DIRECTORS'/ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA ADDENDUM

Monday, July 19, 2021

I. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

PARKS AND RECREATION

1. Sustainability of Lincoln's Community Forest – Community Forestry Advisory Board

II. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Concerns about pedestrian safety, and Lincoln Police response – Brandon Dunaway
   Staff response provided by Elizabeth Elliott, Director, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities
2. Homeless encampment – Gina King
   Staff response provided by Jon Carlson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
3. Historic Preservation Commission Letter – Greg Newport
4. Change of Zone 21020 – Mary Rosenberry-Brown

Angela M. Birkett

From: Lynn Johnson
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 8:43 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Jon D. Carlson
Subject: Letter from Community Forestry Advisory Board about Community Forestry program
Attachments: CFAB letter 7-13-21.pdf

Dear City Councilmembers: Please find attached a letter from the Community Forestry Advisory Board (CFAB) regarding the Community Forestry program. The CFAB initiated discussion of this letter during their regular monthly meeting in June, and approved the letter during a special meeting on July 13.

I would be happy to answer questions. Thanks, Lynn

CITY OF LINCOLN NEBRASKA

LINCOLN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
3131 "O" Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68510-1514
402-441-7847 fax: 402-441-9249 lincoln.ne.gov

July 13, 2021

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird
Lincoln City Council
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Sustainability of Lincoln's Community Forest

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and City Councilmembers;

We as members of the Community Forestry Advisory Board write to you with recommendations for consideration during preparation of the budget for fiscal year 2022-24. We recognize that the Mayor's budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year has been released and is currently under review by the City Council. Therefore, we are not seeking revisions to that budget.

We would like to bring to your attention some concerning trendlines for Lincoln's community forestry program:

- The number of arborists involved in routine maintenance of Lincoln's 83,000 public street trees has declined from 16 to 14 since 2005.
- The number of street trees increased by 20% between 2005 and 2020.
- The number of street trees per arborist increased by 37% between 2005 and 2020.
- The street tree pruning cycle increased from about eight years to about 30 years. Ideally the street tree pruning cycle would be in the range of ten to 12 years to effectively manage the health and condition of our public street trees.
- The annual number of calls for service to street trees has increased by about 50% between 2005 and 2020. Residents are waiting for a year or more for requests for routine street tree work to be completed because of the significant backlog.

(Please see the attached graphs of trendlines related to Lincoln's Community Forestry program between 2005 and 2020.)

We would like to note that at one time there was $100,000 included in the Community Forestry budget for contractual street tree pruning and removal. This funding was eliminated from the budget due to funding constraints. A good first step may be to reinstate this funding for contractual tree work on an annual basis to address the current backlog of work and to help move the community forestry indicators in a positive direction in the near term. Over the longer term, we believe that it is important to add staffing and equipment to the community forestry section.

The Community Forestry Advisory Board was established nearly 30 years ago pursuant to Chapter 4.54 of the Lincoln Municipal Code to advise the Mayor, the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Director regarding management of Lincoln's public trees (community forest). The Board is also responsible for assisting with developing and updating a written community forestry management plan. While there are a set of practices and guidelines that are used by the Parks and Recreation Department

in managing Lincoln's public trees, there is not a written management plan. We recommend that the Mayor and the City Council consider placing $70,000 into the Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2022-23 to fund contracting with a professional community forestry consultant to develop a written management plan for Lincoln's public trees. This planning effort will include community engagement including a survey of community residents, and involvement of stakeholders in management of Lincoln's public trees including Lincoln Electric System, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, the Lincoln /Lancaster County Planning Department, and Lincoln Parks and Recreation. We envision that this new community forestry management plan will be an implementation document guided by direction from the 2050 Lincoln Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan and the recently adopted climate action plan for Lincoln.

Our public trees are an essential part of our city infrastructure, and public trees are an important part of the strategies outlined in the recently adopted climate action plan for Lincoln. Like other public infrastructure, public trees require regular and ongoing maintenance. Trees are unique in that they are the only public infrastructure that increase in value over time with proper maintenance. Lincoln's public trees have environmental, economic, and social benefits with a calculated value to the community of nearly $12 million annually. Our public trees must be proactively and effectively managed to provide their many benefits to residents of our community. There needs to be ongoing investment in managing these public trees as our city continues to grow. It is imperative to pay attention to established neighborhoods to assure that they are not "deforested" over time as trees planted by previous generations age out.

We recognize that our elected officials are responsible for the challenging work of balancing the needs and desires of a growing community. It is our role to "speak for the trees" as an important part of what makes Lincoln a desirable place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

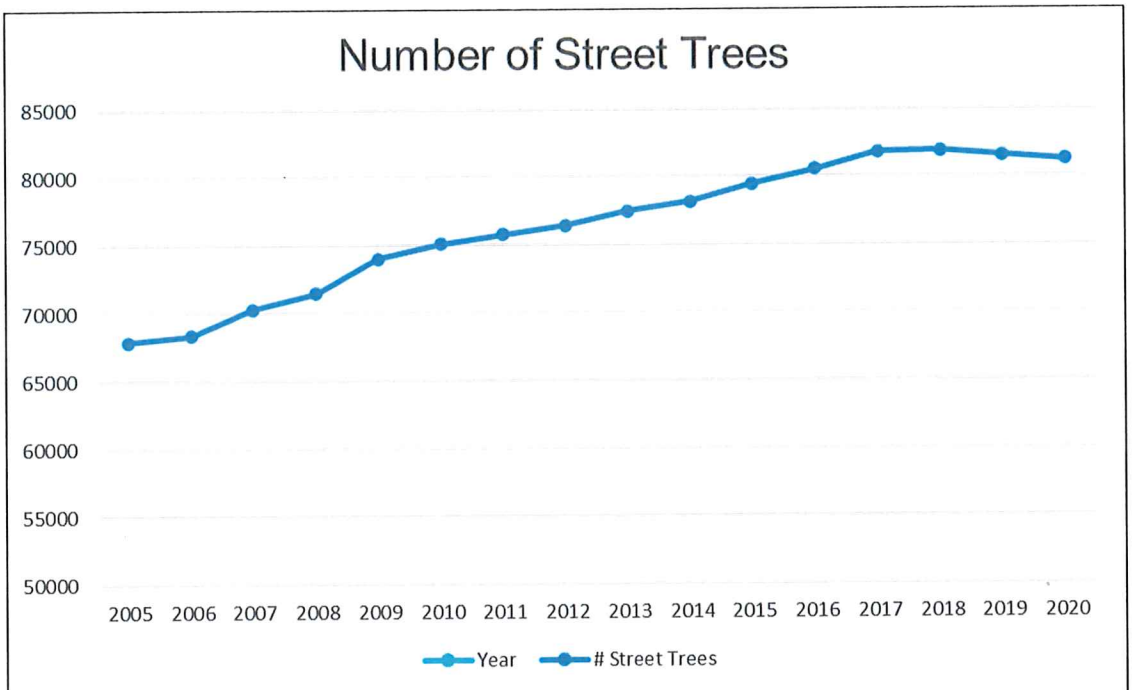
Jessica Gieseke
Community Forestry Advisory Board Vice-Chair

This letter was approved during a special meeting of the Community Forestry Board on July 13, 2021.

Cc: Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director
Lorri Grueber, Community Operations Forester

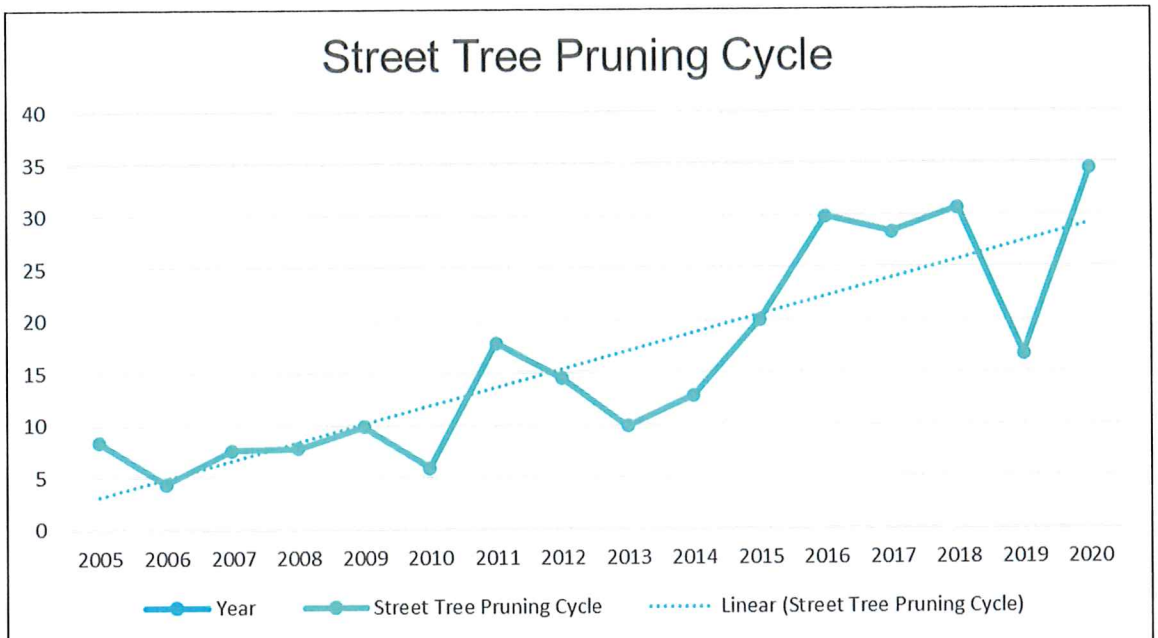
enclosure

Community Forestry Program Trendlines from 2005 through 2020

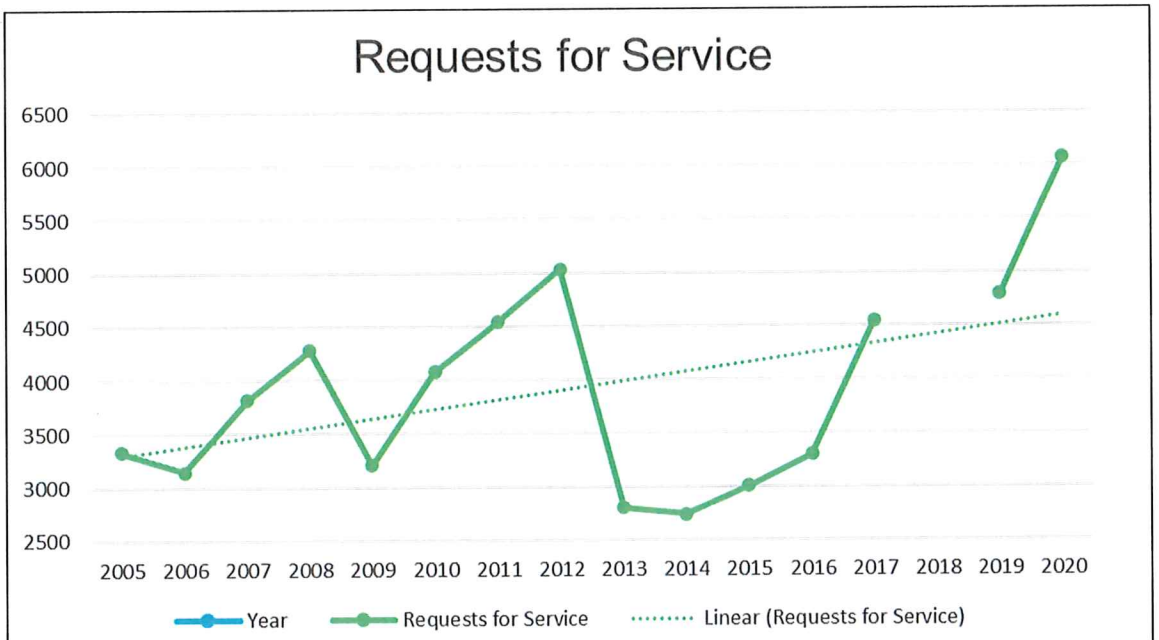


The number of street trees has increased by 20%.

The number of street trees per arborist has increase by 37%.



The street tree pruning cycle has increased from about 8 years to about 30 years.



The annual number of calls for service to street trees has increased by at least 50%.

Citizens are waiting for a year or more for requests for routine street tree work to be completed.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Elizabeth D. Elliott
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:09 PM
To: Tammy J. Ward; m.brandon.dunaway@gmail.com
Cc: Brian Jackson; James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; 'Richard Meginnis'; Jane Raybould; Bennie R. Shobe; Sandra J. Washington; Tom J. Beckius; Angela M. Birkett
Subject: RE: Concerns about pedestrian safety, and Lincoln Police response

Councilwoman Ward and Mr. Dunaway,
Thank you for reaching out to us about this intersection. I will have our traffic team look into this intersection and see what traffic control options we may have. This may take a few days, but I will make sure to respond to you by the end of next week.

Have a great weekend.

Elizabeth Elliott
Director of Transportation and Utilities | Administration

O: 402-405-3544 | M: 402-405-3544

555 S. 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

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From: Tammy J. Ward <TJWard@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:10 AM
To: m.brandon.dunaway@gmail.com
Cc: Elizabeth D. Elliott <Elizabeth.Elliott@lincoln.ne.gov>; Brian Jackson <LPD742@cjis.lincoln.ne.gov>; James M. Bowers <JBowers@lincoln.ne.gov>; Richard W. Meginnis <RMeginnis@lincoln.ne.gov>; 'Richard Meginnis' <RMeginnis@NAIFMA.com>; Jane Raybould <JRaybould@lincoln.ne.gov>; Bennie R. Shobe <BShobe@lincoln.ne.gov>; Sandra J. Washington <SWashington@lincoln.ne.gov>; Tom J. Beckius <TBeckius@lincoln.ne.gov>; Angela M. Birkett <ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Concerns about pedestrian safety, and Lincoln Police response

(*Please note corrected email for Mr. Dunaway)*

> Dear Mr. Dunaway:

Thank you for your email to the City Council regarding pedestrian safety, specifically your safety, the conditions of crosswalks and police response near your residence. We appreciate very much you have brought these concerns to our attention.

Included in this response for their reply is the Director of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities (LTU), Liz Elliott and Acting Chief of Police, Brian Jackson. I am confident they will respond to us at their earliest convenience regarding these important issues.

Thank you again for writing and bringing your concerns to our attention.

Tammy Ward

Tammy J. Ward
Lincoln City Council
Northwest District
o: 402.441.7515
c: 402.580.6611

From: Angela M. Birkett <ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:07 AM
To: Richard W. Meginnis <RMeginnis@lincoln.ne.gov>; Bennie R. Shobe <BShobe@lincoln.ne.gov>; Tammy J. Ward <TJWard@lincoln.ne.gov>; James M. Bowers <JBowers@lincoln.ne.gov>; Jane Raybould <JRaybould@lincoln.ne.gov>; Sandra J. Washington <SWashington@lincoln.ne.gov>; Tom J. Beckius <TBeckius@lincoln.ne.gov>; 'Richard Meginnis' <RMeginnis@NAIFMA.com>
Subject: FW: Concerns about pedestrian safety, and Lincoln Police response

Please see the email below received through Council email. Thanks.

Angie Birkett

Administrative Secretary

Lincoln City Council

555 South 10th St., Ste 111

Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone 402-441-6867

Fax 402-441-6533

abirkett@lincoln.ne.gov

From: Brandon Dunaway [mailto:m.brandon.dunaway@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:25 AM
To: Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Concerns about pedestrian safety, and Lincoln Police response

Hello,

My name is Michael Brandon Dunaway, and I live at 4301 N 7th St, APT 101, in Lincoln. My apartment complex across I-180 from Roper Park, which is a beautiful spot that I am thankful to have so near, and I take walks there often.

My concern is the danger of the crosswalks at the interstate exit, and the lack of Police response to cars that put pedestrians in danger.

I have summed up my story on a public Reddit post here:
https://www.reddit.com/r/lincoln/comments/oko285/good_to_know_lincoln_pd_doesnt_care_about/

If for some reason viewing that link is not possible, I can provide details in a different manner. However, I would like you to see not only my story but the public responses from other Lincolnites who have had similar issues.

I am not exactly sure what I can do to increase my safety during crossing, and unfortunately the Lincoln Police Department is not giving me any other options. I have literally asked the officer "What can I do to keep myself safe?" and have not been given any options. And clearly, they will not enforce the law in a way that deters the dangerous actions of drivers here.

I hope you can help me, as I am running out of options.

Thank you for your time, and please let me know if I can clarify or provide any other information on this matter.

Regards,

M. Brandon Dunaway

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Kind Regards,

Brandon Dunaway, PHR
703.785.2795

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jon D. Carlson
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:21 AM
To: 'rking529@yahoo.com'
Cc: Council Packet
Subject: Homeless encampment

Ms. King,

Thanks for your email and your advocacy to help people in our community experiencing homelessness. We agree that the dignity of all people should be respected – especially those struggling.

City of Lincoln outreach to people experiencing homelessness is continuous through our Lincoln Homeless Coalition partnerships and community service agencies. City departments like Urban Development, Health, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, Lincoln Police, and Lincoln Fire and Rescue all work with service agencies to connect people to housing and other support services available throughout the community. That work includes helping ensure people are not living in unsafe or unsanitary conditions. We also lead cleanup efforts on abandoned camps.

Several weeks ago, we had calls identifying safety and health issues in an area along Salt Creek which were confirmed by Lincoln Fire and Rescue and the Health department. Trash, human waste, and fire risk conditions in a homeless encampment along Salt Creek near the old railroad bridge were creating a health and safety risk to the people living there. This is a remote area with a high fire risk (brush, wood, grills, propane, gasoline cans). Access is very complex for fire-fighting equipment, and it would be very difficult to rescue individuals in case of fire. Our team met and began coordinating with service agencies through the Homeless Coordination to provide help.

Beginning two weeks ago, homeless outreach workers from Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach (MTKO) started contacting people in the area to connect them with housing and other support services. There are supportive housing programs and emergency shelter options available to those who need it. We work hard to get individuals to take advantage of those services, but they may choose to make other arrangements for themselves. The outreach workers and city staff talked with people in the area repeatedly to help them understand this area was not safe, other shelter was available, and items needed to be removed. Outreach continued and, late last week, MTKO and city staff found the encampment had been abandoned. That continued to be the case when we checked in on Monday and Tuesday of this week. On Wednesday, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, Health, and contracted crews began cleaning up the site.

I do not have any information that previous occupants had returned to collect additional items during the cleanup. Or are you saying that your group wanted to collect items from the camp?

The City of Lincoln works in partnership with community service agencies through the Lincoln Homeless Coalition. Housing, food, health, and other services are available from a number of sites and agencies. City teams and outreach workers contact individuals regularly to help connect them to those services. Our primary concern is to help those experiencing homelessness connect to the services that can help them and to help protect their safety and health. That is why outreach workers connected with people in this encampment prior to any cleanup occurring.

Thanks again for your email and your advocacy,

Jon

Jon Carlson
Deputy Chief of Staff | Office of Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird
City of Lincoln
O: 402-441-7224 | M: 402-450-1637

555 South 10th Street, Ste. 301
Lincoln, NE 68508

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From: Rae King [mailto:rking529@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Homeless camps destroyed

Good afternoon:

I am a community activist with 1humanrace. Our group focuses on the homeless population, as well as other community members on the fringe.

Today one of the encampment was bulldozed. Yes, it was on city property. I understand the concerns.

However, information from one of our members who was on-site is that no one was allowed to grab belongings. One of our members was not allowed to grab belongings.

I am not for sure which agency within the city handles bulldozing homeless camps. But I would appreciate discussion regarding allowing individuals or their advocates to grab possessions. As there are other camps, my guess this will come up again in the near future.

Can we show some dignity to our community members trying to just survive?

Gina King
2935 N. 53rd #4

Angela M. Birkett

From: Greg Newport <greg.newport@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: melissa@hrg-nebraska.com; 'Nancy Hove Graul'; jimjohnson_1958@yahoo.com; jimmckee@windstream.net; Greg McCown (greg.mccown@homerealestate.com); Dan Worth; David R. Cary; Stacey L. Hageman; Geri K. Rorabaugh
Subject: Historic Preservation Commission Letter to City Council 071621
Attachments: HPC Letter to City Council 071621.pdf

To All City Council Members:
Please review the attached letter prior to Monday, July 19th, meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me directly.

Thank you,

Greg

Historic Preservation Commission Member
Gregory D Newport, AIA
1954 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
(402)430-5631

greg.newport@outlook.com

July 16, 2021

Lincoln City Council
555 S 10th Street, Rm 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

To All Lincoln City Council Members:

On behalf of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Historic Preservation Commission, we are respectfully making the following request.

It recently came to our attention that a draft ordinance for change in zone for a large area known as South of Downtown was approved by the Planning Commission and subsequently forwarded to the City Council for review and approval. As the proposed change in zoning affects large portions of significant historic neighborhoods—as defined in the ordinance—the Preservation Commission feels strongly that it should have been invited to provide input into development of the ordinance for a variety of reasons relating to the responsibilities of the Commission.

We therefore request that action on the ordinance for change of zone 21020 (Item 7.g on the upcoming July 19, 2021, City Council meeting agenda) be place on hold for final action until the Historic Preservation Commission has had an opportunity to be engaged in the details of the ordinance as they relate to historic preservation of the impacted neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gregory Newport, Commission Member

Cc:

Melissa Dirr Gengler, Commission Member
Nancy Hove-Graul, Commission Member
Jim Johnson, Commission Member
Greg McCown, Commission Member, Chair
James McKee, Commission Member
Dan Worth, Commission Member
David Cary, Planning Director
Stacy Hageman, Planner
Geri Rorabaugh, Administrative Officer, Planning Department

Angela M. Birkett

From: Mary Roseberry-Brown <mroseberrybrown@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: CORRECTION ,change of zone 21020
Attachments: CityCouncilSODO71921pdf.pdf

Dear Angie,

Please distribute this letter to the City Council members for their July 19th meeting instead of the one previous to this one.

I apologize for inconvenience.

Thank you so much.
Mary Roseberry-Brown

CONCERNS REGARDING ZONING CHANGE APPLICATION # 21020
IN SOUTH OF DOWNTOWN AREA
JULY 19, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARY ROSEBERRY-BROWN

I would like to speak to some of my many concerns regarding Application CZ#21020.

1. The Application needs more guidelines for preservation of existing neighborhoods.

Our Lincoln/Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan states that strategy for commercial infill should, "avoid encroachment into existing neighborhoods during expansion of existing and commercial use" (p.5,14-5.16).

The targeted northern most neighborhood between D Street and H Street, contains the heaviest concentration of residential homes compared to the southern "Neighborhood" section of the area covered by the application. It has thousands of residents both in apartments and single family detached homes. Because of the highly residential nature of this area, its fragility, and its proximity to the Downtown, the Capitol, and the Governor's Mansion, greatest care needs to made in order to maintain its character.

One example of such care being taken to preserve the residential nature of a Mixed Use neighborhood is the Residential Mixed-Use Overlay in the Baltimore Detached Dwelling City Code. The only non-residential uses allowed in the district are "art galleries, arts studios, day care centers, and office space (12-1001 and 12-1002).

2. Provisions need definition and greater careful thinking.

Examples including but not limited to are:

—Under "Intent," Application 21020 states that, "the most intensive uses in this PUD will require either an administrative or full amendment to the PUD" "Less intensive uses will be allowed by right". When and how will this intensity be determined?

—"Small scale food and beverage production" is allowed. What is "small scale?' It needs to be defined. Even a mechanized cupcake business contained within 3,000 square feet could produce huge volumes of cupcakes needing a means of distribution and access.

—Outdoor restaurants serving alcohol would be allowed. Residents would not want to be sitting on their front porch with inebriated diners sitting nearby..

—The City Codes of Madison, WI; Wheat Ridge, CO; and Fort Lauderdale, FL among others, give very specific design standards for buildings within the Transitional and Mixed Use areas in order to encourage a residential design. No mention is made of design standards in Application #21020.

—Banks would be allowed in Application CZ#21020. Banks bring a decidedly non-residential, commercial nature to a neighborhood.

—Nomenclature: Application CZ#21020 provides that the neighborhood between F and H Street be called "Transitional District," and the area between D Street and F Street be called , "Multi Use District." It describes the two areas as "transition to the neighborhood to the south." This ignores that the thousands of residents who live in these two residential neighborhoods live in actual neighborhoods.

3. Application CZ#21020 states, “the Planning Director has the authority to interpret any provisions of this PUD.”
By contrast, the Baltimore City Code states in both the Row-House and Detached Dwelling Mixed Use Overlay Codes, “any change from a residential to a non-residential use of a property requires conditional-use approval by the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals.”

I maintain that to leave interpretation and approval up to only one person would make it too subject to bias. Because of the importance of these areas, any change from a residential to a non-residential use of a property should be subject to approval from a Commission appointed for the oversight of these important areas. An example would be the Capitol Environs Committee.

*****In conclusion, of any area in Lincoln, this targeted area most fulfills a description of a sustainable community. All of it is within easy walking distance of amenities and mass transit; and it has a wonderful atmosphere of respect for the many diverse people living there. It is also a fragile neighborhood.

Instead of Application CZ#21020, let’s build on the neighborhood’s strengths. A wonderful beginning has been made by the green space beautification of 11th Street. Let’s enhance that with more beautiful walkways in the commercial areas of 13th Street and 11th Street and elsewhere. Perhaps bring in more creative expression with a portable stage for theatre events, fairs, etc. Let’s get grants for people to fix up their properties.

All of this would build neighborhood. By contrast, many of Application CZ#21020 provisions would grate on residents creating a sense of unhappiness with the neighborhood.

It is our choice.