00 per square foot per year.

C. Grandfather all existing digital information signs.

D. Require that all digital signs donate some space for public information and non-profit organizations.

I think that it is important to remember that 90% of all business taxes are paid by small business. However, please remember that every time something is sold it generates a sales tax. It is a common conclusion that advertising is the engine that propels sales.

As we all know the economy is not very robust at this time, so why can't we all work together to insure that with a few small changes we can open up the advertising medium to reach its full potential.

Sincerely,

Bob Hall
800 Lakewood Dr.
Lincoln, NE
68510
cell (402) 310-3775
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Elizabeth Philson
Address: 4731 Old Cheney Rd. #7
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Comment or Question:
PLEASE reconsider this desire to raise cell taxes. It's all I can do to make ends meet as it is. Aren't there other, more pressing, decisions that you can make concerning the betterment of our fine city and state?
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Adam Sparling
Address: 5540 NW Tudor Lane
City: Lincoln, NE, 68521

Phone: Fax: Email:

Comment or Question:
Dear Council Members,

Please do not vote for a raise in Lincoln's cell phone tax. Hard working Lincolmites can't afford to suffer tax hikes. Sometimes I wonder what will be taxed next.
It is my understanding that there is a small vocal group trying to impose their opposition to the Mayor's budget.

I am particularly concerned that this may affect our great library system, including having to close my branch library.

The South Street Branch is the gathering place for all, but especially the young and the old. To close it would mean many would no longer be able to walk to this wonderful educational, social, and entertainment resource. To many it would mean no accessible access to a facility of learning, entertainment, and social contact. A half per cent increase in the telecommunications tax is not too much to ask from the citizens of Lincoln. If all else fails, please cut library hours of all libraries to cover cost of keeping all facilities open.

Respectfully

Sara and Robert I Friedman
1990 Ryons Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-3863
The Importance of Direct Learning with Nature.

Nature inspires creativity in a child by demanding full use of the senses. Multi-sensory experiences in nature help build the cognitive constructs necessary for sustained intellectual development and stimulate imagination by supplying the child with free space and materials for children’s architecture and artifacts. (Robin Moore)

The core of learning is not the information being predigested from the outside, but in the interaction between child and the environment. Grade school students are being pushed to succeed in standard tests not to improve critical and abstract thinking. These bubble tests are stressing kids out.

Schools are cutting out recess and PE. These breaks are considered a waste of academic time. As a result 40% of 5-8 years olds have cardiac risk factors such as obesity.

There is a difference between teaching to a test, the information is stored into short term memory and experiencing and being immersed in the information then write or sketch out the experience and become bonded with that moment. The moment becomes part of you. This bonding facilitates long term memory.

Moving toward an interconnected Nature Education Movement is very accessible to Lincoln in the face of economic hardships. We have free natural educational learning centers like Spring Creek Prairie (on Tuesdays), Pioneers Park Nature Center and Nine Mile Prairie.

Sincerely,
Rosina Paolini

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2009
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
All the best Doug—

I know this note finds you at a very busy time. May it be some of your lighter reading.

The importance of direct learning in natural educational areas is of great importance to our future stewards of this earth... our children.

Enclosed explains the importance of learning in natural areas.

Sincerely, [Signature]
Please vote against any telecommunications tax increases on my cell phone or land line! I am completely against this increase!

Chuck Lien
Partner Relationship Executive | Payment Systems

THIS COMMUNICATION MAY CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND/OR OTHERWISE PROPRIETARY MATERIAL and is thus for use only by the intended recipient. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the e-mail and its attachments from all computers.
Please have each of the council members vote against any telecommunications tax increases on cell phones or land lines!

I am completely against this increase!
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Chad Baker
Address: 1810 Sunny Hill Road
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 4024329112
Fax: Email: chad_baker@windstream.net

Comment or Question:
I do not support any tax increase, cell phone or otherwise.

Please consider solutions that will help make our wonderful city run more efficient.
ADDENDUM
TO
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009

I. CITY CLERK - None

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL -

MAYOR -

1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of August 8 through August 14, 2009 - Schedule subject to change.

DIRECTORS -

HEALTH -

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Food and Water Borne Illness Higher in Summer.

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS - None

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL -

1. E-Mail from Chris Thody - RE: Keep access to Pioneers Park Nature Center FREE.

2. Material - RE: Agenda Item #32-09R-141 of 08/10/09 - Special Permit #09016 (Council, City Clerk Joan Ross, and City Attorney John Hendry received this material before Formal Council Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on 08/10/09)

3. E-Mail Statement from the LIBA Board of Directors - RE: Lincoln City 2009-2010 Budget.

4. E-Mail from Marge Schlitt - RE: Please do the right thing! Please raise our taxes this year!
5. E-Mail from Kelly Langan - RE: Urge you to not increase the business and occupation tax on cell phone customers.


7. E-Mail from GDB - RE: “Ballpark” shooting fireworks should be one of the items for a budget cut.


DATE: August 7, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule
Week of August 8 through 14, 2009
Schedule subject to change

Monday, August 10
- Mayor's Award of Excellence presentation - 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th
- Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable meeting - 5:30 p.m., Mayor's Conference Room, County-City Building

Wednesday, August 12
- National Health Week proclamation, awards presentation - 4:30 p.m., Peoples Health Center, 1021 N. 27th St.
- Open house and ribbon-cutting for Gallup's new Fallbrook Interviewing Center, remarks - 5:15 p.m. (tours begin at 4:30 p.m.), 425 Fallbrook Blvd.

Thursday, August 13
- Lincoln Electric System Smart Grid Educational Forum, remarks - 8:30 a.m., Grand Manse, 129 N. 10th St., Jasmine Room
Food and Water Borne Illness Higher in Summer

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department receives more reports of people ill with diarrhea or vomiting in the summer months than any other time of the year. With more traveling and eating out, either outdoor barbecuing or camping, it tends to increase the risk for food borne illness. Swimming in both private and public pools can increase the risk for waterborne illnesses.

Although gastro-intestinal illnesses caused by bacteria, viruses or other micro organisms can and do occur throughout the year, summer is the peak season for these types of illnesses. Because many of these micro organisms are spread by ingesting them through contaminated food, water, eating utensils, etc., it is important that people know how to prevent these infections, how to recognize and what to do when they suspect they or someone else may have this type of infection.

Gastro-intestinal illness, commonly called “GI” illness, is often characterized by fast onset of diarrhea and or vomiting. A person may or may not have a fever. Other symptoms may include stomach cramping, chills, headache, and fatigue.

If you have diarrhea or vomiting do not prepare food for others and do not swim until you have been well for 2 days (48 hours)

Anyone with symptoms of GI illness should stay home, drink fluids, rest and wash their hands frequently to avoid spreading it to others. When a person’s symptoms last more than 24 – 48 hours, or if blood is associated with the diarrhea or vomiting they should contact their health care provider. GI illness can be serious and can cause dehydration in some individuals, especially the very young and the very old.

Some common types of gastrointestinal illnesses seen in Lincoln are:

Salmonellosis: an infection with bacteria called Salmonella. Most persons infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most persons recover without treatment.

Campylobacteriosis: an infectious disease caused by bacteria called Campylobacter. Most people who become ill with campylobacteriosis get diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain, and fever within two to five days after exposure to the bacteria. The diarrhea may be bloody and can be accompanied by nausea and vomiting. The illness typically lasts one week.
Cryptosporidium: an infected person or animal sheds Crypto parasites in the stool. Millions of Crypto germs can be released in a bowel movement from an infected human or animal. Shedding of Crypto in the stool begins when the symptoms begin and can last for weeks after the symptoms of diarrhea stop. You can become infected after accidentally swallowing the parasite.

Giardiasis: is caused by a microscopic parasite called Giardia. The parasite is found on surfaces or in soil, food, or water that has been contaminated with the feces from infected humans or animals. People can become infected after accidentally swallowing the parasite.

Norovirus: the symptoms of norovirus illness usually include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and some stomach cramping. Sometimes people additionally have a low-grade fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and a general sense of tiredness. The illness often begins suddenly, and the infected person may feel very sick. In most people the illness is self-limiting with symptoms lasting for about 1 or 2 days. In general, children experience more vomiting than adults.

Shigellosis: an infectious disease caused by a group of bacteria called Shigella. Most who are infected with Shigella develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps starting a day or two after they are exposed to the bacteria. The diarrhea is often bloody. Shigellosis usually resolves in 5 to 7 days.

In most cases, GI illnesses such as Salmonellosis and Campylobacteriosis can be prevented by good hand washing practices, proper food handling and cleaning of surfaces where food is prepared. Persons who have symptoms of “GI” illness should not prepare food for others and be very diligent about using good hand washing practices.

END
Dear City Council Members,

I urge you to keep access to Pioneers Park Nature Center FREE to all who want to enjoy it. I am especially concerned with the idea of a fee for entering the wildlife loop drive. I've got home movies of that drive from the late 1950's and early 1960's, and I can't imagine it being unavailable to some young children who through no fault of their own could not see it because their parents just couldn't afford the fee.

A $3-4 fee may not seem like much, but when you add up what the cost would be for a family of 3 or 4 or more would be, there are simply those that can't afford the price. Additionally, there are going to be school groups that will not be able to experience the Nature Center. Many schools can barely afford to pay for the bus that gets them to the Nature Center, let alone paying a fee for each child. You might think that the schools can just ask for the fee from the parents, but again, there are some that would not be able to afford it.

Keep access to our Nature Center open. Allow equal access to this wonderful oasis that we've created in our great city. Help reverse the trend of Nature Deficit Disorder in our children by NOT charging school groups individual fees for each student. Allow them to continue to enjoy the Pioneers Park Nature Center FREE OF CHARGE!

Sincerely,
Chris Thody
Advisory Committee and Collaborative Partners

The advisory committee has been valuable in developing the policies and procedures, implementing training, and deciding what that training should include:

- Members of the Lincoln Police Department
- TASC (Targeted Adult Service Coordination); Lutheran Family Services/Houses of Hope
- Region V Consumers
- Region V Systems
- The University of Nebraska at Lincoln
- The Indian Village Neighborhood Association
- Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County

Stable Funding

Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) and in patient crisis management costs Nebraska behavioral health $5000.00 to $7000.00 per breakdown. The Rose House a model in Poughkeepsie, New York, demonstrated in a survey which covered a five year period of time that there was a 90% reduction rate in hospital recidivism.

- Ongoing state dollars from the Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health Services
- No city or county dollars are used
- Project approved by Region V Systems and the Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health Services
- Cost comparison for crisis versus proactive recovery:
  - Crisis Center $565.00 daily
  - Keya House (crisis aversion) $138.00 daily

Policies and Procedures

- National accreditation through CARF
- Safety (zero tolerance for violence, possession of guns, weapons, drugs, and alcohol)
- Staff is trained on emergency procedures (conducting monthly emergency drills on tornado, fire, bomb threats, and gas leaks)
- Options if outside services are needed (911, the Crisis Center, Bryan LGH, and local support groups)
- Peer Companions are highly trained, including:
  - Trauma informed care
  - Engagement Training
  - Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) training
  - Certification in First Aid and CPR
  - Healthy Boundaries Training
  - The CELT Leadership Academy
  - Safe TALK Suicide Prevention
  - Person Centered Care Training
  - Self Care Training
  - Two day emersion training with PEOPLE Inc. in Poughkeepsie New York
Good Neighbor Principles

- Transparency
- Inside and outside of the house will be maintained
- Involvement with the neighborhood society
- Open door policy with neighbors and Keya House committee meetings
- Peaceful and Tranquil setting

Reservation and Registration

- Requirements include:
  - Living with a behavioral health diagnosis
  - Adult over 19 years of age
  - Not in crisis
  - Be able to take care of yourself i.e. cooking and personal hygiene
  - Not be physically sick
  - Not be a convicted sex offender
- Guest reserve a room and have an initial screening, with a telephone call
- Guests complete a further screening when they arrive for their stay

Oversight

Identify common measures with the ultimate goal being effective and efficient service delivery so as to be recognized as evidence-based practice.

- Region V Systems
- The University of Nebraska at Lincoln
- St. Rose College at Poughkeepsie, New York
Chad Magdanz  
Mental Health Association of Nebraska  
1645 N Street, Suite A  
Lincoln, NE  68508

Dear Mr. Magdanz:

I hope all is going well with the development of the Hospital Diversion House. Based on our last conversation I wanted to send you a formal letter discussing the issues that the local residents may have in the development of a service such as the one you are opening in Lincoln. As you know we developed a Hospital Diversion House here in NY eight years ago. We have since begun to proceed with a second house in another county in New York and have been searching for a suitable house.

When we developed the first Diversion House we had very little resistance from the community as we had explained to the community the purpose of the house. We explained that the house would have very little traffic and that the people seeking services preferred a quiet community setting where they could focus on healing from a potential psychiatric crisis.

Once the house opened we experienced no community issues or resistance as we made it a priority to be a good neighbor. There have been no complaints from the neighbors or community in the eight years that we have been in operation.

In the past eight years of operation we have had the police intervene at the house once to escort a guest out of the house who refused to leave. This occurred without incident. We have had EMT ambulance services called to the house 4 times and three were due to medical emergencies. One guest was transported to the hospital for a psychiatric emergency only to return to the house several hours later to complete his stay.

I hope the community can understand that guests self-refer to the house and there is no forced or punitive treatment within the house. People volunteer to enter the house to heal from critical issues and this has resulted in zero violence and aggression at the house. I hope that the community can learn from this program that mental illness is not dangerous and that there are ways to help people heal in a humane and compassionate environment.

If you need any further assistance with this project please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Miccio  
Executive Director

Projects to Empower & Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled
Mental Health Peer-Operated Crisis Respite Programs

Compiled by the National Empowerment Center, 7-28-09

National EMPowerMENT Center, Inc.

599 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA 01840
Phone: 800 POWER2U, 978-685-1494
www.power2u.org

There are hundreds of non-profit, peer-run organizations that operate on the belief that individuals who have struggled with the challenges and stigma of mental illnesses can and do recover.

Crisis is not defined as a negative experience but as an opportunity for growth, even in the midst of overwhelming situations. People describe crisis as chaotic, scary, a powerless feeling, having nowhere to turn, no one to turn to, not wanting to live, or feeling they are losing their ability to deal with their lives.

In times of crisis, people feel alone with their anxiety, panic, anger, frustrations and depression. One of the goals of peer-run crisis respite is to provide connections and relationships that can lessen the intensity of these feelings. These non-medical alternative programs offer a comfortable, non-judgmental environment in which one might be able to process stresses as well as explore new options. The hope is that these interactions will result in fresh, short-term solutions and a wider array of options for handling future crises.

The peer support process allows and encourages development of mutual and reciprocal relationships between the givers and receivers of support. It is important to note that, in successful peer relationships, both individuals are givers and receivers of support, enabling both parties to feel valued and empowered. When people feel respected and valued, they become empowered and are more able to move toward recovery. It is believed that this helps to eliminate the institutionalization and potential trauma that frequently result from psychiatric hospitalizations.

As people have an opportunity to stay connected to peers while moving through challenging thoughts, feelings and impulses, the need for external intervention is diminished. This alternative approach to handling crisis teaches people healthier attitudes about themselves and others. With increased skills, individuals can reduce or even eliminate their susceptibilities to the pressures that cause overwhelming emotional distress.

The Turning Point Community Crisis Residential Program in Sacramento, California participated in a research/demonstration project from 1993-1997 that compared cost and outcome to a locked, inpatient psychiatric facility.1 The study compared the effectiveness of the unlocked, mental health consumer-

managed, crisis residential program (CRP) to a locked, inpatient psychiatric facility (LIPF) for adults for severe psychiatric problems. Participants in the CRP experienced significantly greater improvement on interviewer-rated and self-reported psychopathology than did participants in the LIPF condition; service satisfaction was dramatically higher in the CRP condition.

There are many different types of peer-run alternatives to psychiatric hospitalization. Successful peer-run respite services are currently operating in New Hampshire, Maine, W. Virginia, Ohio, Georgia, Nebraska and two locations in New York. In addition, programs are being created in New Mexico, Vermont and Arizona.

**STEPPING STONE PEER SUPPORT & CRISIS RESPITE CENTER**
108 Pleasant Street, Claremont, New Hampshire 03743
Contact: Jude Dolan, 603-543-1388 or 603-448-6941; www.steppingstonenextstep.org.
Cost per person per day is less than $250.
Funded by NH State General Funds and Federal Block Grant.

Established in 1995, Stepping Stone is an active peer center open 7 hours a day Monday through Saturday with a variety of activities for clients and with two bedrooms for those who choose to stay as respite guests. People who choose to stay overnight from one to seven days and are welcome to bring their pets. This is an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization, serving individuals with overwhelming feelings including those who feel so badly that they do not want to continue living. Guests are free to come and go. Some continue to go to work and stay overnight at Stepping Stone. Guests bring and cook their own food and can have 24-hour peer support available to them. Stepping Stone Crisis Respite Program creates an opportunity for people to learn from, and be supported in making the transition from crisis to wellness. Within the context of a mutually responsible relationship, and with the help of consumer staff’s experiential knowledge and training, those who sincerely wish to overcome their difficulties can greatly reduce the use of more restrictive hospital settings, including involuntary admissions. All services are free to New Hampshire residents.

**SWEETSER PEER SUPPORT & LEARNING & RECOVERY CENTER**
174 Mere Point Road, Brunswick, Maine 04011, 207-373-4277
Contact: Scott Metzger, www.sweetser.org/peers
Cost per person per day is less than $300.
Funded by Sweetser and their Endowment of Mental Health and United Way.

Established in 2002 with 3 bedrooms for individuals; the average stay is 3.5 days. The Learning & Recovery Center hosts Maine’s only Peer Crisis Respite Overnight Program. Sweetser, along with Stepping Stone and Georgia’s Wellness Center use an Intentional Peer Support model based on the work of Shery Mead, www.mentalhealthpeers.com. Sweetser’s peer services offer mutual support for people recovering from mental illness, substance abuse or a history of trauma. Crisis Respite includes a short-term stay at the Learning & Recovery Center in Brunswick, ME, recovery groups, art groups, complementary therapies and self-directed learning. A respite plan is mutually created between the possible future guest and a peer at the center when the client is doing well. It is Sweetser’s philosophy that it is easier for people to consider what works for them and is comforting for them when they are not in the throes of a crisis. Peer Crisis Respite challenges people to move forward through crisis, allows them to be vulnerable, feel strong emotions and consider those times an opportunity to grow and change.

**GEORGIA PEER SUPPORT AND WELLNESS CENTER**
444 Sycamore Drive, Decatur, Georgia 30030
Contact: Jayme Lynch, jayme@gmhc.org; www.gmhc.org/wellnesscenter. Tel: 404-371-1414, Warm
Line: 888-945-1414, 24 hours a day. Funded by the Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Mental Health, Consumer Relations and Recovery Section.

The Peer Support and Wellness Center is a peer-run alternative to traditional mental health day services and psychiatric hospitalization that opened January 30, 2008. A 24-hour warmline for peer support over the phone is available. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. seven days per week for wellness activities that many people attend. The Peer Support and Wellness Center has three respite bedrooms, which can be occupied by participants who need extra support for up to seven days and prefer not to be in a hospital setting. The Peer Support and Wellness Center is a project of the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network.

ROSE HOUSE HOSPITAL DIVERSION PROGRAM by PEOPLE Inc. Poughkeepsie, New York.
Contact: Steve Miccio at 845-452-2728 or Vanessa Turner at 845-795-2346
stevemiccio@projectstoempower.org; www.charityadvantage.com/people/RoseHouse.asp.
Cost per day: $657 for 1-5 people; $132 per person per day if house is at full occupancy.

Rose House is an innovative and unique "hospital diversion" model whereby persons seeking temporary residential care/respite care can stay from one to five nights in a warm, friendly, safe and supportive home-like environment where they are taught to use new recovery and relapse prevention skills. Rose House's services are designed to help 'at risk' individuals to break the cycle of learned helplessness and recidivism and to move away from what are often long histories of cycling from home to crisis to hospital, year after year. This is achieved through twenty-four hour peer support, self-advocacy education, self-help training and mutual understanding. In addition to the Rose House, PEOPLE, Inc. has developed a continuum of peer-operated services that are collaboratively integrated with the community mental health service delivery system; these include peer emergency room services, peer-run crisis support warmlines, and an in-home companion program. All services are free to recipients.

ESSEX COUNTY CRISIS ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM
Mental Health Association (MHA), 6096 Route 9N, Westport, Essex County, NY 12883 Director: Darlene Trout, Darlenet@mhainnessex.org.
Funded by the NY State Department of Mental Hygiene and United Way.

This MHA sponsored consumer-run program has been serving consumers for 10 years with a peer-run warm line and crisis response service that has received considerable recognition and acclaim. The program is entirely voluntary. This program is part of the services offered by a Mental Health Association with a full range of non-clinical services such as supported housing, employment, self help, supported education, case management, etc. The Crisis Alternatives Program operates a respite apartment for people who would rather not stay at home but do not want to access hospital sources. These interventions generally last 2-3 days but have lasted as long as three weeks. A peer counselor stays with the principal. Services also include telephone companionship and in-home companionship. The goal is to be present with the individual until the immediate crisis has passed and the principal is able to articulate what should happen next.

FOUNDATIONS: A PLACE FOR EDUCATION AND RECOVERY
1330 Market Ave. North, Canton, OH
Contact: Val Greenlief, Coordinator, vlgfound@yahoo.com, 330-454-2888
Funded by the county mental health board, the Foundations program includes educational and support groups, training, and opportunities for volunteers to be part of the organization. People are referred to the program by their service provider and usually stay 1-3 days. Three respite bedrooms are available;
guests in the respite choose what they need to do for their own support and recovery. Many people become volunteer peer workers after being released. Suicidal people are referred to a crisis center. This is a clinically oriented respite program, overseen by the community mental health center and staffed by consumers.

NEW BEGINNINGS 2
WV MH Consumers' Association, 910 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV 25301
Contact: Kimberly Murphy, Director of Community Supports, 304-345-7312, kjmurph2000@aol.com
Funded by the West Virginia State Bureau and the state legislature. New Beginnings 2 is a transitional house for people who need intensive peer case management. Some of the bedrooms are reserved as respite. The program offers a continuum of support and wraparound services. The program philosophy is that “with a roof over your head, food on your table and some change in your pocket and you can start your recovery.” People are referred to the program from homeless shelters and hospitals in the catchment area. People are encouraged to find employment, volunteer, or seek addiction services if needed.

VOICES OF THE HEART, INC.
Glens Falls Hospital, Warren County, NY. Voices of the Heart, Inc, 508-747-8404,
www.voicesoftheheart.net, Respite Program/Hospital Diversion/Crisis Alternative Program
Available to individuals in the initial phase of emotional distress, the Respite Program provides a community-based alternative for managing stress outside of a hospital psychiatric setting. Trained Respite Workers provide one-on-one guidance in a safe and supportive environment. Workers also provide referral as needed if a different care setting is required. Respite is available to people 18 or older who live in Warren or Washington Co. and receive, or have received, mental health services.
Council,

Please see email and attachment. I will list this on the Directors Addendum for Monday. Thanks.

Tammy Grammer
City Council Secretary
441-6867

From: Andre Mick [mailto:andre@liba.org]
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2009 3:14 PM
To: Tammy J. Grammer
Subject: LIBA City Budget 2009-10 Statement

Dear City Council Members,

Please find attached LIBA's statement for the City Council's budget hearing on Monday, 10 August 2009. LIBA's President & CEO, Coby Mach, will be presenting an abridged version of the statement at the hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email Coby or me.

Best regards,
Andre'
To: Lincoln City Council Members
From: LIBA Board of Directors
Date: 10 August 2009
RE: Lincoln City 2009-10 Budget

The Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Board of Directors would like to thank Mayor Beutler and the City Council for their hard work during this budget cycle. The Mayor has proposed a budget with a .04% increase over last year, which is a remarkable accomplishment. In addition, he has eliminated 28 positions, most of which are currently unfilled.

LIBA has advocated the City reduce its 2 to 1 retirement match for civilian employees to a 1 to 1 match for new hires for several years. This reduction will save the City an estimated $2.2 million over the next five years alone, and will continue to compound the savings in future years, saving the City tens of millions of dollars. We sincerely appreciate the Mayor and some Council members’ willingness to make this change occur. We encourage the Council to formally adopt this policy before the City fills any positions.

Prior to the Council’s adopted budget recommendations, there was considerable discussion about cutting the number of libraries. Rather than ratcheting up the rhetoric about closing libraries (or swimming pools), LIBA thought it might be useful to look at the library management and staffing structure.

Lincoln’s eight libraries currently employ 16 Librarians (I-IV at a cost of $733,897), 13 Library Supervisors (I-IV at a cost of $662,127), and at least 47 Library Assistants (I-III at a cost $1.6 million), who have some supervisory responsibility, and 20 unclassified positions (at a cost of $316,123).¹ In addition, there is a Library Director and Assistant Library Director, who share five other staff members. These five staff members include:

- an Administrative Aide, who assists the Library Board and drafts press releases;
- a Senior Office Specialist, who is responsible for Personnel and HR forms;
- an Office Specialist, who serves as the receptionist and manages the meeting room;
- an Accountant, who is the business manager and approves the payroll; and
- an Account Clerk, who assists the Accountant and oversees leave forms and supplies (personnel budgeted expenditures are $593,721 for these 7 positions).²

¹ This analysis includes the Public Service Division and Support Division of the Lincoln City Libraries. See the City of Lincoln Mayor Recommended Annual Operating Budget 2009-2010, Library section, p. 8-9.
² City of Lincoln Mayor Recommended Annual Operating Budget 2009-2010, Library section, p. 4.
Based on this information, LIBA believes the Lincoln Libraries may be management heavy. LIBA would encourage the administrative personnel from the Lincoln Libraries to review the current management structure as the Health Department has done over the last year. To its credit, the Health Department has streamlined its processes, eliminated or consolidated several positions, and restructured its personnel step plan to reduce the number of automatic personnel advancements, all the while saving $100,000 and fulfilling its statutory and regulatory obligations.\(^3\) LIBA encourages Lincoln Libraries to do the same.

LIBA also cannot help but be concerned about Lincoln Fire & Rescue (LFR). Recently, the community learned that LFR needs an additional $300,000 to cover staffing for its 2009-10 budget due to misinformation used during union negotiations. LIBA believes LFR should cover this entire expenditure from within its current budget. We find this budgetary gaffe particularly egregious for two reasons: first, LIBA expressly opposed the minimum staffing increase because it diminished the Fire Chief’s authority, and second, the minimum staffing increase was sold to Council and the public as a revenue-neutral measure. Based on this new information, LIBA can only conclude one of two things: either the parties were completely disingenuous in their presentation or the parties were inept in their negotiation calculations. Neither apparent conclusion is something we would expect from our city employees.

LIBA is perennially concerned about StarTran and its constant strain on the budget. We would encourage you to consider using more 14-passenger buses, designing routes that serve a core area, restructuring operational hours so buses run at peak times and if possible, to consider designing a system based on customer-demand.

HBE Becker Meyer Love Accountants recently concluded an investigative report of all City accounts. Several of the accounts have balances including more than 3 months of reserve funds, which is generally thought to be an acceptable amount in accepted accounting practices. The City Council, at a 29 June 2009 pre-council meeting specifically heard more information about the Library, KENO, self-insurance, and the snow removal accounts. LIBA would ask Council members to pursue an acceptable explanation as to why so many of the accounts need more than 3 months of reserve of funds available. Secondly, while we appreciate the savings the City has realized with its self-insurance plans, we would ask that it develop a plan to efficiently use those funds.

This year’s budget will utilize $350,000 of SAR funds to help balance the budget. LIBA stands by its previous statement that any SAR funds should be used for the South Beltway.

Finally, while LIBA recognizes the benefits of increased revenues, we are concerned about the increase to the occupation tax (telecom tax) from 5.5% to 6.0%. Although sales tax revenues have been stagnant over the last five years and there is an estimated decrease in property tax revenue,\(^4\) LIBA is concerned about increasing a tax on an industry that has brought hundreds of

\(^3\) Presentation by Judy Halstead, \textit{For FY 2008-2009. Estimated salary savings from reallocation of vacant positions to a lower level, $99,922.}

\(^4\) \textit{City of Lincoln Mayor Recommended Annual Operating Budget 2009-2010, Summary Section, p. 18-19.}
jobs to the community. Rather than increasing the telecom tax, LIBA is offering three alternatives:

- **Vacancy Turnover Savings**—($400,000-$600,000) The City has stopped using a 5-year-old accounting policy that recognizes the savings realized when the City has job vacancies and turnovers. These vacancy savings occur when someone leaves their position. Until that position is filled, the City saves money because it is not paying for that position. The new hire often starts at a lower wage/salary, resulting in additional savings. LIBA's solution would be to eliminate the tax increase, and continue the tradition of vacancy budgeting;

- **Fire Department Contract**—($170,600) and **Mail Services Person** ($15,600 General 7 $10,400 Enterprise). A year ago LIBA supported Chief Ford's request for an administrative assistant. However, this year we cannot support additional staff to run the mail.

- **StarTran Reduction**—($400,000) In the past, LIBA has suggested reducing the StarTran budget by $1 million. This year, we are only asking for a $400,000 reduction if needed to eliminate the telecom tax increase.

This budget, because of restructured jail funding, does contain a $1.4 Million property tax increase. Please do not hit Lincolnites with an additional tax increase through the telecom tax.

In closing, we have heard the Mayor say, "We cannot cut our way to prosperity." LIBA would point out we cannot tax our way to prosperity either. LIBA understands the city sales tax revenue is down this year and the city wants to recover those revenue dollars. But look at the reason the sales tax revenue is down. Lincolnites are spending less, they are worried about job security, and/or are unemployed, and thus they are spending less. So why when sales tax collections are down, would you increase another tax to make up for it?

---

5 *City of Lincoln Mayor Recommended Annual Operating Budget 2009-2010, Fire & Rescue Section, p. 4.*

6 *Beutler proposes cutting workforce by 28, Lincoln Journal Star, 30 June 2009.*
Pride goeth before the fall. We all learned this at an early age.

Unfortunately, this is the situation facing the city of Lincoln right now as we are deciding how to balance the budget.

Remember in your campaigns for election when all of you pledged to not raise taxes? Who were you trying to please besides LIBA? Certainly not the average voter in Lincoln!

The rest of us believe that budgets should be based on the needs of the citizens and then we figure out how to pay for it. Raising taxes for everyone a small amount would be a lot less painful than tacking on fees for programs for children!

Please, please swallow your pride and not make the rest of us fall. Please raise our taxes this year!

Thanks!

Marge Schlitt
2600 C Street
474-0682
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name:       Kelly Langan
Address:    1644 Blackhawk Dr
City:       Lincoln, NE 68521

Phone:      
Fax:        
Email:      

Comment or Question:
As a citizen of Lincoln I would like to urge you to not increase the business and occupation tax on cell phone customers. The news media is reporting that the council is considering raising the occupation tax rate from 5.5% to 6% on wireless phone customers.

The citizens of Nebraska pay the highest cell phone taxes in the country. Most consumers in other states don't even pay a municipal business and occupation tax at all. By raising this rate you are adding to an already unfair tax on cell phone consumers that is well above the tax rate that consumers pay on all other goods and services.

I urge you to find other ways to fix the city budget without raising this tax.

Thank you,
Kelly Langan
As you go through the budget and look at the increases on users of the parks and rec system (the only system that is asked to pay for itself) remember that you are telling a 7 year old that he or she must pay for all the costs related to the activity that they have chosen to participate in. In contrast you have chosen for me to subsidize a builder and/or developer with my tax dollars for their utility hook-up and streets by not allowing the scheduled increases of impact fees to occur. These are adults who in many cases are driving large suv-type pickups that are a given a tax break by the federal government to purchase (a program that was designed for farmers by through the writing allows businesses to tap into this tax break). Many businesses in our area are cutting back on employee wages and benefits without asking the city to subsidize their bottom line (including my employer). If children are told they must pay-to-play then likewise the builders must also be told that they must, like the children, must pay the full cost to play.
oh please, i was just awaken by this noise. thought my neighbors was shooting their shotgun. now i think it was the 'ballpark' shooting fireworks. this should be one of the items for a budget cut.
Dear City Council Members,

My wife and I are writing to urge you to work with Mayor Beutler to keep Lincoln’s branch libraries and swimming pools open. Our family lives in a wonderful neighborhood in the heart of Lincoln near the South Branch library and Irvingdale swimming pool. Five years ago, we chose this neighborhood to live and raise our three boys for a number of reasons including the ability to walk to our school, to our church, local parks, grocery stores and, of course, to our local library and pool.

At any given time, we have 10-20 books checked out from the South Branch Library and we regularly ride our bikes or walk through our neighborhood to make our returns and check out more. While it may seem to make financial sense to create larger libraries serving larger swaths of the city, we believe Lincoln is diminished when you remove neighborhood destinations. It is one less reason for us to walk down our sidewalks and say hello to our neighbors, to introduce ourselves to the new family down the block. In short, we all lose an opportunity to bridge economic and cultural divides that often keep our neighbors anonymous and our city less connected.

We love this city and will continue to invest our time and energy to make it even better. We ask you to see the ongoing investment in these neighborhood programs and facilities as a long-term investment in the health of the city. Continued support of our neighborhood public spaces and institutions will pay dividends not only for those living in the area but also for the city as whole. These core neighborhoods surround our downtown where business and tourism flourish. If we compromise the livability of this area by reducing services, the heart of Lincoln will suffer as will the city’s reputation. Core neighborhoods with a strong social fabric will continue to set our city apart and be the engine to continued growth into the future.

We recognize that you are faced with difficult choices right now. We simply believe now is not the time to reduce key neighborhood services and we stand ready to pay for them. Thank you for your hard work and consideration as you finalize budgets for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Jason, Amy, Benjamin, Daniel & Charles Schmaderer
2025 Ryons Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance Budget Testimony for Aug. 10, 2009

Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance is a citizens group advocating that new city growth not be accomplished at the expense of older neighborhoods. LNA’s Plan for Action has the support of 21 neighborhood associations.

After the mayor’s budget was released, LNA approved a letter in support of the mayor’s outcome-based, citizen-led budget process.

LNA hopes city government will be able to build a popular consensus to stop cutting city services and begin matching revenues to expenditures.

LNA points out that political resistance to city tax increases is based on misunderstanding. Far from being burdensome, city taxes are probably the best bargain citizens get from government.

In 2006, the last year for which federal income tax records are available, 114,000 tax returns were filed from Lincoln showing adjusted gross income of nearly $6 billion. In that same year, the city collected total tax revenue of $124 million, or just 2% of taxpayer income.

City government is a target of taxpayer anger because it is accessible, not because it is expensive. Few taxpayers vent their frustrations on county, school, state or federal elected officials like they do on city elected officials, even though the other levels of government take greater shares of taxpayer income.

LNA believes that balancing the city budget year after year by cutting workers is unwise and has already lowered Lincoln’s quality of life. LNA believes that most of its membership would be willing to pay a minimal property tax increase to maintain a high-quality city.

To boost city revenue in the upcoming year, LNA asks the City Council to address the costs of growth by adjusting impact fees on new building permits. The previous council gave up at least $100,000 in revenue by waiving inflation adjustments for 2008 and 2009.

At present, the city collects only about 42% of the actual impact expenses of new growth. The city received about $1.5 million in impact fees in 2008 but at 100% it would have collected about $3.5 million. That means older neighborhoods subsidized new developments by about $2 million.

Finally, you probably all read Sunday that Deutsche Bank predicts 48% of U.S. mortgage holders will be underwater by two years from now. You probably all know that the vacancy rate for U.S. housing is still rising at 14%, the highest since the Great Depression.

Yet you will undoubtedly hear testimony – today and for as long as you serve on the council – that it is your duty to pave the way for still more growth.
LNA cautions you to keep in mind that both booms *and* busts are caused by the “irrational exuberance” of homebuilders, realtors and lenders. Only government regulation and sober planning can moderate the economic consequences for the rest of us.
I wish to register my displeasure to hearing that a fee is being considered for the facilities at the Park. As a 78 year old, 60 year resident of Lincoln, my children and grandchildren have delighted in the animals and the programs at this park.

As a last resort would it be possible to somehow make provisions for a low income family. I volunteered last weekend at the Backpack giveaway and was very impressed with the families that came but amazed at the number involved.

Teresa Sullivan
6144 Baxter Pl
Lincoln Ne 68516
 ADDENDUM
 FOR
 COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2009
 3:00 p.m.

I. CITY CLERK - None

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL -

MAYOR - None

DIRECTORS - None

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS - None

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL -

1. E-Mail from Maggie Aldrich - RE: In strong opposition to enacting a fee to enter the Nature Center area and trails and Pioneers Park.

2. E-Mail from Noel Rippe-Cermak - RE: South Branch Library.

3. E-Mail from Foster Collins - RE: Against fee on use of the Pioneer Park Nature Center.

4. E-Mail from John Brown II, Landons Neighborhood Association, President - RE: The stance the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance took on the present budget process.


6. Letter from Steve Meradith, Windstream Communications - RE: Opposed to the proposed increase in the Lincoln City Occupation Tax.


8. E-Mail from Rick Cleary - RE: City Budget, he would like to suggest something.
Hello,

I am writing in strong opposition to enacting a fee to enter the Nature Center area and trails and Pioneers Park. My family lives close to Pioneers Park, and we often go there for walking, playing, classes and events. I would be willing to pay more for classes (mommy and me, etc). I would be willing to pay more for Spooktacular, and other special events out there. I would not be willing to pay a fee every time I want to go to the Nature Center and enjoy it and the trails. I just simply would not go.

My family is on a budget, and parks are one of the “free or low cost” activities that we can enjoy weekly. I think that the Nature Center, and the entire area and buildings around it are wonderful. We are a middle-class family. If you start charging a fee to get into the Nature Center area, you would have to find a way to make it free for lower-income folks. Higher income folks will have no problem paying the fee. But, it puts a little more of a “squeeze” on us middle income folks, who make too much to get a free pass, and too little for it not to hurt. We are tired of being squeezed.

Please reconsider charging a fee to the Nature Center and its trails. A fee will ensure that you will get less people going there, therefore educating less young people in the great outdoors and what we have to offer outside in Lincoln. Studies show that being outside is immensely beneficial to people of all ages (think “Lincoln Safari!”). Please don’t put this burden on the middle and lower class families of Lincoln. Please allow us to continue to enjoy Pioneers Park in it’s entirety for free.

Thank you.
Maggie Aldrich
Hello. My name is Noel Rippe-Cermak; I am a homeowner residing in the Country Club Neighborhood with my family. I have actually lived in Lincoln all of my life; I have also been a life-long "patron" of the South Branch Library. I know some people may think that it doesn't look like much on the outside, but I think those people have never ventured inside this lovely literary dwelling. Due to its convenient location and accessibility to the varying cultural groups in our area (among many other things) this library remains a vital contributor to the quality of life of the people in my neighborhood, as well as for the surrounding areas!

I grew up at 15th and B, just south of the Capital building; as a child, every week my mother would take my brother and I to the South Branch to encourage us to read. I recall leaving the library, each of us with our own stack of books, feeling like we had accomplished something and that we were in for a real treat. One thing that had never occurred to me is the fact that we were so close to the Bennett Martin branch, and yet we were going over to South Branch - and I think I know the reason why. South Branch Library is a gem, especially for young families, because it is a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for young and old readers alike (not to mention those who have to chase the younger readers around). Today, my husband and I try to take our family there at least once a week, and we could not imagine a more perfect location than our very own South Branch Library. Interestingly enough, my mother has even purchased a Lincoln City Libraries membership, due to the fact she currently resides in another county, and comes in from out of town to visit the South Branch!

The Country Club and Near South neighborhoods are great communities residing in the heart of our city; I say this to remind you that we all do not live in the on the newer edges of town where there are bigger, flashier libraries. There are people residing in this older, historic neighborhood that utilizes the library for it multiple resources. Our library's presence, amongst the presence of all libraries - including the Bethany branch, is quite necessary. I am sure that you are aware in these times of economic difficulty, there are those out there trying to maintain their dignity in the face of unemployment. I have witnessed individuals using the internet to surf sites such as the Lincoln Journal Star for job listings, or even students (or hopefuls) applying and registering for classes at UNL to improve their chances on the job market. While I thank God that I only require the library for it's literary offerings, I am equally grateful that the South Branch is present for the individuals I previously mentioned.

As a taxpayer, I understand certain funding may need to be amended or even cut, but let's get our priorities in order! Worst case scenario you may slightly reduce the hours, or the days which the libraries are open, but UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO CLOSE THEM, or we will all have something to say about it. I know their is a small group of people riled up because we are facing a slight increase in taxes in order to maintain the South Branch and Bethany libraries, and I am here to tell you that other responsible citizens and I will gladly step up to the plate and pay a few extra cents per month to keep this a great city to live in!

I also wanted to say that I regret very much being unable to attend the City Council Meeting this afternoon at 2:30 PM because I am unable to leave work (the impending Fall Semester is quickly closing in). I still stand united with the individuals whom will be present, defending the very real need to hold on to the South Branch Library, as I stand with those fighting for the Bethany Branch.

Thank you sincerely for your time; my family greatly appreciates your considering the issue further, and the gravity such a decision.

Noel Rippe-Cermak  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
Registration and Records  
Canfield Rm. 107  
(402)472-3649
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
  General Council

Name: Foster Collins
Address: 2100 Calvert St.
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 402-420-2101
Fax: 
Email: foster@huskeraccess.com

Comment or Question:
I'm sorry I could not attend the budget hearing today. I urge you to NOT think of balancing the budget by putting a fee on use of the Pioneer Park Nature Center. I especially appreciated Dave Titterington's remarks. I also urge you to read Richard Louv's book, The Last Child in the Woods.
Thanks for your service, and your consideration of this important matter.
Foster Collins
To Council Members and Mayor:
Be it known that Landons Neighborhood Association was not notified as to the stance the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance took on the present budget process. Subsequently we as a neighborhood organization are not part of their position on the current city budget.

John R Brown II
Landons Neighborhood Association-President
2201 Elba Circle
Lincoln, NE 68521

Get back to school stuff for them and cashback for you. Try Bing now.
Dear Sirs-
I am concerned for the continuation of free services in my city, especially our Libraries and the Pioneers Park Nature Center.

Pioneers Park Nature Center is a preservation of the wild world that used to be free for the wandering...how can you even concieve of charging an admittance fee for this?
I am more than happy to pay extra on my phone bill to support this center and its educational programs that make such a huge impact on every visitor's understanding of our prairie ecosystem.
The programs of the center are every bit as important as the 3R's in our public schools, as an understanding and experience of the natural world that we live in makes us each better citizens and gives us a sense of the importance of every creature and the responsibility we have to each other and our environment.

Libraries within walking distance are an asset to our neighborhoods, as they serve as a place of community and learning.
They are a respite for young and old alike and an important resource for all.

Yours in service-
Kitty Fynbu
August 7, 2009

Councilman Doug Emery
City of Lincoln City Council
555 S. 10th Street, Room 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Councilman Emery:

I'm writing to oppose the proposed increase in the Lincoln City Occupation Tax from 5.5% to 6.0%. As you are most likely aware, the telecommunications industry is already one of the highest taxed businesses in the nation. Currently, we are required to bill and collect federal tax, city and state sales tax, 911 fees and a Telecommunications Relay Surcharge in addition to the local 5.5% occupation tax on telecommunications services, which amounts to approximately 20% in taxes and surcharges on a telephone bill. While the City Ordinance itself states that "there is hereby levied upon every Telecommunications Company an occupation tax," the reality is that this is a "hidden" tax on consumers. The tax amount we apply to a bill is exactly what a given city directs us to collect and, frankly, we receive no benefit and are uncomfortable in the role of being a tax collector.

From our perspective, the occupation tax on telephone service is a very regressive tax.

Finally, as customers' bills continue to rise, there may come a point when they have to decide whether they can continue to afford a landline phone, a wireless phone and cable service. Given these choices, they may decide to disconnect their landline phone, which greatly concerns us.

We appreciate there are tough budget decisions to be made and do not want to minimize that. However, we strongly recommend you consider the impact that increasing this rate may have and would appreciate your vote AGAINST the increase.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Meradith
Vice President – State Government Affairs
Lincoln City Council,

At the budget hearing this week, LIBA was asked if we had the previous years amounts for vacancy savings. I responded that we had sent an email request, but did not get a response.

Today I have learned that we were using an old email address SHubka@ci.lincoln.ne.us to try and reach Mr. Hubka. I have corrected our database with his new email. In the future, I also think it's important that we follow-up an email with a phone call.

It is also important to note that we were not upset that we did not receive a response, I was simply responding to a question.

History would show that Mr. Hubka has always been quick to respond to our requests.

Highest Regards, Coby

Pc. Mayor Beutler
   Steve Hubka
   Connie Hilligoss

Coby Mach
President & CEO
Lincoln Independent Business Association
620 No. 48th St., Suite 205
Lincoln, NE 68504
402-466-3419 - Office
402-430-5554 - Cell
402-466-7926 - Fax
www.liba.org
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Rick Cleary
Address: 315 Groveland Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 402-474-5422
Fax:
Email: ricstr343@yahoo.com

Comment or Question:
While the debate about the budget is ongoing I would like to suggest something. I'm not sure if it could even be done but it is something to think about. I was wondering if the city would consider renting out equipment to Lincoln residents for weekend projects? Right now if I wanted to dig a trench or cut a tree or do a major remodel on my house I would need to rent equipment. It dawned on me the other day (when I needed a Bobcat and could not find one to rent because they were already reserved) that it was a weekend and the City has all this equipment sitting in a locked up shop doing nothing. So I thought that since the City was trying to come up with ways to bring in more revenue why not rent this equipment out? You could rent it out just like the private sector and for the same price. It's just an idea. Thanks for your time. Rick