

DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Monday, March 22, 2021

555 S. 10th Street

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. MINUTES

1. Approval of Directors' Minutes from March 15, 2021

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. Annexation Map 20013
2. Administrative Approvals from March 19, 2021 through March 15, 2021
3. Action dated March 17, 2021
4. Final Action dated March 17, 2021

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Fact Sheet

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1. Public Health Update provided by Pat Lopez, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

Suspended until further notice

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Council Members – Dean Steffensmeier
2. City Council meeting 03.15.21 – Shawn Trucke
3. Pot holes – Ron and Lynette Nash
4. Illogic of anti-healthcare medical people – Robert Borer
5. Youth Mental Health Protection Order – Sylvia Mandeville
6. Do not amend Title 11 – Gregory Swanson

VIII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO CLIMATE ACTION

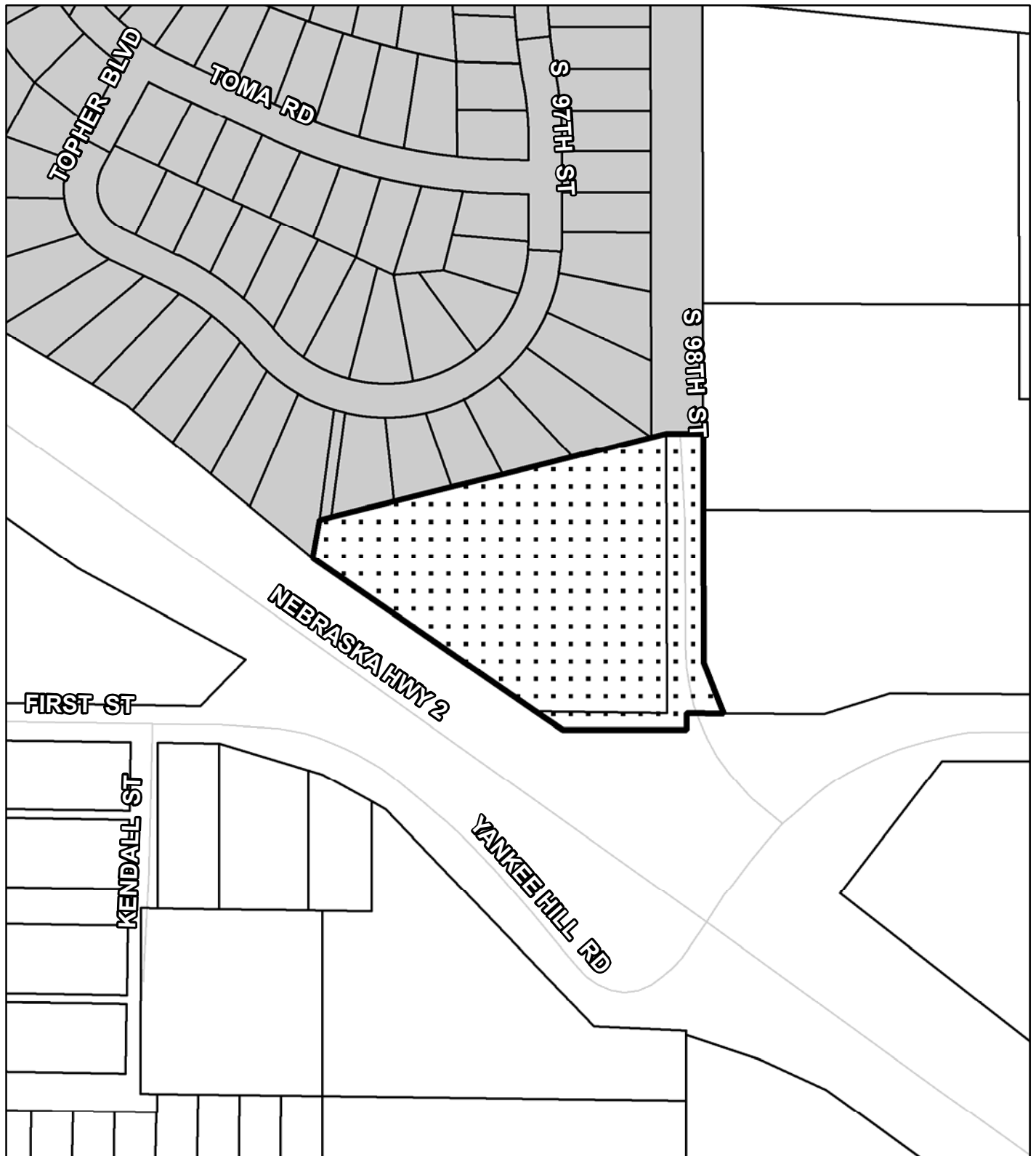
See attached items

IX. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO THE GATEHOUSE ROW PROJECT




See attached items

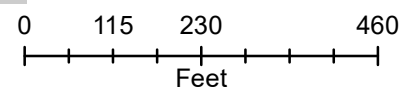
X. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

See attached items



**Annexation by Ordinance
S 98th St & Yankee Hill Rd
Effective: March 16, 2021**

-  Area of Annexation
-  Tax Parcels
-  City Limits Before Annexation





Memorandum

Date: ♦ March 16, 2021

To: ♦ City Clerk

From: ♦ Rhonda Haas, Planning Dept.

Re: ♦ Administrative Approvals

cc: ♦ Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from March 9, 2021 through March 15, 2021:

Administrative Amendment 20023, to Change of Zone 10018A, Nebraska Innovation Campus, approved by the Planning Director on March 15, 2021, to relocate UNL Track and Field site, updated the general notes regarding athletic facilities and update the grading and drainage information, on property generally located at Antelope Valley Parkway & Salt Creek Roadway.

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

NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 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.

In order to limit the number of people gathering at any one time and our effort to adhere to required “social distancing” protocols, we are staggering the times of various hearings over several hours. These times are identified in () next to each agenda item. We are encouraging attendees to arrive no more than 15 minutes before their scheduled hearing. An agenda item will not begin before the time posted.

****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.

For the protection of all those involved, 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 17, 2021

[Commissioner Ball arrived at 1:02 p.m.; all Commissioners present]

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held March 3, 2021. ****APPROVED: 8-0; (Ball absent)****

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

- 1.1 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE 21005, to amend the City of Lincoln's 6-Year Capital Improvement Program for FY 2020/2021 to 2025/2026, to centralize Aging Partners facilities on the Veterans Affairs Campus, on property generally located at 600 South 70th Street.
Staff recommendation: In General Conformance with the Comp. Plan
Staff Planner: Paul Barnes, 402-441-6372, pbarnes@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: FINDING OF CONFORMANCE: 8-0 (Scheer absent). Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PERMIT:

- 1.2 SPECIAL PERMIT 450S, to allow Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital to amend their campus signage plan for new signage to include electronic changeable copy signage, with front yard setback reduction for signage, on property generally located at 5401 South Street.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL: 8-0 (Scheer absent), as set forth in the staff report dated March 4, 2021. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
- 1.3 SPECIAL PERMIT 1327B, to allow for an additional 18-hole mini-golf course and for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises, on property generally located at 5901 South 56th Street. *** FINAL ACTION ***
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission 'final action': CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated March 3, 2021: 8-0, (Scheer absent). Resolution No. PC-01747.
- 1.4 SPECIAL PERMIT 21008, to allow for the sale of alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises, on property generally located at 1433 Dahlberg Drive.
*** FINAL ACTION ***
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission 'final action': CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated March 3, 2021: 8-0 (Scheer absent). Resolution No. PC-01748.
- 1.5 SPECIAL PERMIT 21010, to allow for an AG (Agricultural District) CUP (Community Unit Plan), on property generally located at 5100 South 98th Street.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 402-441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the revised staff report dated March 4, 2021: 8-0 (Scheer absent). Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

TEXT AMENDMENT:

- 1.6 TEXT AMENDMENT 21001, to amend Title 27, Chapter 27.69.260 regarding signage regulations pertaining to Nonresidential Healthcare Facilities to allow for electronic changeable copy signs; and repealing Section 27.69.260 of the Lincoln Municipal Code as hitherto existing.

Staff recommendation: Approval

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

Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 8-0. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

STREET AND ALLEY VACATION:

- 1.7 STREET & ALLEY VACATION 21001, to vacate portions of the following rights-of-way: the T Street right-of-way located east of the former east right-of-way line of N. 36th Street and north of Lots 8-14, Roger's Subdivision of Lot 2, Block 7, Ridgeway and south of Lots 1-7, Roger's Subdivision of Lot 2, Block 7, Ridgeway; the seven foot alley right-of-way east of the former east right-of-way line of N. 36th Street and north of Lot 3, Block 7, Ridgeway Addition and south of Lots 8-14, Roger's Subdivision of Lot 2, Block 7, Ridgeway; the seven foot alley located east of the former east right-of-way line of N. 36th Street and north of Lots 1-7, Roger's Subdivision of Lot 2, Block 7, Ridgeway and south of Lot 1, Block 7, Ridgeway; R Street right-of-way east of the east right-of-way line of N. 36th Street located south of Lot 6, Block 7 Ridgeway and north of Lot 1, Block 20, Ridgeway Addition, all located in the SE 1/4 of Section 19-10-7, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at 3600 R Street.

Staff recommendation: Conforms to the Comprehensive Plan

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

Planning Commission recommendation: FINDING OF CONFORMANCE: 8-0 (Scheer declared a conflict of interest). Public hearing before the City Council will be scheduled when the provisions of Chapter 14.20 of the Lincoln Municipal Code have been satisfied.

WAIVER:

- ~~1.8 WAIVER 21002, to waive the requirement that every lot shall front upon and have access to a public street per Section 26.23.140 (g) of the Subdivision Ordinance, on property generally located at 1701 Windhoek Drive. *** FINAL ACTION ***~~

~~**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**~~

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

~~**This application was withdrawn by the applicant; therefore, no action was taken by the Planning Commission.**~~

2. **REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL:** None.
3. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None.
4. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:**

(** 1:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM: **)

CHANGE OF ZONE:

- 4.1 CHANGE OF ZONE 05061D, to amend the Southwest Village Planned Unit Development, for approval of a development plan which proposes modifications to the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, along with revisions to the land uses, site plans, grading and drainage plans, development plan, and other sheets, including adding a casino as a permitted use, on property generally located at South 1st Street and West Denton Road.

Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval

Staff Planner: Rachel Jones, 402-441-7603, rjones@lincoln.ne.gov

Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL: 9-0, as set forth in the staff report dated March 8, 2021. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

(** 1:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM: **)

SPECIAL PERMIT:

- 4.2 SPECIAL PERMIT 21005, to allow for an event venue, on property generally located at 22500 South 176th Street. *** 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 staff report dated March 4, 2021: 9-0. Resolution No. PC-01749.

* * * * *

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE SUSPENDING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ANYONE
WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM
NOT ON THE AGENDA UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

* * * * *

Adjournment 1:47 p.m.

PENDING LIST:

CHANGE OF ZONE 20029, from R-3 (Residential District) to H-3 (Highway Commercial District), on property generally located west of North 33rd Street and Schworer Drive.

PRELIMINARY PLAT 20004, for a new preliminary plat consisting of two lots, on property generally located West of North 33rd Street and Schworer Drive.

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION NOTIFICATION

TO: Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird
Lincoln City Council

FROM: Geri Rorabaugh, Planning

DATE: March 17, 2021

RE: Notice of final action by Planning Commission: March 17, 2021

Please be advised that on March 17, 2021, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution PC-01747, approving SPECIAL PERMIT 1327B, to allow for an additional 18-hole mini-golf course and for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises, on property legally described as Lot 67 and Lot 86, I.T., located in the NE 1/4 of Section 17-9-7, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at 5901 South 56th Street; and

Resolution PC-01748, approving SPECIAL PERMIT 21008, to allow for the sale of alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises, on property legally described as Lot 7, Vavrina Meadows 36th Addition, located in the SW 1/4 of Section 24-9-6, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at 1433 Dahlberg Drive.

The Planning Commission action on these applications is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a notice of appeal with the Planning Department within 14 days of the action by the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission Resolution may be accessed on the internet at www.lincoln.ne.gov (search for "PATs"). Click on "Planning Application Tracking Service (PATs)" at the top of the page, click "Selection Screen" under "PATs Tools" on the right side of the screen, type in the application number (i.e. SP1327B, SP21008), click on "Search", then "Select", and go to "Related Documents".



FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Fact Sheet

On February 25th, the FCC unanimously adopted a Report and Order that established the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, a \$3.2 billion federal initiative to help lower the cost of high-speed internet for eligible households during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program was created by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The Report and Order along with the rules governing this program can be [found here](#), but below are a few important facts:

What Is the Benefit?

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband services;
- Up to \$75/month discount for broadband services for households on Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.
- The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per eligible household.

Who Is Eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit?

A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- Qualifies for the [Lifeline](#) program, including those who are on Medicaid or receive SNAP benefits;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019 - 2020 school year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

When Can Eligible Households Sign Up?

- The FCC expects the Emergency Broadband Benefit program to be open to eligible households before the end of April, 2021. Please check the FCC's website, www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, regularly for the latest information.

How Will Eligible Households Sign Up?

- Eligible households will enroll through participating broadband providers or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Please check the FCC's website, www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, regularly for the latest information on the enrollment process.

What Broadband Providers Will Be Offering the Emergency Broadband Benefit?

- Many types of broadband providers can qualify to provide service in this program.
- The FCC is currently setting up the systems needed for providers to participate.
- Contact information for the providers participating in the program will be posted on USAC's website: <https://www.usac.org/>.

Outreach

- The FCC is excited to partner with those who want to help get the word out about this critical program. Please visit www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit to sign up to receive important updates and information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit program.

For More Information:

- Contact: Dave Miller, Director of Ethical Engagement (ALLO Communications)
Phone: (402) 781-4082. Email: dmiller2@allophone.net
- Note: ALLO will be offering 500/500 Mbps at *no cost* for those who meet eligibility requirements of this program.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Dean Steffensmeier <deansteffy04@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:40 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: City council members

As if this day, March 15th 2021, I will not purchase any goods in this city. I would drive 1000 miles to get one bottle of water. This city is FUCKED UP!

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: trucks1975 <trucks1975@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 7:07 PM
To: Roy A. Christensen
Cc: Council Packet
Subject: City council meeting 3-15-21 - what the public is really saying if you will only listen

I was at the meeting today, and even spoke at the meeting regarding the emergency declaration. I completely understand (and I think most citizens do) the difference between the emergency declaration and the DHMs.

Frankly I don't care that much about the emergency declaration and I don't think most citizens do. If you want the state and federal handouts...so be it. That is not a hill I personally will die on.

What you all are failing to realize is that people want the DHMs gone, but since the council won't wade into those waters at all, people are using the emergency declaration as proxy for that discussion. They want to be heard on the DHMs and no one will listen.

The health dept has complete, unchecked power in this regard and that is tyranny. Other city councils in other area cities HAVE voted on their DHMs and mask mandates, but Lincoln's city council won even touch the topic. Why? Do you really have no legal authority whatsoever to hold the mayor and the health department accountable? I don't buy it at all.

This is why people believe you are not doing your job and are passing the buck. I thought it was said that the only recourse is for the State of NE to sue the local health dept if we want this changed? Is that a challenge to the State of NE?

So, can I be any more clear? The never ending DHMs are the problem and the council must find a way to insert yourself legally into that process and not continue to sit on the sidelines.

I will be back at the end of the month to make this point in person before the council. I will do my research and I suggest you have the city attorney prepared on this topic because he clearly was not today. This is critical to how we move forward as a city.

Shawn Trucke

Angela M. Birkett

From: 1lnash@windstream.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:09 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Pot Holes

Dear City Council Members:

Would you please forward this message to whoever to get 1200 Cottonwood Drive to A Street **pot holes taken care of! This is a school street (Ruth Pyrtle).**

Sincerely,

Ron and Lynette Nash
1110 Cottonwood Drive
Lincoln, NE 68510

Angela M. Birkett

From: Robert Borer <robert.borer@doane.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:41 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: The illogic of anti-real-healthcare medical people

I asked a couple of your hired guns (aka medical doctors), on their way out the door last night after speaking at our council meeting, to show me where their boogeyman was. They said, "Come to the ICU."

I said, "I'd love to. But why should I have to go there to meet him? Didn't the people in there meet him out here in the public square first? Isn't the public square where most people meet him? I've been looking for him for a whole year, without a mask, and without being afraid to hang out with friends, family, and even strangers, like normal?"

"What's the secret? Do I have to let my health go to crap first, by eating and drinking lots of garbage, before he'll come near me?"

"I feel left out. What are you guys hiding?"

They just ran off. Scared, because I wasn't.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Sylvia Mandeville <somandeville@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 12:03 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

Hello my name is Sylvia Mandeville and I live in Lincoln at 7330 Logan Ave E. I am contacting you to ask that you oppose the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance that would violate free speech and religious freedom rights of councilors and their patients.

In a diverse and pluralistic society like ours, space must be given to people with differing views of how best to approach these sensitive issues. The City Council should not attempt to sanction the moral beliefs of its citizens with regards to human sexuality.

The proposed ordinance demonstrates hostility toward many of the world's major religions, including Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, that teach about the sacredness of our biological design. These are sincere people of good faith who should not be punished for holding different beliefs on human sexuality than those currently in political power.

A councilors shouldn't be used as a tool to impose the government's views on their patients.

I urge you to oppose the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance. Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Gregory A Swanson <GSwanson5110@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 12:22 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Do not amend Title 11

This is Greg Swanson at 5110 Foxglove cir, Lincoln, NE.

I strongly oppose the proposed "Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance" and ask that you would also since it clearly violates my rights to free speech and religious freedom.

Gregory A Swanson

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Angela M. Birkett

From: Karen Dienstbier <kdien@allophone.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Fwd: Fwd: In favor of the Climate Action Plan -Please enter it into the record
Attachments: City Climate Action Plan letter.doc

Dear City Council members, please find our letter below and in the attachment. We are thrilled to support the city's Climate Action Plan.

March 15, 2021

Dear City Council Members,

We wanted you to know how pleased we are to support the new Climate Action Plan in its first 6-year phase. The plan has a number of pieces that we believe will be good for our community. With the increase in rain and snow Lincoln experienced in recent years we are pleased to see that the plan includes major renovations in the area of the South Bottoms levy. Other areas in the city that have experienced flooding will be helped by this plan as well. Making grant monies available to help people in low – income areas winterize their homes is something that is already happening in the city, and we are pleased that it will be continued.

The use of electric vehicles in public transportation, and more charging stations around Lincoln should help decrease our dependence on fossil fuels. Those things will dramatically reduce our carbon footprint. We were delighted to see that LES has passed its 20-40 goals to cut green house gasses by 2050. The carbon sequestration project by the city's Sanitation Department is also far reaching in producing natural gas from methane by 2035.

We are very enthusiastic about the city's project for building a resilient local food system. The \$8,000 grant for creating urban garden spaces in low income areas in Lincoln will help to provide food security for people living in those areas of our city that experience food insecurity. Also, we really like the idea of sustainable farming on lands owned by the city. In all of this the city will be maximizing natural climate solutions.

Our notes remind us that we would love to see the city align their economic development goals with the climate realities that we face today, to ensure a thriving economy in the future. These goals fall under #'s 39 - 40 to 46 in the Climate Action plan.

Thank you for taking the time to read our remarks and to enter them into the record.

Best Wishes,

Karen and Richard Dienstbier

501 Dale Dr.

Lincoln, NE 68510

TO: Chairperson Meginnis and Council Members

FROM: Jean Petsch, Director of Advocacy & Industry Affairs
Associated General Contractors-NE Building Chapter

DATE: March 15, 2021

RE: Comments on Climate Action Plan to be heard at Public Hearing prior to Council vote to Adopt on Monday, March 22, 2021. Please make part of the official record.

The AGC Building Chapter is a leading association for the commercial construction industry. The Building Chapter represents 130 of Nebraska's top firms that build vertically in regional and national markets. About one-third of our member firms are located in Lincoln.

The Chapter supports overall efforts to protect the environment now and for future generations; implementation cost-effective, proven best practices in our daily lives to be energy efficient and environmentally aware; and believe we need a strong infrastructure to protect the health, safety and well-being of citizens. To that end we applaud the City for looking ahead and planning for the future. **However, we do have some concerns and specific comments that we feel need to be shared and possible incorporated into the plan.**

The three "big-picture" broad concerns that the Chapter has with this type of long-range, far reaching plan to reduce greenhouse emissions by 80% over 30-years is the consequential disruption it will cause:

- The requirements, regulations, and restrictions the Action Plan puts into place may increase the cost of construction to the point that private clients will decide not to build.
- Affordable housing will become a pipedream.
- Property taxpayers will be burdened with even more to fund than they are already at this point.

Also, to best of our knowledge, there was no input from the construction sector in the development of the Verdis Group Report.

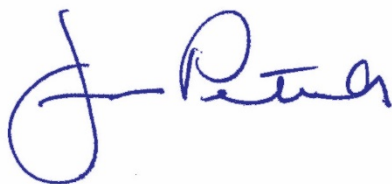
Specific comments to the [Action Plan Draft](#) follow. The number (#) items refer to the action items identified in the Climate Action Plan [Draft](#).

- Action Item #11- AGC Comment—As City completes a joint review of facilities, established efficiency and renewable energy goals and creates policies for reaching 100% net renewable/carbon neutral by 2035 they need to consider a **realistic cost-benefit ratio** for all actions. One way this might be accomplished would be to include Commercial Construction Professionals, along with HVAC/Mechanical Contractor Professionals in the process. This is a group of practitioners that have expertise and knowledge in the constructability and availability of given options that deliver energy efficiency at a realistic cost. Based on historical data, actual project data and best practices, this is a group of experts that is versed at weeding out the fluff and making sure that return on investment is achieved in the built environment.

- Action Item #16- AGC understands that this action item is dictated by State Statute. The 2018 IECC is already the state building code so the City must be at that level. Lincoln AGC members will participate in the already established Code Review Process.
- Action Item #43- Though not directly related to construction, securing a second water supply does add value to quality of life in the city, economic development efforts in general and residential and commercial developments in specific. AGC supports this as a higher-level priority over things like electric shuttles and regenerative agriculture production.
- Action Item #52- AGC questions what will be the impact of the Salt Creek Resiliency Study? All we know at this point is there will be an impact on development along the Salt Creek waterway. We support a minimum of flood control efforts for the area. Will there be federal and state funds to develop the Salt Creek Waterway in a similar fashion as the Antelope Watershed? A lot of unknowns here with lots of unfunded options.
- Action Item #87- AGC would strongly suggest the following changes as the City re-charters the Mayor's Environmental Task Force to support and align with the Climate Action Plan Vision:
 - *The previous (current?) taskforce had 150 members all volunteering to serve via their own decision via Facebook. We suggest a more strategic working task force of possible 18-24 members.
 - *The members should be selected to provide well-rounded representation of stakeholders impacted by the vision and goals of the plan.
 - *The commercial building construction sector should be given a minimum of two spots on the task force: 1 to a general contractor professional and 1 to a mechanical or electrical contractor professional.
- Action Items #95/#96- A planned approach to maintenance and replacement of trees in City makes perfect sense to us. Also, with the prediction for more severe weather events, it is prudent to establish an emergency response program for storm damaged downed trees. However, funding for this needs to be monitored closely. In our opinion funding for tree programs will always be a lower priority than many other program budget items.
- Given that it will take many years to recover the health, safety and security of citizens and the business economy from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic the highest priority of funds and actions of the City needs to be focused to that goal. Additionally, we have an affordable housing crisis in the City that needs to be a front and center goal for community leaders. With that in mind, AGC suggest that resources that might be allocated to Action Items # 42 ,44, 83, 110, and 120 and be reallocated into Action Item #55—Implement the Recommendations in the Affordable Housing Plan.

Lastly, I want to thank Ms. Esposito for the opportunity to have a very open chat via several meetings to exchange ideas and information on the plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean Petsch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jean" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Petsch".

Jean Petsch, AGC- Nebraska Building Chapter
402-641-3855 jdpetsch@windstream.net

Angela M. Birkett

From: Tim Rinne <walterinne@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:34 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Ingrid Kirst
Subject: Letter of support on the Climate Action Plan

Please make this letter part of the official record. Thank you.

Dear Lincoln City Council Members:

In a global food system where the average bite of food we Americans eat travels 2,000 miles to our plate, where we can eat whatever we want whenever we want it, and where urban residents in the U.S. view their role in the food system as strictly that as consumers (as 'eaters'), an emphasis on 'building a resilient local food system' might — at first glance — seem a little quaint.

But as the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated with its distribution bottlenecks and shortages, depending exclusively on distant, 'third-party' entities to provide all of our daily dietary requirements is a high-risk method for keeping everybody fed. Climate change promises to magnify those risks as existing food production becomes more uncertain precisely as a growing world population increases overall demand.

Food security, as our World War II-era forebears with their "Victory Gardens" and neighboring 'truck farms' well knew, begins 'at home' — with the local production of edibles suitable to the respective region and climate. It's a life-lesson Americans everywhere are once again needing to heed.

For the first time since the City of Lincoln adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 1948, 'food security' prominently figures into the proposed planning document. The "2021-2027 Lincoln Climate Action Plan" identifies "Building a Resilient Local Food System" as one of eight "Action Areas" with "Key Initiatives".

The initial steps outlined in the plan will not, in themselves, deliver a secure food system to Lincoln and Lancaster County. But they will lay the necessary groundwork to begin the process of re-building a local food system that can provide a good chunk of our citizens' local food needs.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Food Policy Council accordingly urges the Lincoln City Council to take the proactive step of adopting "The Lincoln Climate Action Plan" (with its unprecedented and timely emphasis on local food) into the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Boosting local food production and 'growing some of our own' enhances the likelihood that we'll always have plenty to eat.

Thank you.

Tim Rinne & Ingrid Kirst

Lincoln-Lancaster County Food Policy Council members

Tim Rinne's Home Address:

605 N. 26th Street

Lincoln, NE 68503

402-730-6675

walterinne@gmail.com

Ingrid Kirst's Home Address:

1666 Burr Street

Lincoln, NE 68502

402-730-2532

ikirst2@gmail.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Marilyn McNabb <dropseed3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:26 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Letter of support for amending the Climate Action Plan into the 2040 Comp Plan

Chair Bowers and members of the Council:

I'm Marilyn McNabb, 1701 West Rose St in Lincoln. I'm speaking for the Board of Wachiska, which is the local chapter of the Audubon Society. Wachiska Audubon represents 17 counties in southeast Nebraska. We are the local chapter for 985 National Audubon members.

The Wachiska chapter of Audubon supports the adoption of the six year Climate Action Plan into the city's Comprehensive plan for 2040.

Why do birdlovers care about climate change? National Audubon has done its own peer-reviewed study of the effects of climate change on North American birds. It found that climate change puts 384 species on the brink of extinction. The main reason is that climate change forces birds to change their range, and many cannot survive that relocation.

The climate action plan addresses the causes of climate change with its goal to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 compared to 2011 levels. It lists strategies that will increase use of renewable energy and reduce use of energy use overall through energy efficiency in both public and private sectors. Adopting and meeting these goals will contribute to the survival of birds and whole species of birds.

There is a second series of initiatives which directly affect birds. Numbers 99 through 109 hold up the value of native plants and trees. Using natives in the ways listed is invaluable to birds. Young birds need the caterpillars their parents bring home and there are caterpillars available only on native plants and trees. Also Wachiska has put a lot of effort into prairie preservation, starting with the work of Ernie Rousek to preserve Nine Mile Prairie. We are pleased to see

prairie restoration is supported in these recommendations.

I want to say a word about politics. We don't support candidates or participate in political campaigns. We're bipartisan. Audubon's 1.9 million members are 53% progressive and 47% moderate or conservative. 75% of all Audubon members, including a majority of moderate and conservative members, rank climate change as one of their top concerns among all issues facing America today. Audubon members, across the political spectrum, are committed to climate solutions that are durable. Audubon's leadership likes to point out that the birds are telling us there is no time to lose.

Please make this statement a part of the Council's official record.

Marilyn McNabb

dropseed3@gmail.com

Angela M. Birkett

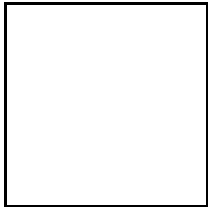
From: Miki M. Esposito
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Soulinnee Phan
Subject: FW: UNL student support city's climate resolution
Attachments: Climate Action Plan Letter_March15.docx

Please find attached a letter of support and corresponding email for adoption of the Climate Action Plan from the UNL students from Climate Change Nebraska.

From: Jennifer Sheppard <jsheppard4@unl.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Miki M. Esposito <MEsposito@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: UNL student support city's climate resolution

Hi, Miki. Attached is a letter from UNL students in support of the city's climate action plan ahead of your March 22 meeting.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your work on this. It means a lot to our students.
Jenn



Jennifer Sheppard
Assistant Professor of Practice
Graduate Faculty Associate
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
College of Journalism & Mass Comm
[402-472-3093](tel:402-472-3093)

March 15, 2021

Dear Lincoln City Council members,

We, the students of Climate Change Nebraska, strongly urge you to vote in favor of the Lincoln Climate Action Plan. Climate Change Nebraska is a depth-reporting class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a singular mission: to inspire and educate Nebraska citizens on a variety of important climate change issues.

For three semesters, over 40 students from across campus have scrupulously researched and written 23 long-form stories detailing Nebraska's climate change problems and solutions. The work on our website, climatechangenebraska.com, will be converted into a magazine to be used in middle and high school curriculums and distributed across the state.

As students, we are very passionate about preserving the environment for future generations, and there's never been a more important issue than climate change. We are speaking for the younger generation of Nebraska students who want to live in a sustainable and climate-forward city. As the capital of Nebraska, Lincoln can provide a positive example to other communities across the state. We fully support the Lincoln Climate Action Plan and look forward to one day joining the other 37 states with a climate action plan.

Signed,



Emma Hastings, Wahoo, NE, Broadcasting & Sports Media and Communication

Aila Ganic, Lincoln, NE, Political Science

Abigail Ridder, Logan, IA, Environmental Studies and Regional/Community Forestry

Lindsey Woods, Papillon, NE, Advertising and Public Relations

Lucas Rief, Omaha, NE, International Business

Sarah Damlo, Lakeville, MN, Marketing

Rachel Williss, Papillion, NE, Integrated Sciences
Libert Niyonkuru, Kigali, Rwanda, Integrated Sciences
Mia Hartley, Waverly, NE, Advertising and Public Relations, Political Science
Andrea Atkinson, Omaha, NE, Graphic Design
Anjali Nooka, Omaha, NE, Advertising and Public Relations
Amy Tran, Omaha, NE, Graphic Design
Chloe Schock, Falls City, NE, Journalism
Carmelo Lattuca, Chicago IL, Meteorology
Ryan Dean, Milwaukee, WI, Sports Media and Communication
Caitlyn Thomas, Papillion NE, Journalism
Lindsay Johnson, Aurora, CO, Ph.D. in Natural Resources: Specializing in Climate Assessment and Impact
Annelise Christen, Lincoln, NE, Advertising and Public Relations
Nora Lucas, Shawnee KS, Applied Climate Science
Grace Gorenflo, Shawnee KS, Journalism
Kat Woerner, Bellevue, NE, Economics, Environmental Studies, Natural Resource Econ
Brittni McGuire, Omaha NE, Fisheries & Wildlife, Urban Forestry
Andrianna Jacobs, Rochester, MN, Journalism, Psychology and Broadcasting
Kayla Vondracek, Lincoln, NE, Environmental Studies

Angela M. Birkett

From: Dakota Staggs <dstaggs2018@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Lincoln Climate Action Plan - official record (please)

Hello Lincoln City Council members,

My name is Dakota Staggs, I work with Beyond School Bells on Centennial Ave. My role is to develop and foster outdoor and environmental education programs with our afterschool partners across the state, including here in Lincoln. I am pleased to tell you myself and many other groups have already taken this plan and put it into motion to educate our youth and our peers. Thank you to the Mayor, Verdis group, and all involved to make that possible. As a former student of Lincoln, I can confidently tell you climate and environmental action are on the forefront of young people's minds in this city. I work with multiple groups who venture into the world around us both in thought and in practice - we are all concerned for what will become of it in the next few decades. I am also a former student of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UNL. Students spend hours each day studying and promoting potential solutions like those before you today, and I want to underscore the weight of what it means to us that this plan is before you. While not our work, it represents our future.

We have all faced an incredible challenge over the past year, but it pales in comparison to the unpredictable climate we face. I think we can all feel like we lost a year to social-distancing and virtual holidays, I definitely do. To me, that is how a future of an unchecked climate feels - like we will lose our future if we do not act. This plan gives me hope and purpose to continue fighting for our environment and supporting our students in it. Please vote to adopt this plan and invest in our future.

Thank you,
Dakota Staggs

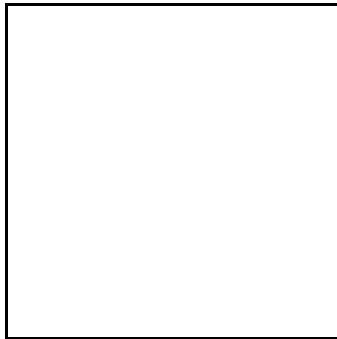
Angela M. Birkett

From: Miki M. Esposito
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Soulinnee Phan
Subject: FW: Resilient Lincoln Feedback

Support for the Climate Action Plan.

From: Resilient Lincoln <webhelp@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:51 PM
To: Miki M. Esposito <MEsposito@lincoln.ne.gov>; Mayor <mayor@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Resilient Lincoln Feedback

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.



Resilient Lincoln Feedback

Contact Us	
Your name	Ben Quinlan
Your email	bquinlan423@gmail.com
Comments or questions	No action is singular in what it effects. Even the smallest of gestures such as a friendly wave can greatly affect a person. Every choice of action a person makes matters, and the city council now has to make a choice that will affect the future of an immeasurable amount of people. We will not be the last generation of humans, and we will be judged on our actions by future generations.

	<p>One of the only things that we can currently guarantee about life is that one day we all will die. This means that we should take the legacy that we leave behind very seriously. We can either choose to change and be remembered as the generation that put forth the extra effort and protected the environment for future generations, or we can be remembered as fools who refused to ignore the warning signs of climate change for little reason other than our own innate human resistance to change. It is not easy to pave a new path, but it is absolutely necessary to ensure quality of life for millions of future people.</p> <p>Additionally, the city of Lincoln is in a particularly important position as part of a traditionally conservative region of America. The city of Lincoln and the city council can be a leader among conservative regions in the fight against climate change. At one point or another every community, city, state, and nation will be forced to change to accommodate our ever changing planet, and I personally want to be remembered as a leader of this movement rather than a reluctant follower.</p>
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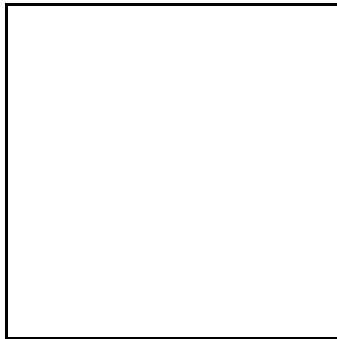
Angela M. Birkett

From: Miki M. Esposito
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Soulinnee Phan
Subject: FW: Resilient Lincoln Feedback

Support for the Climate Action Plan.

From: Resilient Lincoln <webhelp@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:39 PM
To: Miki M. Esposito <MEsposito@lincoln.ne.gov>; Mayor <mayor@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Resilient Lincoln Feedback

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Resilient Lincoln Feedback

Contact Us	
Your name	Olivia Hutchison
Your email	livhutch85@gmail.com
Comments or questions	As someone born and raised in Lincoln, the importance of the Climate Action Plan cannot be overstated, and the extreme weather of the last month has done nothing but make this more apparent. I am proud of the progress our community has already made to maintain a higher degree of sustainability, and hopeful for the impact the Climate Action Plan could have. But this hope can only stay alive if the City Council takes initiative

	<p>and implements that plan. It is my hope that the absolute necessity of drastic action has already been made perfectly clear--ideally, this entire comment is extraneous, and the City Council is already prepared to make the right decision. So many important choices come at a great cost, but no cost is greater than that which we've already started to see: catastrophic changes to the weather patterns causing immense damage and harm to our community, and communities all over the world. I sincerely and desperately hope City Council is ready to help Lincoln do our part to combat climate change.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
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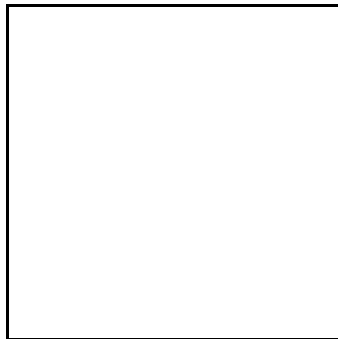
Angela M. Birkett

From: Miki M. Esposito
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: FW: Resilient Lincoln Feedback

Support for the Climate Action Plan.

From: Resilient Lincoln <webhelp@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:39 PM
To: Miki M. Esposito <MEsposito@lincoln.ne.gov>; Mayor <mayor@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Resilient Lincoln Feedback

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Resilient Lincoln Feedback

Contact Us	
Your name	Aila Ganic
Your email	ailag45@gmail.com
Comments or questions	I strongly urge you all to vote in favor of the Lincoln Climate Action Plan. As a city that prides itself on community, we cannot continue to let our neighborhoods suffer from the impacts of climate change without implementing action to minimize their harm. As a city that prides itself in its nature and green spaces, we cannot continue to actively harm the natural environment that makes Lincoln so special. As a city that wants to keep young people in Lincoln, we cannot continue to give a reason for

	<p>young people to leave. Lacking a climate action plan leaves the future of our city uncertain. The Lincoln Climate Action Plan, however, will protect our community and environment, while showing our young Nebraskans that Lincoln cares about maintaining a viable future. As a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I hope that my City Council members represent my fellow students and I well. This means taking action to mitigate the risks of an existential threat to our city. Lincoln is a resilient city. Enacting the Climate Action Plan will indicate that we are an innovative city that cares deeply about the wellbeing of its citizens, about the jobs that will be impacted by climate change and about the green spaces that are at risk of being harmed by climate change.</p>
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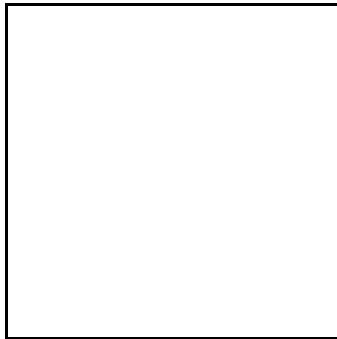
Angela M. Birkett

From: Miki M. Esposito
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Soulinnee Phan
Subject: FW: Resilient Lincoln Feedback

Support for the Climate Action Plan.

From: Resilient Lincoln <webhelp@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:26 PM
To: Miki M. Esposito <MEsposito@lincoln.ne.gov>; Mayor <mayor@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Resilient Lincoln Feedback

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.



Resilient Lincoln Feedback

Contact Us	
Your name	Sarah Damlo
Your email	sarahdamlo01@gmail.com
Comments or questions	I am in full support of the Lincoln Climate Action plan. I think Lincoln can set a profound example by taking this step to prepare for the next major climate-related event, and becoming a more resilient city. We have the opportunity to create a sustainable city for the generations to come, and it is our responsibility as human beings to be aware of our impact on the

	environment, and to be as resourceful as possible. I encourage you to vote in favor of this bill; there is no more time to waste.
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Angela M. Birkett

From: Miki M. Esposito
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:52 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Soulinnee Phan
Subject: UNL Letter of Support - For the Official Record
Attachments: UNL Support Doc.pdf

03/08/2021

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) is pleased to support the City of Lincoln’s proposed Climate Action Plan.

As an integral community partner, UNL has a large footprint of both real estate and population that contributes to the surrounding city. We play an important role in environmental impacts in Lincoln and benefit from those improvements. We applaud the bold climate action plan that City of Lincoln has undertaken towards energy reduction, decarbonization and reducing waste.

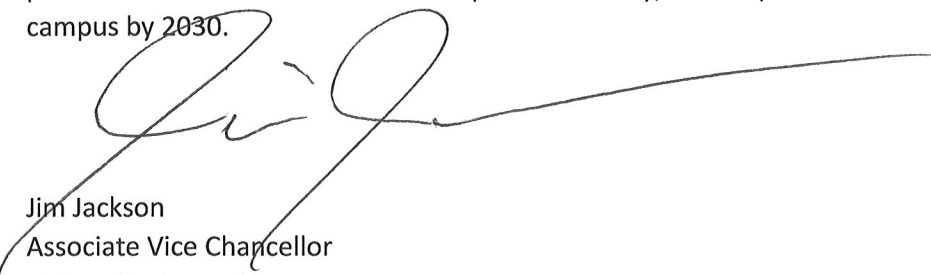
UNL is a leader in reducing the energy use among our peer institutions. Since 2004, UNL’s energy use index has decreased by 44%, while enrollment and research funding have both increased. UNL has the lowest energy use index of all the Big 10 Conference institutions, with 92 kBtu/SqFt compared to the conference average of 170 kBtu/SqFt.

UNL has achieved these metrics through good stewardship, innovation, and investment in smart building technologies. UNL’s unique building automation system allows us to optimize operation of building energy systems. UNL has also made significant investments in modernizing and improving production and distribution systems for district energy at the utility plants. Our two thermal energy storage tanks have reduced campus peak electric demand by about 8 MW.

Currently, 33% of UNL’s total energy mix is free of greenhouse gas emissions and 74% of our electricity is carbon-free. This is up from 52% carbon-free electricity in 2015 and has been achieved through cooperation and coordination with the Lincoln Electric System. We support LES’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2040.

UNL’s Sustainability Master Plan, adopted in 2020, promotes goals supporting the City of Lincoln’s Climate Action Plan through culture and structural changes that result in reduced energy use, decarbonization, reductions in waste generation and water use, increased resilience, improved health, and cooperation with the surrounding community to support larger sustainability goals.

Additionally, UNL has launched a standardized recycling pilot project encompassing the alignment of containers, labels, messaging, and collection processes on campus. The project aims to make recycling easier and more efficient at UNL, provide better education for the campus community, and help achieve University-wide goals of becoming a zero-waste campus by 2030.



Jim Jackson
Associate Vice Chancellor
University Operations
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

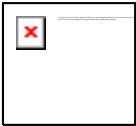
Angela M. Birkett

From: Donald Wilhite <dwilhite2@unl.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:58 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Miki M. Esposito
Subject: Letter of Support: Lincoln Climate Action Plan
Attachments: ECL Action Plan Support ltr.pdf

I am pleased to submit the attached letter in support of the Lincoln Climate Action Plan on behalf of the Elder Climate Legacy Initiative, to be discussed at the March 22 meeting of Lincoln's City Council.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Don Wilhite



Dr. Donald A. Wilhite, Professor Emeritus, Drought/Climate Science

School of Natural Resources (*Director, Emeritus*)
National Drought Mitigation Center (*Founding Director*)
714 Hardin Hall, 3310 Holdrege Street
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583 USA

Recent Book: Drought and Water Crises: Integrating Science, Management, and Policy, Second Edition, Donald A. Wilhite and Roger S. Pulwarty (eds.) CRC Press/Taylor and Francis Publishers. 2018.

Email: dwilhite2@unl.edu

Phone: 402.472.3471 (leave message with receptionist); Fax: 402.472.2946

Faculty profile: <https://go.unl.edu/donwilhite>



March 16, 2021

Dear Lincoln City Council Members:

The Nebraska Elder Climate Legacy (ECL) Initiative is pleased to support Lincoln's proposed Climate Action Plan. We request this letter to become part of the official record in support of the Climate Action Plan. As Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists noted recently, "we are sleepwalking toward a climate catastrophe and need to wake up and take urgent action" (NY Times, November 26, 2019).

ECL is dedicated to mobilizing the wisdom, talents, experience and resources of elders to influence and promote actions leading to a more sustainable environment for current and future generations. Since climate change poses an existential threat to all life on Earth, as elders, we are concerned about the legacy we are leaving our children, grandchildren and future generations. We must work together to address this threat at the local, national and global level. The proposed plan is a critical first step to address this threat and we applaud the city for its forward thinking in the development of this plan.

Members of the ECL facilitation team have been engaged in an advisory capacity throughout the development of Lincoln's Climate Action Plan. ECL encourages development of an implementation plan with status reports in order to monitor and document progress towards the goals stated in the Climate Action Plan. We are committed to continuing our involvement throughout the implementation process as the city strives to reach the milestones highlighted in the plan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald A. Wilhite
UNL Professor Emeritus, Climate Scientist
On behalf of the Elder Climate Legacy Initiative

Angela M. Birkett

From: Sharad Seth <seth@cse.unl.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Sharad Seth
Subject: For Official Record

I am writing to support adoption of the Climate Action Plan, which will have a hearing on March 22 at 3:00 p.m. I would like the following statement of support to be a part of the official record.

I write as a citizen of Lincoln and a member of the Green Sanctuary Committee of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. Two of the core beliefs of the Unitarian Church directly relate to the issue at hand: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. In response, we have taken actions to make our physical structure as green as possible during the recent renovation: by installing 98 solar panels and a geothermal system and sundry other improvements related to insulation, light fixtures, and storm-water drainage.

I have closely studied the Climate Action Plan and applaud the unanimous action by the Planning Commission to amend the 2040 Comprehensive Plan with Lincoln's 2021-2027 plan and Lincoln's Vision for Climate Smart Future. The key point of this planning effort, in my view, is the realization that with the changing climate, the past can no longer be relied on to linearly predict the future. This is evidenced by the increasing frequency of disastrous events in our city and the state in the recent past. Our infrastructure is in urgent need of improvement to withstand the impact of climate change. Inaction now will only make it harder and more expensive to act later.

To achieve the "80%by2050" goals, we need to act now and set shorter term goals, as identified in the 2021-27 plan and the vision for the smart future. Otherwise, the scenarios identified by IPCC for lack of action in time pose an existential threat to all life forms by 2100.

Thank you!

Sharad Seth

Angela M. Birkett

From: Lucas Sabalka <sabalka@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:09 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Lincoln Climate Action Plan

Please include this in the official record.

I rarely submit public comment, but I feel compelled to comment on the Lincoln Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action Plan before you has some concrete steps in it, but it is largely aspirational. It lays out a vision for where we should be going as a community. We will need much more specific actions from all levels of government to meet the challenges ahead. There are places where it could go further (specifically water management). It is important that implementation of such a plan does not jeopardize other values embraced by our community, including affordable housing.

However, there is still an important place for policies like the Climate Action Plan. You know my opinion is that climate change is the biggest long-term threat we face as a country and a community. Its impact on our resiliency, from extreme storms to our water supply to drought to much more, require a city-wide response. Sharing a common vision for our future is necessary for establishing our shared direction even if it does not specify the path we take. Declaring where we are going shapes a multitude of decisions, especially within the day to day operations and planning of our city government. A city goal tells our community of our values and of declaring we are willing to claim responsibility for our actions, working together for a better shared future. At the same time, it signals to the broader nation that we will do our part to address a global problem, and positions Lincoln for continued growth by being attractive to the younger generations making up the future workforce.

Key to the vision in the Climate Action Plan is the core strategic vision of 80% net reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. This is, in my opinion, appropriately ambitious while at the same time achievable without extreme burden on our community. The best response to climate change is to limit our contributions as soon as possible, but that must be balanced with our obligations to maintain reliable and affordable infrastructure for our citizens. This goal will require diligence and oversight from the City Council and other public boards overseeing energy, transportation, and building.

The board upon which I serve is the LES Administrative Board, though of course the opinions described here are my own. LES is one of the entities that will be implementing any steps to reach the 80% reduction by 2050 goal. This past November, the LES board declared its own decarbonization goal that goes further and faster than the city's goal. That unanimous decision was based on over a year of education, conversation, and thought. For me personally, my vote for the LES goal was based on a deliberate balance between ambitious reduction of pollutants and cautiousness around the feasibility and affordability of the transition. Based on the projections I have studied thoroughly, without federal guidance I believe 2030 is not affordable as a goal year, while 2050 is entirely affordable: it can take more than 10 years to secure new energy sources, while almost all of the generation sources owned by LES will be retired before 2050 and will need replaced anyway. 2040 is a good compromise for LES. While 100% is an ambitious goal, partnering the 100% goal with a net-zero goal as opposed to requiring only renewable sources makes it feasible. The goal for the city will be more difficult than for LES due to the decentralized nature of its emissions, so the reduction from 100% to 80% and the transition from 2040 to 2050 both responsibly offset that difficulty.

For these reasons, I write to you today for two reasons: I urge you to support and pass the Lincoln Climate Action Plan, and I also urge you to diligence in implementing and where appropriate proactively exceeding this Plan to take the steps needed for Lincoln to achieve its goals in a responsible, sustainable manner.

Thank you for your attention.

Dr. Lucas Sabalka
3060 Stratford Ave
Lincoln, NE, 68502

Angela M. Birkett

From: Gene Hanlon <gene.hanlon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 12:37 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Miki M. Esposito
Subject: Support for 21R-82

Dear City Council Members:

I am writing in support of the City Council Resolution 21R-82 amending the 2040 comprehensive plan with the City's Climate Action Plan and I request that this email be part of the official record for the March 22nd Public Hearing.

I'd like to commend Mayor Gaylor-Baird for her leadership in developing "Lincoln's Vision for a Climate Smart Future" and the "2021-2027 Climate Action Plan." The depth and breadth of these documents is very impressive as we need to take bold action to address the climate crisis we face.

I whole-heartedly support the City's farsightedness in planning to mitigate and adapt to climate change. By amending the 2040 Comprehensive Plan with these documents, we allow the City to pursue development codes that remove barriers, fill regulatory gaps and create incentives for sustainable development in the City. This also allows the Planning Department to strengthen the 2050 Comprehensive Plan update to ensure that we are successful in achieving the goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. I must say, however, that the six-year climate action plan before you does not have everything I'd like to see, but it's a good start. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and many scientists have indicated that we need to see a 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. The next six years are critical in implementing the needed systemic changes that will help us reduce our GHG emissions.

Reduction in GHG emissions in the waste management area is possible primarily from making new products with recycled content material as well as making systemic changes in how we collect and process waste. An example of a systemic change that brought about GHG reductions is the corrugated cardboard disposal ban that took effect in the spring of 2018. That effort reduced the amount of corrugated cardboard disposed of in the Bluff Road landfill by over 38 million pounds. Instead this material was made into new recycled content products. Using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WARM model, I estimate that GHG emissions were reduced by 42,500 MTCO₂ equivalents by this action. There are many opportunities available to the City to implement additional systemic changes with limited costs to Lincoln residents. I look forward to working with the City to identify and research those options.

I would like to add that the municipal government cannot take on the challenges of the climate crisis alone. We need the support and cooperation of other levels of government including the County, Lincoln Electric System, Lincoln Public Schools, Natural Resource Districts, and the State, as well as the private sector and development community. This is why your action on March 22nd is so critical. The leadership you show will help spur actions that reduce GHG emissions elsewhere. I urge you to approve this amendment and begin the much-needed work to make Lincoln a more resilient and sustainable community.

Respectfully,
Gene Hanlon
2710 Ryons St
Lincoln, Ne 68502

Angela M. Birkett

From: Tami Frank <tfrank@healthylincoln.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:12 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Climate Action Plan Letter of Support
Attachments: REACH Climate Action Plan Letter.pdf

Please accept the attached letter of support and recommendations originally submitted to the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission and the Lincoln Mayor's Office regarding the Climate Action Plan draft from Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln and our partners, Malone, El Centro de las Americas, and the Asian Community and Cultural Center. We look forward to hearing the City Council discussion on the topic on March 22, 2021. Thank you in advance for considering our recommendations to improve active transportation, environmental justice, local food system supports, and engagement of residents in creating a climate-smart future.

Tami Frank
Vice President, Operations
Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln
4600 Valley Road, Suite 250
Lincoln, NE 68510
Cell Phone: 402-310-2060
www.healthylincoln.org



**Partnership for
a Healthy Lincoln**

Bob Rauner, MD, MPH
President

Tami Frank, BS, CLC
Vice President, Operations

Mary Jo Gillespie, MPA, RDN, LMNT
Vice President, Health Systems

Ted Fraser, MS
Health Data Analyst

Isha Jain, MD
Research Analyst

Julie Pearson-Anderson, BA
Communications Manager

Pamela Mueri, BS
Wellness Programs Manager

Veronica Cockerill, BS
Program Coordinator

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February 12, 2021

City of Lincoln
Attn: Miki M. Esposito
Special Advisor to Mayor Gaylor Baird
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Ms. Esposito,

Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln (PHL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health, wellness, and fitness of communities, thousands of people at a time. PHL partners with other entities, such as El Centro de las Americas, the Malone, and the Asian Community and Cultural Center on projects to reduce health disparities and works with existing private and public organizations to cooperate and share resources increasing the reach and effectiveness of our common health goals. Much of PHL's work is centered on preventing obesity through nurturing and facilitating wellness efforts in many Lincoln institutions and channels.

PHL was awarded a five-year CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant to support coordinated health improvement projects that address significant disparities in health outcomes within Lincoln's low-income African American, Black and Hispanic communities. Our efforts focused on nutrition, physical activity, and aligning healthcare providers and community outreach efforts are guided by PHL's REACH Leadership Advisory Team including representatives from PHL, El Centro de las Americas, the Malone, and the Asian Community and Cultural Center. As such, the organizations of the REACH Leadership Advisory Team would like to express our enthusiastic support for the Lincoln Draft Climate Action Plan. The emphasis on equity, access to locally grown foods and active transportation dovetail closely with REACH goals, as well as many other public health concerns and goals. In pursuit of the plan, we would encourage continued discussion to ensure that this does not place undue burden on the cost of housing and transportation, leading to even more disparities. Our comments are divided into categories below.

Active Transportation

PHL's REACH team is happy to see a focus on the "disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations and public health risks" (p.75). As we and the community work to increase the numbers of people walking and bicycling for health, many of the strategies (p.77) "emphasizing housing and transportation planning that incentivizes and supports lifestyles with reduced reliance on automobiles" align with our goals.

PHL's REACH team supports the strategy to build a decarbonized and efficient transportation infrastructure and the notion of "active and equitable transportation." We especially like the emphasis on "long range planning efforts to increase options for safe and encouraging design for walking and bicycling" (p.103). We urge strengthening the work, funding and community engagement of the Complete Streets Committee and examining gaps for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, especially in older areas of the city that may not receive funding from impact fees for new trails. On pages 104 -105, the plan discusses active commuting and strengthening the public transportation system, which is of interest to the PHL REACH team as we seek to build activity friendly routes to everyday destinations. We advocate for housing developments to be located near transit and employment and endorse the strategy which suggests adopting pedestrian-

-oriented development policies. Implementation of the plans on p.105 to “encourage and facilitate bike commuting, implement recommendations from the Lincoln Bike Plan and trail network expansion” are encouraged as these strategies are important to making the environment more supportive for bicycling. We share interest in a continued focus on bike share and scooter pilots and on kids walking and bicycling to school. When looking at transit expansion, we would like to suggest the notion of engaging those “transit dependent riders” as to how the system can work for all. It is possible that the city may ultimately increase both “choice riders” and those dependent on the system, by addressing barriers and challenges that may not have been previously addressed from riders who use the system the most.

It is our perspective that Lincoln needs to consider strengthening its commitment to walk/bicycle infrastructure and encouragement to be able to affect measurable increases in the rates of bicycling and walking, for transportation, for health, for climate, for economic impact, for safety and for many other reasons.

Much research is demonstrating that active transportation is important for health. Physical activity is very important in reducing risks of disease and very relevant during this pandemic.

- A recent report notes that active commuting led to lower rates of CVD, Cancer and mortality: <https://www.bmj.com/content/357/bmj.j1456>
- We also know that there is concern about COVID and disparate effects on health and disease, and physical activity can be seen as a way to promote health and prevent disease: https://www.exerciseismedicine.org/support_page.php/stories/?b=912
- Many communities have increased their efforts at creating Slow Streets or Healthy Streets as a response to COVID and ensuring that all have safe and accessible places to be active.
 - <https://nacto.org/publication/streets-for-pandemic-response-recovery/>
 - https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-22/climate-fixes-can-help-cities-lead-covid-recovery?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm_content=citylab&utm_source=twitter.
 - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-09/in-a-pandemic-the-parks-are-keeping-us-alive>
 - https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-06/the-swift-disruptive-rise-of-slow-streets?utm_content=citylab&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm_medium=social
 - <https://www.businessinsider.com/cycling-boom-us-streets-infrastructure-bike-lanes-history-united-states-2020-12?fbclid=IwAR131XfN6AZcM9CDpPb0iPuqXSC-g1JuGOC72TSh9JGovMMWQmIBxS0QYYc>

A recent report from Transportation for America emphasizes that the current transportation system leads to inequity and that to truly affect emissions, we need to consider safety, short trips, and greater access to bicycling, walking, and transit: <https://t4america.org/maps-tools/driving-down-emissions/>. The Lincoln Bike Plan is an excellent place to begin planning for greater access to places for bicycling and the equity scoring is a good way to ensure that all have opportunities to be active.

We would encourage continued focus on broadening that approach to efforts that focus on all ages and abilities.

- When planning to encourage more bicycling, it is important to consider all users: https://theconversation.com/bike-friendly-cities-should-be-designed-for-everyone-not-just-for-wealthy-white-cyclists-109485?utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Chan-Twitter-General&utm_source=Twitter.
- It could be noted that communities may not be investing sufficiently enough in walking and bicycling to support those behaviors: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc/projects/evidence-to-inform-a-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy/>
- It would seem that there is much we need to consider when examining bike infrastructure: <https://www.engineering.com/BIM/ArticleID/19239/Bettering-Bike-Infrastructure-for-US-Cities.aspx#.XPqDdkD-sag.twitter>
- A greater focus on separated lanes may be warranted. Separated lanes can make streets safer for all users: <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/05/29/protect-yourself-separated-bike-lanes-means-safer-streets-study-says/>.
- Another compilation of research encouraging separated lanes can be found here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/trb/blog/paths-for-walking-and-biking>

Connections are mentioned as important in the Bicycle Plan and in the Draft Climate Plan. A connected network is important to make any of these efforts successful. PHIL's REACH team supports active connections to opportunity.

- Cambridge, MA installed protected bike lanes during street reconstruction or with quick build approaches: <https://www.cambridgebikesafety.org/2020/10/06/cambridge-sets-nations-first-mandatory-timeline-for-completing-bike-network/>.

- There is federal highway guidance and review for the safety of separated bike lanes: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/docs/fhwasa18030.pdf
- According to the Bloomberg Philanthropies American Cities Climate Challenge Climate Action Playbook Brief, “cities should strive to build protected bike lanes on streets faster than 25 mph” and look at connectivity. Also, cities should invest in sidewalks, bicycle boulevards and networks to support people who walk and bike. <https://assets.bbhub.io/dotorg/sites/2/2019/10/American-Cities-Climate-Challenge-Climate-Action-Playbook.pdf>
- Women are often considered the indicator species as to how bicycle friendly a community is: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/bike-blog/2019/mar/08/how-to-get-more-women-cycling-in-cities>. This lends support to the notion that is important to consider all users of the system and to design for them accordingly.
- Recently, the idea of 15 minute cities has been mentioned, so that we design to allow walking and bicycling for many trips: <https://tooledesign.com/insights/2020/09/is-commuting-really-all-that/>. Such an idea would align with climate change goals and we reinforce the value of that.

Environmental Justice

We strongly support the notion of Environmental Justice (p118) ensuring fair treatment for all with the impacts of environmental laws and policies and we agree that making improvements for those who are most vulnerable contribute to a healthier and safer community for all. We are happy to see the strategy (p.124) that “assesses the heat index of pavements in the city, beginning with communities of color. As a result, strategies should be put in place to reduce the effects of excess heat.” This approach can make recreation and physical activity more accessible and comfortable, and can contribute to overall wellbeing. Perhaps the plan could note that a benefit of tree canopy is to encourage active transportation, linking to the earlier section about increasing active commuting. The strategy on page 125 entitled “Ensure safe, affordable and sustainable housing for Lincoln residents” is an important social determinant of health and as such, we would encourage that in much of city planning. Again, we favor that tactic which includes a focus on increasing shade and making outdoor spaces accessible to all residents.

Resilient Local Food System

PHL’s REACH team supports the building of a strong local food culture, spaces for gardening, and increasing the quality and quantity of community gardens and orchards. Having a healthy food source and taking part in the growing of that supports the REACH goals of healthy eating and encourages physical activity. We do feel that it is important to find ways to expand access to locally grown produce for all parts of the community and to ensure equitable and affordable access to gardens and farmers markets. Where the strategies encourage homeowners to consider portions of lawns for growing food, we would like to suggest that landlord and property owners also be encouraged to set aside land for growing food for tenants, increasing access to healthy food. As the local food hub is designed, we would encourage that hub be located near public transportation and and/or within easy access of communities lacking access to healthy foods.

Natural Climate Solutions

On page 132, a section begins on conserving natural resources as a way to protect against climate change. We would again encourage an effort to ensure equitable access to green space and tree canopy. We are happy to see the strategy on p. 137 that states: “Assess tree canopy coverage in low-income neighborhoods and prioritize tree-plantings in these neighborhoods.” Such efforts improve quality of life and make it more comfortable to engage in outdoor physical activity. We support these efforts and find them an important step in health equity: <https://medium.com/@AmericanForests/we-can-grow-tree-equity-in-our-cities-by-keeping-score-d88358f0cc90>.

Engaging Residents in co-creating a Climate -Smart Future

It is commendable that there is consideration for translating messages and partnering with cultural centers to host engagement events so that many can be a part of the conversation. In the last section that begins on page 149, there is discussion about ensuring that messages about climate risks and opportunities are translated in Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Kurdish and Karen. A strategy on page 152 suggests that the city: “Identify and lift up environmental justice leaders from communities of color who can play instrumental roles in identifying and implementing equitable strategies.” We encourage these inclusive efforts, and we stress the inclusion of all community stakeholders in the process early on, especially in neighborhoods most impacted by climate change. Throughout the plan, there is mention in places of engaging residents in various sections. We would advocate for an “engagement team” that is representative of the demographics of the city (age, race/ethnicity, mobility, geography) to encourage community input early in the process as plans are developed. It is important that this approach be consistent in all areas of the plan. Traditional engagement methods have been challenged during COVID. We encourage continued expansive efforts to reach out and intersect with community residents where they are to gauge thoughts, opinions and to learn from their lived experience.

In summary, the draft Climate Plan includes many strategies that impact climate but also support a healthy population and draw attention to inequitable practices that should be changed. We have seen the effects of inequity in our health system and how transportation can change with the pandemic. It seems a very opportune time for the city to look at strategies with multiple benefits such as improved health, equity, climate resiliency, economic development, resident engagement and others. PHL, El Centro, Malone, and the Asian Center strongly support these efforts. We look forward to identifying ways that we and our partners can work with the city to bring these plans to fruition.

Sincerely,



Bob Rauner, President
Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln



Romeo Guerra, Executive Director
El Centro de las Americas



John Goodwin, Executive Director
Malone



Sheila Dorsey Vinton, Executive Director
Asian Community and Cultural Center

cc: Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission

Angela M. Birkett

From: Carole Curry <cscurry10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: support of Lincoln Climate Action Plan

I support the Lincoln Climate Action Plan and urge its approval at the upcoming City Council meeting. Now is the time to act to make possible a healthier climate and healthier world, not just for ourselves, but more importantly, for future generations. We need to act as good stewards for this earth we are blessed to live upon.

Please add my comments to the official record.
Thank you for your vision and your leadership in the area of climate care. It is appreciated.

Carole Curry
3300 Woods Ave, Lincoln, NE 68510

--

Carole

cscurry10@gmail.com

"Do the best you can until you know better. When you know better, do better."
Dr. Maya Angelou

Angela M. Birkett

From: Ward Curry <wcur33@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Lincoln Climate Action Plan

I support and urge approval of: Lincoln Climate Action Plan.

Please add my comment to the official record.

Ward Curry
3300 Woods Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68510

Angela M. Birkett

From: Toni Hoffer <thoffer@atwoodlawyers.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: hoffer.toni@gmail.com
Subject: Special Permit 21003 Gate House Row Apartments (Wyuka)
Attachments: Re. Special Permit 21003 Gate House Row Apartments.pdf

Hello,

Please see my attached letter in reference to the proposed development project known as “Gate House Row Apartments”.

Thank you,

Toni Hoffer
Vice President, Hartley Neighborhood Association
(e) hoffer.toni@gmail.com
(p) 402.310.4899

March 15, 2021

County/City Building
Attn: City Council Members
555 S. 10th St., #111
Lincoln, NE 68508
Tuahomeloa
Via Email Only
councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov

RE: Special Permit 21003 Gate House Row Apartments (Wyuka)

Dear Council Members:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed 98 units to be built on surplus Wyuka land. As a resident of the Hartley Neighborhood since 2009, a homeowner since 2016 and Vice President of the Hartley Neighborhood Association since 2019, I respectfully urge you to reconsider the density of this project.

First of all, I would like to make clear that I am in full support of and understand the need for additional affordable housing. I am proud to be part of an already culturally and economically eclectic neighborhood and I agree this land would be good use for additional affordable housing in Lincoln. However, the 98 units proposed is simply too dense for this location. Not only do the current plans rely on on-street parking, but there are no arterial streets connecting this project to Vine or "O" Street. The scale of this project is anticipated to generate more than 700 additional trips per day through a few residential streets. This worries me first and foremost for the neighborhood children that play in front of their homes and bike on the sidewalks and across the streets. It also causes concern for the Hartley residents in the area that currently rely on on-street parking. This project will forever transform the Hartley Neighborhood and will set precedent for other similar lower-income neighborhoods for which residents often feel they do not have a voice.

Secondly, I would like to express mine and my neighbors' concern for proper snow removal in this area. I live on Q Street between 32nd and 33rd Streets and earlier this year was stuck in my house for days, unable to leave due to the delay in appropriate snow removal in the Hartley Neighborhood. My husband, my neighbors and myself spent multiple days pushing cars free that were stuck in the ice and snow due to our neighborhood being neglected. It was a public safety disaster. This was not an isolated event due to the historic snow fall this year, as it is common our streets are neglected year after year. I can't imagine the newer development will fare much better, especially given the plans of relying on on-street parking, congesting the streets during snow-fall and inclement weather even more so than they currently are. Weather is not becoming any more predictable or temperate. A project of this density puts the well-being and safety of Hartley residents and commuters at risk.

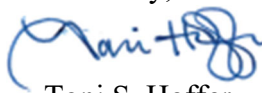
Finally, Wyuka Cemetery is an historical and deeply loved park to Hartley residents. The historical preservation of the park is of utmost importance to myself and many other Hartley residents. Aside from the wall of buildings that will line 36th Street at the "R" Street entrance, the park will almost

definitely require additional upkeep and surveilling. Its historical integrity and preservation will undoubtedly be at a greater risk given the dramatic influx of temporary residents that will occupy the proposed rental properties lining this historic park.

The risk to the Hartley neighborhood and Wyuka as a historical park could be presumably curtailed by lessening the density of this project and encouraging the permanence of Hartley residents via ownership options. Though I lived in the Hartley neighborhood for several years before purchasing my home in 2016, it was the ability to buy a home in this neighborhood that compelled a sense of ownership not only of my home, but of my neighborhood, its longevity and the quality of life for my many neighbors. The Wyuka land that is available has the opportunity to transform lives through ownership, as mine was transformed, only if it is utilized thoughtfully. I do not believe the current project achieves the same and I respectfully ask that the City Council members empathetically listen to our many concerns and at least consider reducing this project's density to a more sustainable number. A lesser density has the ability to foster community confidence and responsibility while giving economic hope to the Hartley Neighborhood as a whole by way of ownership options for any proposed housing projects on this parcel of land.

Thank you very much for your time, it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Toni S. Hoffer
Vice President, Hartley Neighborhood Association
(e) hoffer.toni@gmail.com
(p) 402.310.4899

Angela M. Birkett

From: Carina McCormick <carinamc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Comments on Gatehouse Row aka Wyuka Development

Carina M. McCormick, PhD
1502 E St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Position: Support project at 98 units

I planned to testify in person until I learned about the mask ordinance public hearing preceding the hearing for the Gatehouse Row/Wyuka Development. That is the only reason I am not there in person. I strongly support the project as it was proposed for 98 units. There is a desperate need of a greater quantity of affordable housing in Lincoln, as was recently committed to in the city's Affordable Housing plan. It is very difficult for private developers to implement affordable housing projects that will be financially feasible with current building costs. When developers are willing to contribute to solving Lincoln's affordable housing struggles, the city should commend these projects as working towards a shared goal. The developers have established that the project is feasible with 98 units. Detractors claim they "support" the project but at a much lower level of development. Insisting that the project be limited to 54 units is indistinguishable from opposing the project. There is no such thing as this project completed with 54 units. It is ludicrous of these protests to pretend that they can force the project to be completed with 54 units instead of 98 units. I believe they know that and an insistence on a lower number of units is not made in good faith.

We frequently hear the term NIMBY in relation to affordable housing, so often that we quit thinking about what it means. NIMBY stands for Not In My Backyard, since these voices claim that they support affordable housing in theory but just don't want it in their backyards. The problem with caving to NIMBYs is that every project is in somebody's backyard. The city can't just hop around between one NIMBY constituency to another as one group will simply be replaced by a similar group from the next organization. When the city committed to overseeing the creation of 5000 affordable housing units in the next 10 years, this exact sort of opposition should have been envisioned. It is essential to spread affordable housing developments throughout the city, i.e. in many "backyards." One group's prejudices about their own neighborhood cannot overtake the importance of affordable housing in Lincoln.

Angela M. Birkett

From: weare camping <wearecamping@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Special Permit 21003 Gate House Row Apartments

When voting on the Wyuka development remember tax paying people live in this area and would like to be heard. The number of apartments being requested for this development is ridiculous with basically no parking. One bedroom does not equal one car! Believe me it can mean any number of cars depending on how many are willing to help with the rent. Drive through the area the streets are already full of cars, alot have outdated license plates, some over a year, and some never moved. Of course this is like the speed limit never enforced. Make sure there is parking for at least one LARGE school bus also. One now sits on the corner of 35th and R every morning waiting for the kids to decide to come out. This is not because of lack of transportation as 2 cars come and go from there all day. Of course it turns west off 35 to go 3 or 4 blocks to Hartley School???? Hopefully there is more than one planning commission member that is not beholden to the Mayor or the Contractor, that can see this for what it is a VERY BAD PLAN.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Samantha Newell <samanthanewell@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:56 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Special permit 21003 gate house row apartments

I am writing this email as an objection to the proposed apartments for the Hartley neighborhood. This area is too small. There is hardly any parking as is. You cannot park on half of the street. We are worried about the extra traffic as there is an elementary school 1.5 blocks away. Most everyone around here has their kids walk to school. Extra traffic brings lots of danger to little kids.

The area is already congested. Please don't allow more apartments. We live in the neighborhood and absolutely do not want this. Especially the amount that is being proposed.

Samantha Newell

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Benson, Jenni [NEB] <jenni.benson@nsea.org>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Mask Mandate

City Council Members,

Thank you for your leadership through this pandemic.

The NSEA has supported mask mandates across Nebraska. We continue to believe masks should be worn in public places.

We want the last quarter of school to be as safe as possible. Keeping the mask mandate helps keep our kids and staff in school.

NSEA supports keeping the mask mandate in place.

Thank you for your service,

Jenni Benson

President

Nebraska State Education Association

605 S. 14 St., Lincoln, NE 68508

jenni.benson@nsea.org | www.nsea.org

Cell 402.890.3169 Office 402.475.7611 | 800.742.0047 |

Gallup Strengths:

Positivity-Woo-Communication-Input-Belief

Angela M. Birkett

From: Elevate Church <elevatelincoln@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Emergency Declaration

Dear City Council members,

We have already received millions in emergency funding. There are no known restrictions from us qualifying for additional funds and nothing to stop us from re-declaring a state of emergency locally if needed after rescinding the current declaration.

The declaration of emergency by Gov. Ricketts is sufficient to get disaster funds locally.

Sincerely,

Pastor Mike Wooten
Elevate Church
Lincoln, NE

Angela M. Birkett

From: Janee Gagner <tortuga724@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Emergency declaration

Please do not end Lincoln's emergency declaration thereby putting an end to any federal relief funds Lincoln would be eligible to receive! This is reckless and dangerous and not in the best interest of our city and residents. Thank you.

Janée Gagner

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Carita M Baker <caritabaker@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: state of emergency

Dear Council Members

I am writing as a 76 year old resident who has truly appreciated the City's stance on masks and other protective measures. Scientists tell us that we are not out of the woods and that now is not the time to stop these measures. Please continue to be courageous and do not end the state of emergency.

Thank You.
Carita Baker
caritabaker@yahoo.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Sara M <sara.c.mann@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: In Support of Emergency Declaration

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Lincoln Resident, I implore you to continue the emergency declaration as not doing so is risking the lives of thousands of Nebraskans.

The only reason I've felt any security this past year is not from our fumbling Governor's ineptitude and lack of care of Nebraska citizens, but because Mayor Leirion and the rest of the city council have taken into consideration the safety and livelihood of Lincoln when it comes to their Pandemic Response.

So please, keep the Emergency Declaration for the mask mandate and other mandatory restrictions that help keep us safe while the covid vaccine is distributed.

Best wishes,

Sara Mann
1450 C St, Lincoln, NE 68502
308-763-9080

Angela M. Birkett

From: Amy Schulze <schulzeamy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:44 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Emergency Declaration extended

As a community, the only way we can beat Coronavirus is to continue to band together. We need to keep our mask mandate and the other health measures until it is safe to stop. We need to allow time to get everyone vaccinated. We need to not rush this as it has shown it worth already.

Please help to save more lives by keeping all health measures in place for now. Reassessment would be a good idea after April when vaccines have been able to be given to all groups.

Amy Gilbert
3440 Everett Street
Lincoln Nebraska
68506

Angela M. Birkett

From: Wendy Francis <wfrancis@neb.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Emergency declaration

Dear council members,
I am against the emergency declaration being removed.

It is too early to remove the Emergency measures put in place. Yes, there is hope with the vaccine, mask still need to be in place and large gathering like what was in the hay market over the weekend has the potential to take our numbers back up.

Until we ALL do what we can to help bring this to an end we will continue to go in a vicious circle. Please be smart about this situation. We are just not there yet.

Sincerely
Wendy Francis

Wendy Francis

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Alex Houchin <alex.m.houchin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Don't End the Emergency Declaration

Council members,

As a concerned citizen who regularly watches livestreamed city council meetings, I know there have been a lot of noisome testifiers in the past several months demanding an end to the emergency declaration that grants our local health department extra authority to act in the interest of public health. Humor them if you must, but I urge that you do not give in to their demands.

It is simply not time yet.

I understand the frustration Lincolniters might be feeling with regard to ongoing restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but frankly I find this minority's wild allegations of tyranny not just silly but made in rather bad faith. Further, I don't believe it's unreasonable to conclude that the fight against the pandemic has actually been *prolonged* by such defiance and obstinance.

That being said, it is true that our overall public health with regard to the pandemic is quickly improving, and that is certainly cause to celebrate! However, it is *not* cause to let down our guard. Even the most basic understanding of epidemiology will tell you that the period of recovery we are in now is precarious, and that loosening restrictions too quickly (before a critical mass of the public has been fully vaccinated) exposes us all to further risk of spreading viral mutations that our current vaccines may not adequately prevent. Now is not the time to take a step back!

Finally, as you know, ending the local emergency declaration will certainly cut Lincoln off from available federal relief funds—which we can ill afford, especially as local small businesses seek to rebuild and safely reopen.

In short, please continue listening to experts and acting in the best interest of the entire community, and disregard the loud minority of bad faith complainers. Vaccines are going into arms as fast as possible, and the end of this catastrophe is finally in sight—it would be a shame to jeopardize our momentum so close to the finish line!

Regards,
Alex M. Houchin
Lincoln, NE

Angela M. Birkett

From: Zoe Olson <zoe.olson@nebraskadining.org>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:50 PM
To: Council Packet; Tammy J. Ward
Subject: Letter Opposing End of Declared State of Emergency
Attachments: SCN_0045.pdf





Please find attached a letter opposing the end to the declared state of emergency for COVID-19 in the City of Lincoln for today's City Council Meeting.

Thanks for all you do! We're all in this together.

We moved January 1, 2021 - Please note new address and cell phone number!

Zoe Olson

Executive Director
Nebraska Restaurant Association
Hospitality Educational Foundation
5100 N 27th St, Ste A2 #238
Lincoln, NE 68521-4715
402.488.3999 Office
402.440.6680 Cell
<https://www.nebraska-dining.org/>

NEBRASKA RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

5100 N 27th St, Suite A2 #238, Lincoln, NE 68521-4715

Phone: (402) 488-3999 or (800) 770-8006

Fax: (402) 488-4014

info@nebraskadining.org • www.nebraskadining.org

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**National Restaurant
Association CEO**

Tom Bené

Executive Director

Zoe Olson

March 15, 2021

Lincoln City Council
County/City Building
555 S 10th St, #111
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Resolution to end the declared state of emergency for COVID-19 in the City of Lincoln

Dear Council Members:

The Nebraska Restaurant Association would caution against prematurely ending the declared state of emergency for COVID-19 in the City of Lincoln.

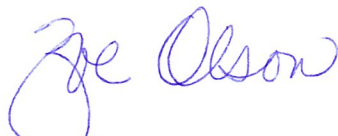
The State of Nebraska is following the guidance of the CDC together with local and state health departments in continuing the declared state of emergency for COVID-19. For the Lincoln City Council to take contrary action seems both ill-advised and short-sighted.

Vaccinations to prevent serious infection and death from COVID-19 are still ongoing for persons over the age of 65. Our staff and the majority of our customers have yet to receive the vaccine and will most likely not receive it in significant numbers prior to June 2021. The health and safety of our staff, our customers and the communities we serve has always been of paramount importance to our industry – never more so, than with the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the announcement this weekend of a third wave of COVID-19 in Europe and the regularly occurring announcements of new and more easily spread mutating variants, we ask that the Lincoln City Council follow science, health, and medical advice by practicing a little more patience.

Our industry quite simply cannot survive another shut down should COVID-19 explode in our communities again. We are vital to the economy of Lincoln. We ask that you reject the premature end to the declared state of emergency for COVID-19 in the City of Lincoln.

Respectfully,



Zoe Olson
Executive Director

Angela M. Birkett

From: Nancy Petitto <nancyapetitto@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Resolution to end the declared state of emergency

Members of the Lincoln City Council,

I write to you today as a resident and urge you to not approve the resolution to end the declared state of emergency due to COVID-19 in the City of Lincoln. The current emergency declaration that grants our local health department additional authority to act in the interest of public health is very much needed due to the crisis we are still experiencing. As we continue to see more residents become vaccinated and our numbers improving, now is the time to continue our vigilance and not let down our guard. I trust our public health officials will consider the best approach to ending the declared state of emergency when we, as a community, are fully prepared.

So many of our community members, local organizations, and businesses still rely on the federal relief funds that are available to us because of the local emergency declaration. The livelihood of our entire city depends on access to these funds to ensure people are housed, businesses are stable, and organizations operational to connect the most vulnerable to proper resources.

Thank you for your hard work on the issues we currently face as a city and do not approve this resolution when we are so close to becoming whole again.

Best regards,

Nancy Petitto
3430 Franklin Street
Lincoln, NE 68506

Angela M. Birkett

From: Leah Gregory <leahruthie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:04 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Written Testimony Regarding 21R-9

Dear council members,

I'm writing to express my opposition to Councilman Christensen's resolution to end the mayor's state of emergency declaration in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

I've been tuning in for council meetings online throughout this pandemic and am well aware of the pressure you've faced from a number of loud dissenters who seem to believe that their personal comfort is more important than the well-being of our citizens, but I hope you will realize that they are wrong, and so is putting an end to the emergency declaration. My reasons are many:

First, and most importantly, in ending the emergency declaration, you also end Lincoln's access to crucial federal relief funds, which are critical to our city's ability to bounce back from this devastating year. I urge you to consider the financial ramifications a move like this could have, now and long into the future. There are tons of businesses, organizations, and individuals who rely on these federal relief funds to keep doors open, lights on, and mouths fed. To turn away this assistance is to turn your back on your fellow Lincolniters.

Secondly, we are so close to the finish line! Vaccination rollout is finally starting to ramp up, and if we can just hold on a little bit longer and continue doing the necessary things to slow the spread of this disease, then soon enough, we can have enough folks vaccinated to truly prevent further uncontrolled spread. It would be crazy to come this far and work this hard, only to lose it all right at the end because of a small but noisy group of citizens who would rather be comfortable than protect themselves and their fellow citizens.

Thirdly, it cannot be overlooked that this pandemic is still an ongoing situation. Yes, we have been making strides in vaccinations and controlling spread, but the only reason that's been possible is because we have been staying vigilant with masking, social distancing, and other critical steps that our health department is currently empowered to enforce. We can't afford to lose all the ground we've made up since the holidays, and I'd urge you to think back on what a dark time that was, with hundreds of new cases each day and dozens of new deaths. We cannot afford to lose any more lives.

I understand that wearing masks is uncomfortable. I understand that not being able to attend events or host gatherings with friends is painful. But I would gladly do it all over again if it could prevent a family — maybe someone you know and love! — from experiencing the heartache and devastation of losing someone to a deadly disease when it could've easily been prevented by staying the course.

I don't envy the choice you have to make. But I hope you'll all recognize that the right choice, the only choice, is to continue the state of emergency and give Lincoln more time to fight back against this terrible pandemic.

Thank you for all of your hard work. I hope you'll make the right decision and deny this resolution.

Respectfully,

Leah Gregory

206 S 30th St.
Lincoln, NE 68510

Angela M. Birkett

From: Dan Hatch <dhatch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Emergency health declaration

Hello,

I think it is TOO EARLY to roll back the emergency declaration. We still need the DHMs and federal relief dollars in Lincoln!

-Dan Hatch
68510

Angela M. Birkett

From: Melanie Kirk <melanie.ann.kirk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Regarding emergency declaration
Attachments: IMG_3898.jpeg

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time today to read my letter and consider my request to keep the current recommendations in place in Lincoln. My family is one of countless families who have existed in as small a bubble as is possible for the past year, desperately trying to protect one or more vulnerable members of our families. Ours is a family of five. When the pandemic was declared, we had two parents working full time, two children with IEPs in LPS, and a newly adopted toddler with Down's Syndrome who was nearly ready to start ECSE.

Our oldest son, Logan, suffers from a rare lung disease called Childhood Interstitial Lung Disease (chILD), as well as a condition called Optic Nerve Hypoplasia, which affects his pituitary and adrenal glands. Logan's lung disease requires him to be on supplemental oxygen 24/7. He is on daily steroid treatment for cortisol sufficiency and serious illnesses or injuries require swift injections of emergency cortisol. He also receives growth hormone shots on a daily basis.

Our youngest son, Theodore, is diagnosed with Down's Syndrome and has a congenital heart condition. He had open heart surgery at just a few months old and requires consistent monitoring to ensure he continues to maintain the progress he has made.

Since the start of this pandemic, I have changed from working full time as an attorney to working remotely, and then eventually to working only quarter time (remotely) in order to meet our family's needs. My husband, Stan, works as a mobile service technician for Tesla. He wears a mask everywhere and we are fortunate that his job allows him to maintain careful distancing from his customers.

All three of our sons have spent a year doing all their activities and education online. Our middle child, Oliver, has struggled to adjust to online learning due to his diagnosis of dyslexia. Logan has missed participating in Penguin Project at the Community Playhouse. Oliver has missed gymnastics. Teddy misses seeing people in person other than his family.

We have been so careful this past year. And we have been so thankful that our city has made public health a priority. We know that no matter how careful we are, we still can't protect our sons from every risk. We still have to get groceries. And we still have to pick up medicines. We are doing everything possible to shield our sons from this virus. We have tried to encourage others not to disregard recommendations to quarantine. Not to downplay exposure. Because if you have been exposed, you can spread this and you may never get sicker than a cold. But if you continue going out, you can spread it to person after person. And the more people exposed, the higher the chance that someone will come into contact with someone like my husband or me, who are trying to exist in a bubble to keep our vulnerable sons safe.

Our country is working through getting people vaccinated. We are so thankful that older populations and front line workers are getting vaccinated. Stan and I are anxiously awaiting our turn to be vaccinated. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

We can see the light, but we aren't out of the woods yet. Logan will only turn 15 in May, so he isn't in an age group with an approved vaccine. He is still very much at risk if he were to contract Covid. His combination of rare lung disease, adrenal insufficiency and daily steroid requirements make him uniquely vulnerable to this terrible virus. Pediatric trials are started, but it is unlikely we will be able to get him vaccinated before the fall.

In addition, as the year has gone on, new information about those vulnerable to Covid has come to light. Studies have shown that individuals with Down's Syndrome are five times more likely than the average population to be hospitalized and ten times more likely to die from Covid (this study was based only on individuals over age 40). Another study found that TMPRSS2, a gene that codes for an enzyme critical for aiding the entry of SARS-CoV-2 in human cells had 60% higher levels of expression in Down syndrome. The gene is located on chromosome 21, which people with Down syndrome have three copies of.

Having just turned 4, Teddy's vaccine is further in the future still. Given this information, we have signed the boys up for at least the fall semester of LPS remote school.

Why am I telling you this? Because I understand that everyone is exhausted. We are all tired of wearing masks and social distancing. This has been a hellish year for everyone. And with the end in sight, now is not the time to stop being cautious. Please get the vaccine when you are eligible. Please continue to require masks and maintain social distancing. We have made so much progress, but the danger isn't past. The virus is still here. And many of those who are vulnerable are still at risk. Please keep the protections in place. They are helping. Your steadfast commitment to protecting the citizens you represent is making a difference.

I offer to share my reasons for caution, if you need to put a face with what can easily seem like a vague risk.

These are my reasons. You are welcome to make them yours as well.

Sincerely,

Melanie Kirk



Angela M. Birkett

From: Sarah Erdlen <saraherdlen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: KEEP the Emergency Declaration

Dear City Council,

Please keep the city under the emergency declaration. It is heartening to see vaccinations happening, but we are not in control of this pandemic in the least, and could easily see another outbreak. The Directed Health Measures keep us safe.

Thank you,
Sarah Erdlen
68503

Angela M. Birkett

From: Whitney Turco <whitney.turco@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to Councilman Christensen's Resolution to End State of Emergency Declaration

Dear Council Members--

I am writing today to express my opposition to Councilman Christensen's resolution to end the mayor's state of emergency declaration in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

I understand that many in our city have pandemic fatigue, and feel the efforts of the city to enforce masks, social distancing, and other methods of preventing a larger outbreak of COVID seem to have gone on long enough. But removing this mandate, which is ultimately allowing people such as myself to safely move around the city, would be costly not just financially with a loss of federal funds but also cost us in an increase of cases and potential for lives lost.

People who oppose masks are expressing that their freedom is at stake because it should be their choice to wear a mask--but in my personal situation, my freedom and my health are at stake should the mask mandate be eliminated. We know that masks work, and it is because of the mask mandate that I feel somewhat OK sending my child to school. It is because of the mask mandate that I feel safe getting groceries and carryout from local businesses. And I also know that unfortunately, if the mask mandate were to go away, people would not choose to wear masks and the risk of getting COVID would increase. These spaces would no longer be safe for myself, and would be especially scary for someone like my husband, who has asthma, is unvaccinated, and is required to go to work everyday. It would severely limit us in what we would feel safe doing in our everyday lives as to not catch a disease that would potentially kill him.

As someone who will likely not be receiving a vaccine until May under the governor's orders, I am understanding that I must wait my turn and ensure vulnerable people in our community are vaccinated. Because of my care for others, I am able to wait. But by ending the declaration, that would not be showing that the city council has the same care for others like me, because I am no longer protected. It is the emergency declaration and the mask mandate that is keeping all of us safe until we are able to receive the vaccine. While I am amazed and humbled by the job the Health Department is doing to get vaccines to as many people as possible, we only have about 120,000 vaccines that have been administered, and that number is not a significant amount of our population, especially because that number doesn't represent people who are fully vaccinated but instead vaccines that have been administered. I feel we are still in a state of emergency because so many unvaccinated people are still at risk of catching and potentially dying from COVID.

I understand that at some point, we won't be in a state of emergency, and that will be a great day. But that day is unfortunately not today, and I hope that you choose to continue to keep the emergency declaration and mask mandate in place. We have lost too much already.

Thank you for all that you do for the city and for continuing to keep Lincoln residents like my family safe--I know that many people have shown opposition for the measures that have been put in place. But I didn't want to miss the opportunity to express my gratitude for how these measures have helped keep my family safe and let you know how they have impacted me personally. I hope that we can continue to get through these next few

months and allow more people to get vaccinated before we eliminate the very things that have kept us safe thus far.

Sincerely,

Whitney Turco Lake
3111 Stephanos Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68156

Angela M. Birkett

From: Joan Brodersen <jmbroders@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: I support continuing the mask mandate

Please continue Lincoln's mask mandate. We have started to see the light at the end of the tunnel with the pandemic. Please do not risk our progress now. I support a mask mandate in Lancaster county to protect all who have not been immunized. Thank you

Angela M. Birkett

From: Michelle Clifford <cliffordm25@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Emergency declaration - support

My apologies for the lateness of this email: I am a teacher and just now have a spare moment to write in response to councilman Christiansen's resolution to end the mayor's emergency declaration. I was busy welcoming hundreds of students back to full time in-person learning today instead, which should be enough of a statement for this city council to know where I stand. We are still in a pandemic.

Only about 14% of our city is vaccinated, while our positivity rate is at about 21%. That should be enough for this city council to know what to do. We are still in a pandemic. I believe most of you have it in your hearts to care about your fellow citizens and constituents, and you know that we need to continue to enact safety measures. We are still in a pandemic.

Thank you.

Michelle Clifford

Angela M. Birkett

From: April VanDeventer <msaprilrenee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: City Council Meeting Today

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with today's city council meeting in mind. As of today, I believe it has been 364 days since a state of emergency was declared because of COVID. How much of an active emergency do you believe we are in? What are the qualifications for remaining in a state of emergency?

I believe that maintaining a state of emergency and the subsequent restrictions that exist are not allowing our community to move on and heal.

I believe that after one year of dealing with COVID we have learned how to protect the vulnerable and how to help those that do become ill. We cannot move on with the emergency declaration that is in place.

Please remove all restrictions and give people back the choice how to care for themselves.

Thank you,

April Dowdy

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Lincoln City Council March 16, 2020



Point of ORDER!!!

LNKTV
CITY

LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL

Monday, March 16, 2020

Play (k)



Council Members-

Nice try playing it dumb last night.

No one out here is fooled.

The ED isn't just about money, and the DHMs have absolutely nothing to do with health.

The whole kit and caboodle is about politics.

Lopez isn't the health director. And you aren't councilmen and women. You're all just Baird's puppets, so she can play tyrant by proxy.

At any rate, below is the entirety of my closing statement, with the entire slideshow attached.. I don't expect any of you to read it. But maybe someone else will, when they find it on public record.

Nice job finding all the medical prostitutes to testify last night.

Some people are just great at pimping, and you are among them.

Anyway...my closing:

Back in March, you all (the City Council, with Jane as the Chair) broke the rules—the word you use, "suspend," is just a euphemism, and if you can break the rules, so can we—but anyway, as I was saying, you broke the rules and happily gave Baird, our local tyrant-in-chief, on open-ended emergency, when there was no actual emergency at the time, nor has there been one since. You did this without public input. It was obvious the decision was made prior to the council meeting and away from public input and scrutiny. I don't know how that wasn't another violation of the rules, namely the Open Meetings Act that you tout every session, but that's beside the point for right now.

The point for right now is that it's way past time to end this charade. This isn't about science...if it were, we would have had a debate, because the scientists don't agree, and then people could have been left to make their own decisions about how to best navigate their lives. We don't need baby-sitters. If we see people dying in public, we'd know not to go there.

No one is forcing anyone into the public square. You ALWAYS enter the public square at your own risk. Everyone knows this. If an idiot from the health department thinks there's something scary and invisible out there, that people can't see, then they can warn us, and we can check it out for ourselves, or stay home. All it takes is for one truly healthy person to drop dead to create caution. But we aren't seeing anyone drop dead. The *hospitals are killing them.

Again, this isn't about health or science. This is about power-hungry politicians getting to choose the scientist that agrees with them so they can exercise more control, and so they can pick winners and losers in the community. This is about tyranny by proxy.

This State of Emergency is a sham and a scam on the American Taxpayer. It constitutes enslaving our children and grandchildren to Baird's lust for power, her lust for control and her lust for CARES money, and to YOUR ineptness (you the City Council).

A pandemic is the wet dream of tyrants. And if you don't end this madness and stop it soon, we're going to find ourselves in the midst of a bloody civil war. There are lots of people out there with itchy trigger fingers because our politicians have way overstepped their bounds. And continue to do so.

Real Americans aren't afraid of dying. It eventually happens to everyone. This is not a threat. It's just an observation, from having travelled around the country.

You don't believe me? Check this out. 2020 was the all time record year for guns sales.

You've told us we can't work. We can't go to school. We can't go to restaurants. We can't congregate. We can't play. We can't live.

This long train of abuses and usurpations must end and must end now.

We're not following your mandates anyway. Nothing in state law authorizes you to commandeer a healthy person and impose your idiotic BS pseudo-scientific prophylactics.

A state of emergency is being abused. A lack of transparency, among other things, is proof. The city won't respond to FOIA requests.

It's no longer about a Point of Order (as Jane Raybould, the one pictured below likes to tout).

It's now about a Point of ODOR.

The stench of tyranny fills the nostrils of every righteous patriot and we are sick of it. We have nowhere else to turn but ourselves. We are stone-walled at every level. The courts are unresponsive. The publicly elected sheriffs of this country, including our own, who are supposed to be the 2nd to last line of defense in protecting our rights, are not only unresponsive, but actually supporting the tyranny by serving our citizens with unlawful summons.

Again, this needs to end and end NOW.

RJB