

DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, March 21st, 2022
555 S 10th Street
Council Chambers

I. MINUTES

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

1. BP220311-1 Historic Preservation Commission – Shelli Reid
2. AA Weekly Approvals – Alexis Longstreet
3. BP220315-1 Weekly Admin. Approvals – Shelli Reid
4. BPC220316-1 PC Action – Shelli Reid

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Fairness ordinance/council meeting – Marv Walker
2. EScooter permanent authorization – Tobias Pace
3. Vote on Fairness Ordinance – Catherine Habel
4. Fairness Ordinance – Katherine Becker
5. Oppose Gender Identity Ordinance – Neil Wheeler
6. Vote on fairness ordinance – Theresa Starr
7. Title XI – Natalie Weiss
8. Revisions of Title 11 of Lincoln's Municipal Code – George Wolf
9. Please don't rescind the vote on Title 11 – Marilyn McNabb
10. Please keep the newly revised Municipal Code – Maureen Ose
11. Municipal Code revisions – Laurel Van Ham
12. Protest fee increase for disposal in the Bluff Road Landfill – Elizabeth Erlandson
13. Title 11 Municipal Code – Ken Sntyder
14. Council Letter 3/16 – Eric Reiter

VII. ADJOURNMENT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The City of Lincoln Historic Preservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, **March 17, 2022**, at **1:30 p.m.** in Room 113, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, to consider the following agenda. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (402) 441-7491.

AGENDA

1. Approval of HPC meeting record of [February 17, 2022](#).
2. Opportunity for persons with limited time or an item not on the agenda to address the Commission.
* [Memo](#) from staff

HEARING AND ACTION

3. Certificate of Appropriateness for work at [801 O St](#), in the Haymarket Landmark District –*UDR22015*
4. Certificate of Appropriateness for work at [630 S. 28th St](#), in the East Lincoln/Elm Park Landmark District – *UDR22022*
5. Certificate of Appropriateness for work at 2917 L St, in the East Lincoln/Elm Park Landmark District – *UDR22023*
6. Certificate of Appropriateness for work at [645 N. 26th St](#), in the Hawley Landmark District–*UDR22032*

DISCUSS AND ADVISE

7. National Register nomination for [2109 S. 24th St](#), the Yates-Martin House – *UDR22025*
8. Discussion on Gold’s Building Redevelopment Project
9. [CLG Grant Application](#) for FY22-23
10. Misc. & Staff Report

The Historic Preservation Commission’s agenda may be accessed on the Internet at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Planning-Department/Boards-and-Commissions/Historic-Preservation-Commission>

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE

The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public’s access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Director of Equity and Diversity, Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, at 402 441-7624 as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request.

Memorandum

Date: March 15, 2022
To: City Clerk
From: Alexis Longstreet, Planning Dept.
Re: Administrative Approvals
cc: Shelli Reid, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from March 8, 2022, through March 14, 2022:

Administrative Amendment 22016 to Special Permit #18021 Hillcrest Community Unit Plan generally located at South 93rd Street and “A” Street to change the classification of Lot 13/14 of Block 9 on the approved CUP from Townhome to Single Family Attached/Detached Use.

Memorandum

Date: March 15, 2022
To: City Clerk
From: Alexis Longstreet, Planning Dept.
Re: Administrative Approvals
cc: Shelli Reid, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from March 8, 2022, through March 14, 2022:

Administrative Amendment 22016 to Special Permit #18021 Hillcrest Community Unit Plan generally located at South 93rd Street and “A” Street to change the classification of Lot 13/14 of Block 9 on the approved CUP from Townhome to Single Family Attached/Detached Use.

****ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION****

NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska. For more information, call the Planning Department, (402) 441-7491.

****PLEASE NOTE:** The Planning Commission action is final action on any item with a notation of *FINAL ACTION*. Any aggrieved person may appeal Final Action of the Planning Commission to the City Council or County Board by filing a Notice of Appeal with the City Clerk or County Clerk within 14 days following the action of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission action on all other items is a recommendation to the City Council or County Board.

The Planning Commission will be allowing testimony on agenda items by videoconferencing. For those who wish to testify by video, you must register with the Planning Department Office to participate by calling 402-441-7491 or emailing Plan@lincoln.ne.gov by 10:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. You will be asked to provide your name, address, phone number and the agenda item(s) you wish to speak on, and your position on this item. On the day of the hearing, you will receive a link via email, which will be needed to join the hearing to provide your testimony.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

[Commissioners Ball, Edgerton and Ryman Yost absent]

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held March 16, 2022. ****APPROVED: 6-0****

1. **CONSENT AGENDA**
(Public Hearing and Administrative Action)

ANNEXATION AND RELATED ITEMS:

- 1.1a ANNEXATION 22002, to annex approximately 50.53 acres, more or less, on property generally located at South 94th and Van Dorn Street.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL; 6-0 (Ball, Edgerton and Ryman Yost absent), as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated March 3, 2022. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

- 1.1b CHANGE OF ZONE 17030D, from AG (Agricultural District) to R-3 (Residential District) PUD (Planned Unit Development), to expand the Wandering Creek PUD to add additional residential area and adjust the lot layout of the Residential Transition area, with associated waivers, on approximately 51.53 acres, more or less, on property generally located at South 94th and Van Dorn Streets.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL; 6-0 (Ball, Edgerton and Ryman Yost absent), as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated March 3, 2022. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND REATED ITEMS:

- 1.2a COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE 22003, to review as to conformance with the 2050 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, a proposed amendment to the North 56th Street & Arbor Road Redevelopment Plan to identify the "Lincoln Logistics Redevelopment Project", to include construction of over 900,000 square feet of distribution space, on property generally located at 65th Street and Arbor Road.
Staff recommendation: In Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan
Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: FINDING OF CONFORMANCE: 6-0 (Ball, Edgerton and Ryman Yost absent), Public hearing before the City Council is currently pending.
- 1.2b ANNEXATION 22003, to annex approximately 109.79 acres, more or less, on property generally located at N. 70th Street and Arbor Road.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov
This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for a separate public hearing. Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL; 6-0 (Ball, Edgerton and Ryman Yost absent), as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated March 7, 2022. Public hearing before the City Council is currently pending.
- 1.2c CHANGE OF ZONE 22005, from AG (Agricultural District) to I-2 (Industrial Park District), over approximately 21.48 acres, on property generally located at North 70th Street and Arbor Road.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL; 6-0 (Ball, Edgerton and Ryman Yost absent), as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated March 7, 2022. Public hearing before the City Council is currently pending.

SPECIAL PERMIT:

- 1.3 SPECIAL PERMIT 22003 for an (ADU) Accessory Dwelling Unit, on property generally located at 14880 South 134th Street. The Planning Commission action is final, unless appealed to the Lancaster County Board. *** FINAL ACTION ***

Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval

Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 402-441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov

Planning Commission 'final action': CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated March 7, 2022: 6-0 (Ball, Edgerton and Ryman Yost absent). Resolution No. PC-01799.

2. **REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL:** **See Item 5.1**

3. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** **See Item 1.2b**

4. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

5. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

PRELIMINARY PLAT:

- 5.1 PRELIMINARY PLAT 04011A, for a preliminary plat amendment to show a revised street layout, with associated waiver, on property generally located at Waterford Estates Drive and Linwood Lane. *** FINAL ACTION ***

Staff recommendation: Approval

Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov

Planning Commission granted the request on behalf of the applicant for a 2-week deferral, with CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION scheduled on March 30, 2022

**AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM
NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO.**

Adjournment: **1:41 p.m.**

PENDING LIST: *CHANGE OF ZONE 21024, from B-1 (Local Business District) to H-2 (Highway Business District), on property generally located at 4615 Vine Street.*

From: [Marv Walker](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: fairness ordinance/council meeting
Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:32:39 PM



Since the needed number of signatures were met on the petition to force the fairness ordinance to be placed on the ballot or done away with all together, I was under the impression the city council would discuss the issue during your March 7th meeting and decide weather or not to have it on the ballot or trash it...but I see that it has not been discussed. Can you tell me if I have missed something?...was it decided upon and I missed the decision...or was it tabled until next meeting? I keep watching local news and nothing has been mentioned. Thank you Marv Walker Lincoln
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Tobias Pace](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: EScooter permanent authorization
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:05:08 AM

Council members,

As a person who lives and works near downtown Lincoln, I am encouraged to hear that you are considering permanently authorizing the use of electronic scooters. I have a few suggestions that will help improve the usability of these devices. First, I think the 10PM curfew should be removed entirely. My work shift ends at 11:30 PM, and I would like to use a scooter to get home rather than pay for parking. The curfew makes that impossible. Second, I think the operation area of the scooters should be expanded to include at least one large grocery store. Access to fresh groceries is a problem downtown, and scooters could be used to improve that access. Please consider doing these things to help make the scooters more than a gimmick, but a useful tool to improve the lives of downtown residents.

Sincerely,

Tobias Pace

From: [catherine habel](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Vote on Fairness Ordinance
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:15:56 AM

I'd like the opportunity to vote for the fairness ordinance.

Thanks,
Catherine Habel
6510 Artisan way. 68516

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Katherine Becker](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Fairness Ordinance
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022 3:13:32 PM

Good Afternoon,

I am asking that now that this important ordinance has been rescinded, you move to put it to the public to vote on. Please do not let this important ordinance die without allowing those of us who support it, and whom are directly affected by it as members of the LGBTQ+ community, have our voices heard as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katherine Becker

From: pastor@peacewaverly.org
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Oppose Gender Identity Ordinance
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022 3:49:10 PM



Hello, my name is Neil Wheeler, and I live in Lancaster County.

I am contacting you to ask that you oppose the proposed ordinance redefining sex to include sexual orientation and gender identity in Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. We can all agree that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Where enacted, these policies have been used to violate bodily privacy and safety and coerce uniformity of thought. Men who self-identify as female should not have unfettered access to private spaces designated specifically for biological women, such as restrooms and locker rooms. Disagreement is not discrimination. These policies take away constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and provoke intolerance toward people who have beliefs different from those in political power. Rather than being used as a shield against actual discrimination, these gender identity policies have been used as a sword against people who don't conform to one particular view on sex and gender. First Amendment freedoms and the privacy and safety of women should not be compromised by policies that empower the government to unfairly coerce those with whom it disagrees.

I respectfully urge you not to redefine sex in Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

From: [T.S](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Vote on fairness ordinance
Date: Friday, March 11, 2022 10:43:38 AM

Hello.

I appreciate the council's work on updating the fairness ordinance and I would like an opportunity to vote on this in an upcoming election. This ordinance directly impacts my family and the importance cannot be lost. Thanks.

-Theresa Starr

From: [Natalie Weiss](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Title XI
Date: Friday, March 11, 2022 1:57:15 PM



Councilmembers,

I'd like to begin by saying I am aware of the stress you all must be dealing with during this time. I am not envious of your positions, and thank you in advance for your time and consideration in reading this.

I have been intimately involved with discussions regarding potential introduction of "fairness ordinance" language before the City Council for years. I have extensive political experience and first hand knowledge of, and direct interaction with, voters in this city specifically on this issue. My opinions, while highly informed and coming from a person who inhabits the demographic this fight centers around, are not unique, and have been communicated clearly and repeatedly over several years to members of the City Council. One more time, I have decided it would be prudent to lay this out clearly for all of you, in a way you will all see, in this critical moment on this issue for our city.

Since 2018 it has been laid out clearly, by skilled and experienced experts, that this fight would be against an opponent that was highly organized and 100% ready. It was communicated clearly that they wanted this fight because they knew they had a chance to win. It was communicated they enjoyed funding, organizational, and logistical advantages that we do not possess, and that we had to be prepared as best as possible for a fight we had the advantage of getting to choose the time of.

The first piece of advice offered was the timing. It was communicated that a presidential year would be optimal, but failing that, an off state and federal election year municipal general would be a sufficient alternative. On this piece of advice, you all as a body have failed. You decided to introduce this during a gubernatorial election Democrats are doomed to lose and in a district where a highly contentious congressional race is happening. This timing has hampered the ability to effectively recruit campaign staff due to many of our limited pool of knowledgeable and capable candidates already working on other races, as well as our upper potential for fundraising due to the crowded circumstances. In terms of picking the right time, you could not have done worse.

Since 2018 it has been laid out clearly, by skilled and experienced experts, that this fight would be against an exceedingly well funded opponent. It was communicated clearly the funding range required for success was in the 200-500k range and that the 400-500k range was where we would have our best chances. It was communicated that 50% of the funds would need to be raised before introduction of any language and that our campaign had to have it's central staff hired and ready to go on day one. It was explained that this was required not just for the success of our ballot fight. This was also about being able to show the community that even though the NFA and our opponents were organized and holding press conferences, we were also organized and holding press conferences and just as ready to fight for this as they were. It was explained that this need was a life or death matter, and that it needed to be treated with the respect that demanded. This advice about the imperative

requirement for proper funding and organization before introduction of this issue before the city, was also ignored. On these pieces of expert advice, you all as a body have also failed.

In some discussions over the past several years on this, Sandra Washington and Tammy Ward expressed their opinion that they didn't think the NFA would be able to match their 10k signatures from 2012. In those discussions I personally told them both to their faces that it was likely they would double it. It is my understanding that they, and perhaps others among you, viewed mine and many others identical warnings about this as "emotional" and not connected with reality. The NFA just collected 18,501 signatures in 15 days. They had over 350 volunteers collecting those signatures. That's over 1,200 signatures a day for 15 straight days. They organized that effort in exactly no time. If any of you honestly think they would not have gotten significantly more than that given another weekend, if any of you think that signature count represents any more than 70% of what their total turnout would be, if any of you at this point are underestimating what that number means and represents, you are lying to yourselves, and you are the ones not connected to reality.

At every step of this, expert, measured, logical, factual, and amazingly accurate advice was ignored. This failure to listen has led directly to a situation where our opposition has been given the momentum and the mandate to control the conversation, yet another advantage that was communicated they could not be allowed to have. This failure to listen has led directly to the life threatening situation that was accurately predicted would occur. This failure to listen has led directly to the loss of life of a deeply beloved and respected member of my community, and of this city. This situation is a monumental failure of all of you. It was a gross dereliction of your duty as elected representatives to not follow nearly unanimous expert advice. That dereliction of duty is now something you must all deal with.

Yourselves as a body, on this issue have three horrible options to choose from as possible courses of action. You could do the same thing that happened in 2012 and choose to not address the issue at all and allow it to sit in limbo, which would make you look weak, disorganized, and inept. You could vote to hold a vote on this issue this year, which for the reasons described above would be disastrous, and make you all look weak, disorganized, and inept. Or, you could choose to take the only responsible course of action available to you in this moment, and vote to rescind, which would make you look weak, disorganized, and inept.

I think it prudent at this point to name clearly the reason all of you are now in this position. Sandra Washington is the person chiefly responsible for putting all of you, and all of us in this city, in this situation. It is she who most aggressively attempted to silence repeated, clear, consensus advice over a period of several years, from many more people than just myself. And to be clear, every single shred of that advice to this point has proven to be undeniably accurate. I think all of you needed that to be said to you clearly by at least one person, and I am glad to be that one.

Again, you have one responsible choice available among three horrible choices. But again, it is the only responsible one. You did not put in the work necessary. You did not listen to the right advice. You created a dangerous situation recklessly. You have one option to retain a semblance of being a responsible and capable governing body. You must vote to rescind.

Most sincerely,

Natalie Weiss

From: [George Wolf](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Revisions of Title 11 of Lincoln's Municipal Code
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2022 2:21:15 PM



I understand there's a movement afoot asking you to rescind your 5 to 0 approval of revisions to Title 11 of Lincoln's Municipal Code. I urge you to hold fast to this vital and necessary step forward in the ongoing fight for equal rights. This is no time to turn in the towel and abandon the values implicit in your original vote. To rescind will only rain infamy on Lincoln and its leaders. Now is the time to reiterate your original votes.

George E. Wolf
1226 South 25th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Marilyn McNabb](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Please don't rescind the vote on Title 11
Date: Monday, March 14, 2022 10:39:08 AM



The revision is well-crafted and brings Lincoln's Municipal Code up to date. There has been a campaign to reduce this proposal into a scare campaign about admission to bathrooms, which is silly and dishonest. Sooner or later the revision of Title 11 will be accepted and adopted. Let's try for sooner.

Marilyn McNabb
Dropseed3@gmail.com

From: [Maureen Ose](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Please keep the newly revised Municipal Code
Date: Monday, March 14, 2022 11:28:58 AM



I testified on behalf of the League of Women Voters Lincoln/Lancaster IN FAVOR of the new provisions in Title 11 of the Municipal Code. I am writing today to urge you to hold strong in the face of the petition to rescind or to schedule a public vote.
Thank you,
Maureen Ose

From: [Laurel Van Ham](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Municipal Code revisions
Date: Monday, March 14, 2022 1:08:37 PM

Dear Members of the City Council,

Thank you all for your service. Having attended many of your meetings, I am at least somewhat aware of the hours you put in outside of those meetings in research, communication and planning, all with the intent of keeping Lincoln such a wonderful place to live.

To that end, I strongly affirm the work you have put into the municipal code revisions. Your unanimous vote in support of the revisions was the right thing to do for our city. Now as you must again consider that decision, I urge you to have the courage of your convictions. Do not rescind the revisions.

Laurel Van Ham
4150 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68506

From: [Elizabeth Erlandson](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Protest fee increase for disposal in the Bluff Road Landfill
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:04:32 AM

Please consider adjusting the 5% increase. This is a burden on people who are on a fixed income. I would like to know why you deemed Ordinance 21122 necessary.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Erlandson
8017 Lowell Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68506
402.770.0405
erlandsone@gmail.com

From: [Ken Sntyder](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Title 11 Municipal Code
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 6:21:42 AM



March 14th 1835 the state of Missouri passed a law requiring all free negroes and mulatto to obtain a license to remain in the state.

Civil rights for all has been a slow and forward movement due to great efforts by many. I hope you can keep the movement moving forward by continuing to seek to give all citizens of Lincoln the full protections for their rights.

Sincerely,
Ken Snyder

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Eric Reiter](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Council Letter 3/16
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:38:53 AM
Attachments: [Council Letter 3_16.docx](#)



--

Mx. Eric J. Reiter | *Pronouns: they/them/their*
402-719-7490

reiter.eric.j@gmail.com

Context | Futuristic | Empathy | Input | Belief

Please know that I honor your boundaries and well-being; should you receive an email from me during your personal time of caretaking or rest, please feel empowered to wait to respond until your next work time. Prioritize joy and well-being where you can, and know that I will do the same.

Councilmembers,

Hello again. It's me with another one of my "long emails" to express how gravely disappointed I am in the comments made by several of you in the article from this morning in the Journal Star:

https://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/city-hall-lincoln-council-considering-next-move-with-fairness-ordinance/article_974f180c-529f-53a3-8304-989adcf8db7c.html?utm_source=journalstar.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=09bb4ea34f2a3a3dbfd3fb762de2536c5330eebb&fbclid=IwAR248X0fAPvSZqn6uq2Hr0dLGXNE1c3IK-4T8MhS7DIEksVwXtGAR8tSdj0. I am specifically referencing the comments made by Councilwoman Raybould and Councilwoman Ward.

From Councilwoman Ward: *"We're hearing from both sides now. I go back and forth on the right thing to do ... it's a very difficult dilemma, because we want to protect those who rightfully are concerned, but on the other hand, I think we have a responsibility as leaders and elected officials to also protect civil rights, human rights."*

Is it not the human right of trans people in this community to not be inundated with hateful rhetoric that reduces us down to conservative talking points while also not receiving the support we need? Is it not our civil right to have our lives prioritized over political hubris? Is protecting our lives not enough of a reason to pause this process from going forward?

From Councilwoman Raybould: *"Councilwoman Jane Raybould said it's important to find ways to protect the transgender community, but she wants to move forward to a vote, and believes the calls to rescind are coming from a vocal minority. 'We cannot let hate have a place in our city,' she said."*

I personally find this insulting. There should never be a "but" following "it's important to find ways to protect the transgender community". I take particular umbrage with the insinuation that calls to rescind are in opposition to eliminating hate in Lincoln. If trans people were truly listened to throughout this process, it would be clear that hate already has a place here. It has only grown and become more vocal since this ordinance was introduced. And, for a council of folks who have claimed in their various political roles and offices to care about the voices of minority populations, I find it difficult to understand why being a vocal minority (a term I would dispute) is used as a cudgel against our position.

Let me reiterate how disappointing I found these responses to be. I will say I have appreciated the compassion and listening skills shown by Councilmen Bowers, Beckius, and Shobe in my personal conversations within them. I wish that had been my experience in general. As someone who has supported most of you with phone calls and door knocking in the past, I expect better from my representatives.

Considering there has not been a substantive response to the hateful rhetoric already spewed or to Milo's death, I think it is irresponsible to even consider moving forward at this time. Please rescind this ordinance so this can be done the right way and we can ensure safety for ALL Lincolniters.

Best,
Eric