

DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, August 16, 2021
555 S. 10th Street
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. MINUTES

1. Approval of Directors' Minutes from August 9, 2021

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. TX21006 Affordable Housing Council Memo
2. Affordable Housing Text Amendment Full Background
3. Administrative Approvals from August 3, 2021 through August 9, 2021

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

1. BOH – Shobe (08.10.21)
2. PBC – Meginnis, Raybould (08.10.21)
3. Parks and Rec – Washington (08.12.21)
4. Tele-Communications Advisory Board – Shobe (08.12.21)

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Hy-Vee to build new liquor concept store – Robert Ewell
2. Proposed Sidewalk Cafes – Isabel Salas
3. Proof that I'm not a blowhard – Bobby A txbobbya@gmail.com
4. Proposed Sidewalk Cafes – Maxine Tysdal
5. Catalytic Converter Theft Deterrent – Georgia Bihr
6. Photos in my life – Bobby A txbobbya@gmail.com
7. Sidewalks – Pete Watters
8. Proposed Sidewalk Cafes – Charles Baker
9. Redistricting Suggestion – Jim Frohman
Staff response provided by Councilwoman Washington
10. Suggested downtown pedestrian mall – Alex Houchin
11. Proposed Sidewalk Cafes – Cindy Elder
12. Mask Mandate in LPS – Michelle Clifford
13. Proposed Sidewalk Cafes – Mark Grell
14. Proposed Sidewalk Cafes – Ann Hunter-Pirtle
15. Fairness Ordinance Charlotte, NC – George Wolf
16. City Budget Items – Edison McDonald
17. \$3 Million Surplus – Dave Brady
18. Fairness Ordinance Athens, Georgia – George Wolf
19. Property Tax Relief – Karen Kronhofman

VIII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND FUNDING

See attached correspondence



Memo

To: City Council
From: Stephanie Rouse
CC: David Cary, Steve Henrichsen
Date: August 10, 2021
Dept: Planning
Phone: 441-6373
Subject: Text Amendment 21006 – Affordable Housing and Multifamily Development
Filename: F:\DevReview\TX\21000\TX21006 Affordable Housing council memo.slr.docx

Original:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Update:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Response Requested:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information Only:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Affordable Housing and Multifamily Development text amendment package is the first of what we hope will be many action items resulting from the Lincoln Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan adopted in December 2020. The text amendment package covers minimum parking requirements, height limits, administrative approvals, setback requirements, density, residential uses, and the ability to rebuild. These changes were based on census data, research, and commonly approved waivers and are summarized below. The attached handout has more details supporting each proposed change. Planning staff will provide an overview of these changes at the Director's Meeting on August 16th.

Parking

- R-1 through R-6 Residential Districts would be reduced to 1.5 cars per dwelling unit for multi-family dwellings.
- O-3 Office Park and B-5 Planned Regional Business Districts would be reduced to 1.0 stalls per dwelling unit for all housing types.
- O-1 Office District parking minimums would be eliminated to match the B-4 District requirements which is adjacent.

Height

- For PUD's and CUPs in the R-1 through R-4 Residential Districts the multi-family height limit would be 45 feet within the Neighborhood Design Standards boundary (1950 city limits) and 55 feet outside the NDS boundary.
- In the O-3, B-2, and B-5 Districts the maximum height would be 55 feet for all uses.
 - In the O-3 District, the setbacks would be increased 1 foot for each foot above 35 feet in height.

Administrative Approvals

- The PUD and Use Permit sections would be amended to allow the Planning Director to convert approved commercial floor area to dwelling units.
- The Special Permit section would be amended to allow the Planning Director to increase by up to 15% the number of approved dwelling units.

Setbacks

- A new definition for corner front yard is proposed which would create only one front yard on the street side that is in line with the platting orientation of most of the block structures. All remaining street frontages would become a corner front yard.
 - Single and two-family corner lots would have a reduced setback of 10 feet on the corner front yard in all residential districts.
 - A minimum of 2 openings, 6 square feet each, are required on the corner front yard façade.
- The definition of yard would be amended to include “landing” allowing for replacement of stairs and the landing in a required yard.

Density/Residential Use

- The City Council would establish the maximum residential density allowed in a PUD where no maximum is established.
- Residential uses in the B-2 District would all become permitted uses instead of conditional or special permitted uses.
- Elderly and Retirement Housing would become a permitted use in the B-5 District.

Ability to Rebuild

- Residential structures in the R-1 through R-8 Residential Districts could rebuild using the original setbacks of the dwelling existing immediately prior to the restoration or reconstruction even if damage exceeded 60% of the value. This would apply if the structure were damaged by natural means such as a fire or if the owner chose to demolish the structure because it was beyond repair.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions at 1-6373 or srouse@lincoln.ne.gov.

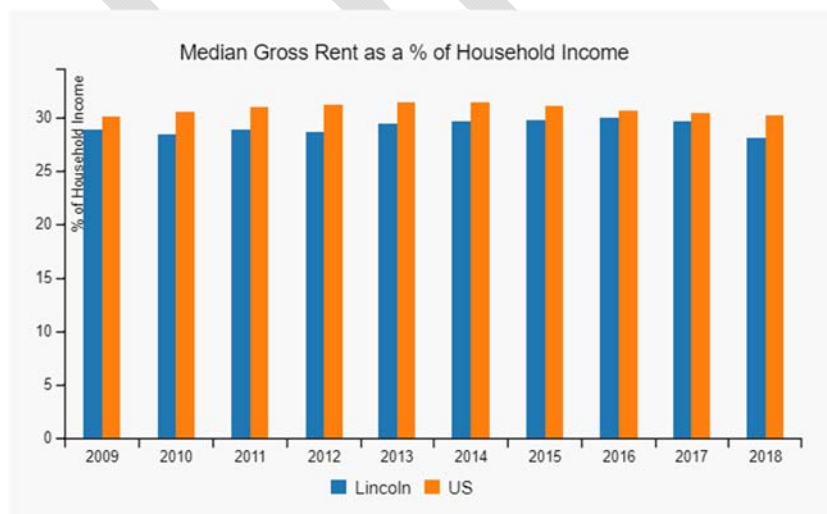
Lincoln Affordable Housing Text Amendments

Overall Need

In December 2021 the City Council adopted the Lincoln Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan to support the development of a housing market in Lincoln that is reflective of the diverse community of residents that makes up the city. One of the many recommendations from the plan was to “ensure policies and codes support affordable housing.” To accomplish this goal, the Planning Department worked with various agencies on amendments to the zoning ordinance that will remove barriers to housing production.

These changes, discussed in the following pages, include increasing flexibility through administrative amendments, bringing parking requirements in line with demonstrated demand, increasing maximum height limits, redefining front yard setback requirements, and addressing the ability to rebuild nonconforming and nonstandard dwellings. These changes were proposed based on the following data and projections, along with analysis of patterns in land use approvals at Planning Commission and City Council over the past five to ten years.

- Based on population projections through 2040, an average of **1,500 new dwelling units per year is needed**. The ten-year average is currently 1,483 dwelling units per year.¹
- **Increasing affordable housing options in Lincoln will reduce the level of cost burdened households**. The median gross rent in Lincoln has been steadily climbing from \$656 in 2009 to \$822 in 2018. In Lincoln significantly more renters are cost burdened (40%) when compared to owners with a mortgage (20%).²
- **Median Family Incomes** in Lancaster County have been **shrinking** over the past decade (in 2019 dollars) while existing home prices have been slowly rising.³ **Reduced buying power combined with increasing housing costs** highlights the need for additional affordable housing.



¹ Community Indicators Report. <https://beta-lincolnne.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/community-indicators#ember1012>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Administrative Amendments (27.60/27.63)

Issue Summary

An administrative amendment, approved by the Planning Director, has a ten-day review period, compared to a full amendment which can take several months. In addition to the extra review time, a full amendment has an increased fee as well. In the current market, the need for commercial and retail space is declining while housing demand is increasing. As demonstrated in the research below, several Planned Unit Developments have been amended through the full amendment process to convert former commercial space to residential units.

The proposed changes below will allow greater flexibility and a quicker approval process for previously approved PUDs, Use Permits, and Special Permits to add dwelling units at the Planning Director's discretion. Two types of administrative amendment changes are proposed—modifying the PUD and Use Permit sections to allow the Planning Director to approve conversion of commercial square footage to residential units and to modify the Special Permit section to allow the Planning Director to approve increase the previously approved dwelling unit count by up to 15 percent. The ladder change would impact the following special permits—27.63.410 Dwellings above first story in B-1, B-3, B-4; 27.63.530 Healthcare Facilities, Residential; and 27.63.210 Retirement or elderly housing

Research

In the last five years, four PUD's have been amended to convert commercial floor area to residential units. In addition, the Wilderness Commons PUD subtracted 20 acres that was absorbed by the Wilderness Creek PUD in essence transferring the commercial square footage from one PUD to another and allowing additional residential units in the Wilderness Commons PUD. Conversions included:

- (CZ05061D) Southwest Village PUD: 320,000 square feet commercial to 290 dwelling units (2021); about 0.9 DU/1,000 SF
- (CZ07060C) Wilderness Heights PUD: 120,000 square feet commercial to 442 multi-family units (2021); about 3.6 DU/1,000 SF
- (CZ06063B) North 40 Plaza PUD: 10,000 square feet commercial/office to 28 attached single-family dwellings (2020); about 2.8 DU/1,000 SF
- (CZ08010A) Woodside Village PUD: 58,000 commercial square feet to 275 dwelling units (2016); about 4.75 DU/1,000 SF

Proposed Amendment

27.60 PUD Changes

- a. 27.60.060 (b) Minor increases in the number of dwelling units or total floor area originally authorized by the City Council may be approved if such increases will not cause a significant adverse impact on the public infrastructure, existing development within the planned unit development, and adjoining properties. Minor increases shall not exceed more than fifteen percent (15%) cumulative additional dwelling units or total floor area; Minor increases in the number of dwelling units or total floor area originally authorized by the City Council may be approved if such increases will not cause a significant adverse impact on the public infrastructure, existing development within the planned unit development, and adjoining properties. Minor increases shall not exceed more than fifteen percent (15%) cumulative additional total floor area; If only floor area was approved, the Planning Director may approve the conversion of floor area to dwelling units so long as the number of dwelling units is no

greater than the density allowed in the City of Lincoln Design Standards for Community Unit Plans or the lot area requirements of the underlying zoning district.

27.64.010 Use Permit Change

27.64.010 (j) (2) Minor increases in the number of dwelling units or total floor area originally authorized by the Planning Commission or City Council may be approved if such increases will not cause a significant adverse impact on the public infrastructure, existing development within the use permit, and adjoining properties. Minor increases shall not exceed more than fifteen percent (15%) cumulative additional dwelling units or total floor area; if only floor area was approved, the Planning Director may approve the conversion of floor area to dwelling units so long as the number of dwelling units is no greater than the density allowed in the lot area requirements of the underlying zoning district.

27.63.030 Special Permit Change

~~27.63.030 (d) There is no increase in the number of dwelling units; Any increase in number of dwelling units that does not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of previously approved units and will not cause a significant adverse impact on the public infrastructure, existing development, and adjoining properties. Any increase may not exceed the maximum density requirements of the applicable special permit section.~~

27.65.060 CUP Change

27.65.060b In community unit plans ~~containing more than five acres,~~ minor increases in the number of dwelling units originally authorized may be approved if such increases do not exceed the maximum density allowed and such increases will not cause a significant adverse impact on existing development within the community unit plan and adjoining properties. Minor increases shall not exceed more than fifteen percent (15%) cumulative additional dwelling units;

Parking

Issue Summary

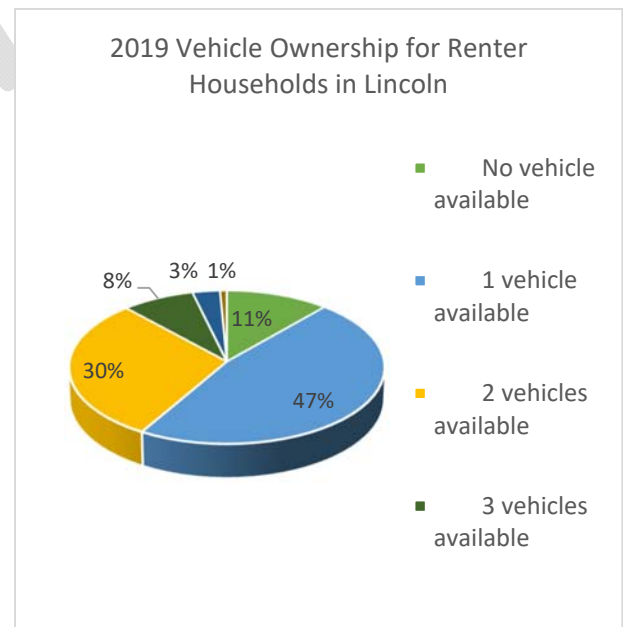
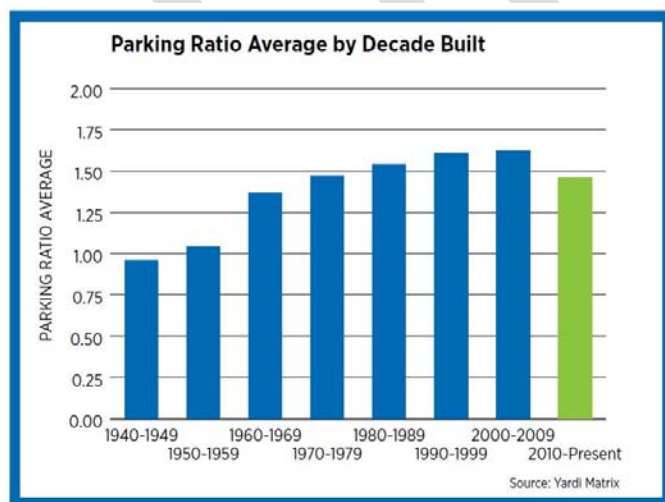
Required parking is a complex issue. Finding the right balance between requiring enough parking to avoid straining neighborhoods with congested on-street parking situations, but not so much that it increases the cost building an affordable housing project is important. The cost of parking is passed onto the renter or buyer in a housing project and when more stalls are required than the demand necessitates, it makes it difficult to produce affordable housing.⁴ Estimates for the cost of a parking stall range between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for surface parking and upwards of \$25,000 for a garage space.

Local and national trends show renter households own fewer cars. It has also been shown that required parking drives up costs, making affordable housing more difficult to produce. As a result, the following text amendments are proposed to reduce the parking requirement in R-1 through R-4 and R5 through R-6 from 2.0 and 1.75 respectively down to 1.5 per dwelling unit for multi-family dwellings. R-7 and R-8 would remain at 1.0 per unit. In the commercial districts, the new parking ratio for multi-family in the O-3 and B-5 districts would be 1.0 per unit and in O-1, consistent with the B-4 district, parking would not be required.

Research

In Lincoln, only 27% of owner-occupied households have 1 car or less, while 58% of renter-occupied households have 1 car or less according to 2019 American Community Survey data.⁵ Lower median incomes also have a direct correlation to lower car ownership rates. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics households with incomes less than \$25,000 are 9 times as likely to be zero-vehicle households than households with incomes greater than \$25,000.

In a study published by the American Planning Association in 2018, a direct correlation was found between lower parking supplied in a multi-family development and the lower than average rents. In Minneapolis, projects providing less parking saw a drop



Source: 2019 American Community Survey

⁴ Jeffrey Spivak, "People over Parking," Planning Magazine, October 2018.

⁵ American Community Survey, 2019, data.census.gov.

of \$200 per month per studio apartment. Another study from 2020 indicated, as a rule of thumb, parking costs to renters is about \$1,200 a year as the developer passes along the costs of providing required parking.

The National Apartment Association found the average parking ratio per unit dropped to 1.46, the lowest it has been since the 1960s. This shift is reflective of the decline of car ownership among renters 15 to 34 years of age from 33.7% in 2009 to 30.7% in 2016.⁶

Code

27.67.020 Parking Matrix

1. Summary of Changes:
 - a. No changes are proposed for single and two-family households
 - i. R-1 through R-4: Reduce from 2.0 to 1.5 stall per dwelling unit for **multi-family housing**. Multi-family is a special permitted use in R-1 through R-4 and not allowed by right, therefore any proposed development would go through a public hearing
 - ii. R-5 through R-6: Reduce from 1.75 to 1.5 for **multi-family housing**
 - b. O-3 & B-5: Reduce from 2.0 to 1.0 stall per unit for all housing types consistent with other commercial districts.
 - c. O-1: Reduce from 0.5 to 0 stalls per unit for all housing types consistent with the B-4 Downtown district.

Figure 27.67.020 PARKING MATRIX

Parking Spaces Required													
Zoning Districts	Single- and Two-Family Dwellings				<u>Multiple Family Dwellings (c)</u>		Office/Retail/Commercial Uses						Industrial Uses
	0.5 per dwelling unit	1 per dwelling unit	1.75 per dwelling unit	2 per dwelling unit	<u>1 per dwelling unit</u>	<u>1.5 per dwelling unit</u>	1 per 1,200 sq. ft.	2 per 3 persons on max. shift or 1 per 1,000 sq. ft. a	1 per 600 sq. ft.	1 per 500 sq. ft.	1 per 300 sq. ft.	1 per 150 sq. ft.	2 per 3 persons on maximum shift or 1 per 1,000 sq. ft. a
AG					AG District: None except uses with special parking requirements listed under Section 27.67.040 of the Lincoln Municipal Code .								
AGR				•									
R-1				•		•							
R-2				•		•							

⁶ National Apartment Association. The Transformation of Parking, (July 20, 2018). <https://www.naahq.org/news-publications/transformation-parking>

Figure 27.67.020 PARKING MATRIX

Parking Spaces Required

Zoning Districts	Single- and Two-Family Dwellings				Multiple Family Dwellings (c)		Office/Retail/Commercial Uses						Industrial Uses
	0.5 per dwelling unit	1 per dwelling unit	1.75 per dwelling unit	2 per dwelling unit	1 per dwelling unit	1.5 per dwelling unit	1 per 1,200 sq. ft.	2 per 3 persons on max. shift or 1 per 1,000 sq. ft. a	1 per 600 sq. ft.	1 per 500 sq. ft.	1 per 300 sq. ft.	1 per 150 sq. ft.	2 per 3 persons on maximum shift or 1 per 1,000 sq. ft. a
R-3				•		•							
R-4				•		•							
R-5			•			•							
R-6			•			•							
R-7		•			•								
R-8		•			•					•			
R-T		•			•						•		
O-1	•						with a 900'	O-1 District: There is no required parking in the O-1 District.					
O-2		•			•						•		
O-3		•		•	•						•		
B-1		•			•						within 300'		
B-2		•			•						within 300'		
B-3		within 300'							within 300'				
B-4					B-4 District: There is no required parking in the B-4 District.								
B-5		•		•	•						•		
H-1												•	
H-2									within 300'				

Figure 27.67.020 PARKING MATRIX

Parking Spaces Required													
Zoning Districts	Single- and Two-Family Dwellings				Multiple Family Dwellings (c)		Office/Retail/Commercial Uses						Industrial Uses
	0.5 per dwelling unit	1 per dwelling unit	1.75 per dwelling unit	2 per dwelling unit	1 per dwelling unit	1.5 per dwelling unit	1 per 1,200 sq. ft.	2 per 3 persons on max. shift or 1 per 1,000 sq. ft. a	1 per 600 sq. ft.	1 per 500 sq. ft.	1 per 300 sq. ft.	1 per 150 sq. ft.	2 per 3 persons on maximum shift or 1 per 1,000 sq. ft. a
H-3											within 300'		
H-4											within 300'		
I-1								within 300'					within 300'
I-2								within 300'					within 300'
I-3											•		•
<p>a. If the number of spaces required by the building ratio is greater than required by the employee ratio, an additional parking area shall be reserved to accommodate the construction of the additional spaces. Refer to Figure 27.67.040 of the Lincoln Municipal Code for a list of uses with special parking requirements. Refer to Section 27.67.040 of the Lincoln Municipal Code for uses with special parking requirements. Refer to Section 27.67.066 of the Lincoln Municipal Code for uses in the H-3 district with special parking requirements. Any parking requirement resulting in a partial parking space shall be rounded up to the next whole number as per Section 27.67.030(e) of the Lincoln Municipal Code.</p> <p>b. In zoning districts that allow parking within a certain separation distance, the separation distance shall be measured from the nearest point of the parking lot that contains the required parking stalls.</p> <p>c. Multiple Family Dwellings does not include any use already addressed in 27.67.040 Parking Requirements; Special Conditions.</p>													

Height

Issue Summary

The current ordinance limits the height for all residential units, including multi-family dwellings, to 35 feet, except for the R-7 and R-8 districts which are primarily downtown adjacent residential districts. Additionally, residential projects are treated differently than commercial buildings in the O-3, B-2, and B-5 districts by restricting the height to 35 and 40 feet. These lower height limits limit the number of new units that could be built, leading to increases in rental rates. An increase in height would not equal an increase in density, as most projects would still be limited by existing density maximums in the zoning ordinance. Additionally, many high-density neighborhoods, such as the South of Downtown, are primarily 2-3 story buildings, showing there is not a direct correlation between height and density.

Lower height regulations limit the number of new units that can be built, leading to increases in rental rates.⁷ Higher land costs are typically offset by building more housing units on a single parcel of land, however low maximum height regulations restrict this ability, causing a rise in rents to offset costs. Increasing the maximum height in some districts will allow more by-right construction and limit the number of waivers necessary for new housing projects. As the following data demonstrates, many waivers have been approved in recent years to allow an increase in height for new multi-family projects. In the office and commercial districts, it will have little to no impact as the height is already allowed for non-residential uses.

Research

Since 2016 a total of 15 projects outside downtown were approved with height waivers, all within a PUD or CUP. Of those, seven projects were zoned B-2 or B-5, the remainder were either R-3 or R-5. Nearly all the projects were approved with a maximum height of 55 feet, however one project was limited the height to 50 feet (Wilderness Hills Commercial PUD) and two up to 65 feet (Iron Ridge PUD and Chateau at Yankee Hill PUD). Three projects approved with height waivers are illustrated in Exhibits 1 through 3.

⁷ Hannah Hoyt and Jenny Schuetz, "Making apartments more affordable starts with understanding the costs of building them," Brookings.edu (May 5, 2020).

Exhibit 1: 33rd and Yankee Hill approved with waiver up to 50-foot height (R-5 CUP)



Exhibit 2: 48th and Holdrege approved with waiver up to 70-foot height (B-3 PUD)



Exhibit 3: 90th and O Street approved with waiver up to 50 feet (R-3 PUD)



Code

The tables in 27.72.020 would be amended as follows (see the Lot Development section for the table with proposed code changes):

1. In O-3 increase the height limit from 35 to 55 feet for all uses in this district with an increase in setback of 1 foot for each foot in height above 35 feet for side and rear yards.
 - a. The O-3 Districts are primarily located on arterial streets and major thoroughfares
2. In B-2 and B-5 increase the height limit from 40 to 55 feet for residential and commercial uses.
 - a. The B-5 District has a 100-foot setback to residential uses
3. In the R-5 through R-8 districts, increase the height for multiple-family dwellings to 55 feet.
4. As a clean up to make the table more legible, the asterisks are replaced with letters.

Additionally, the PUD and CUP sections will be amended to increase the maximum height for multiple-family dwellings in the R-1 through R-4 districts to 45 feet within the boundaries of the Neighborhood Design Standards (Exhibit 4) and 55 feet within the remainder of the city. A PUD or CUP requires a public hearing; therefore, any proposed multifamily project would go through a public process.

The table below shows current and proposed height by district, while Exhibit 5 on the following pages shows the areas where the proposed 55 foot height limit would be applicable.

District	Multi-Family		Commercial	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
O-3 Office Park	35 Feet	55 Feet*	45 Feet	55 Feet
B-2 Planned Neighborhood Business	40 Feet		40 Feet	
B-5 Planned Regional Business				
R-1 to R-4 Residential	35 Feet	55 Feet**	NA	
R-5 to R-7 Residential	35 Feet/45 Feet	55 Feet	NA	
*In the O-3 Office Park District the setbacks on the side and rear yards would be increased 1 foot for every foot above 35 feet in height, up to 55 feet.				
**The height is limited to 45 feet for all R-1 through R-4 Districts within the boundaries of the Neighborhood Design Standards				

Exhibit 4: Neighborhood Design Standards Boundary

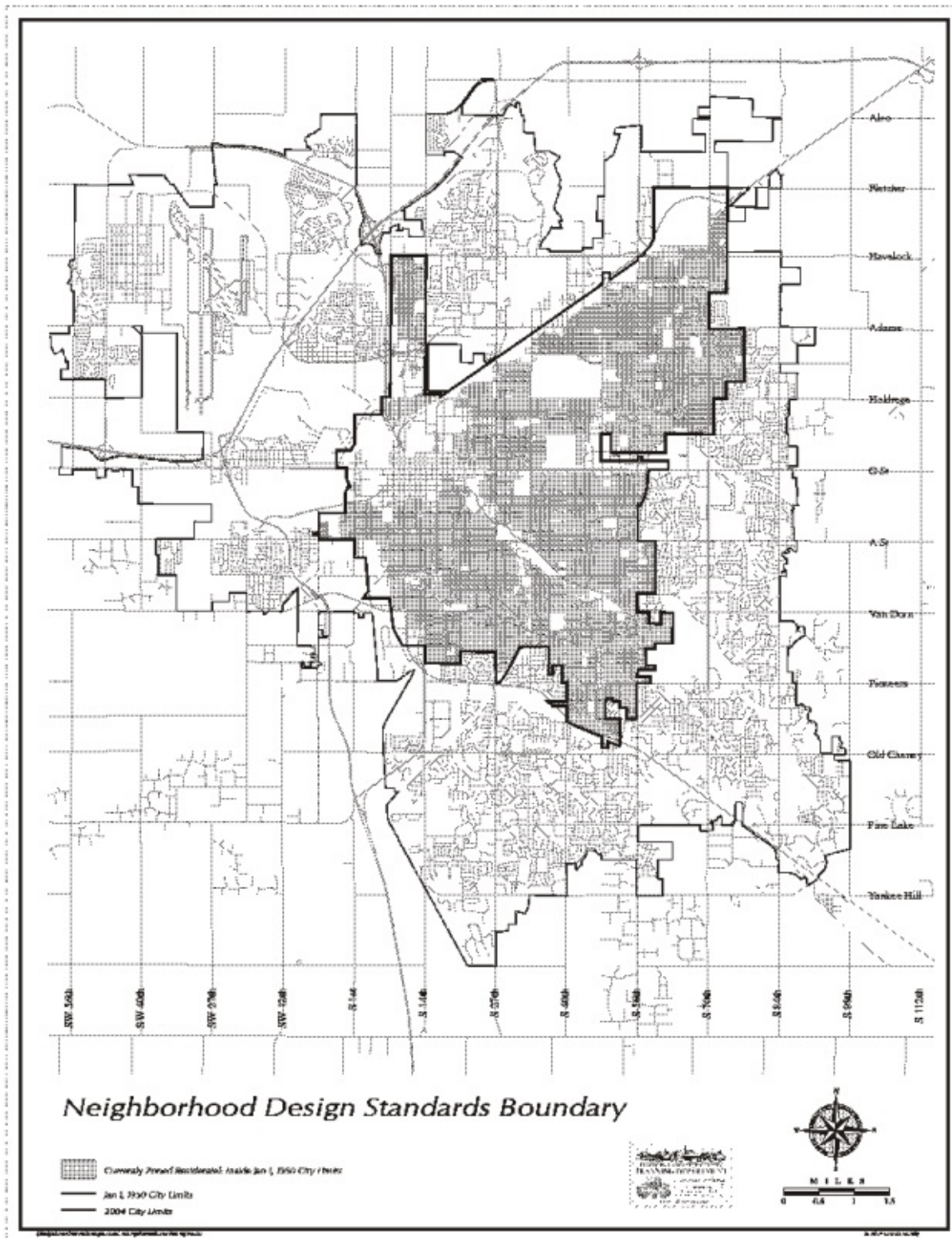
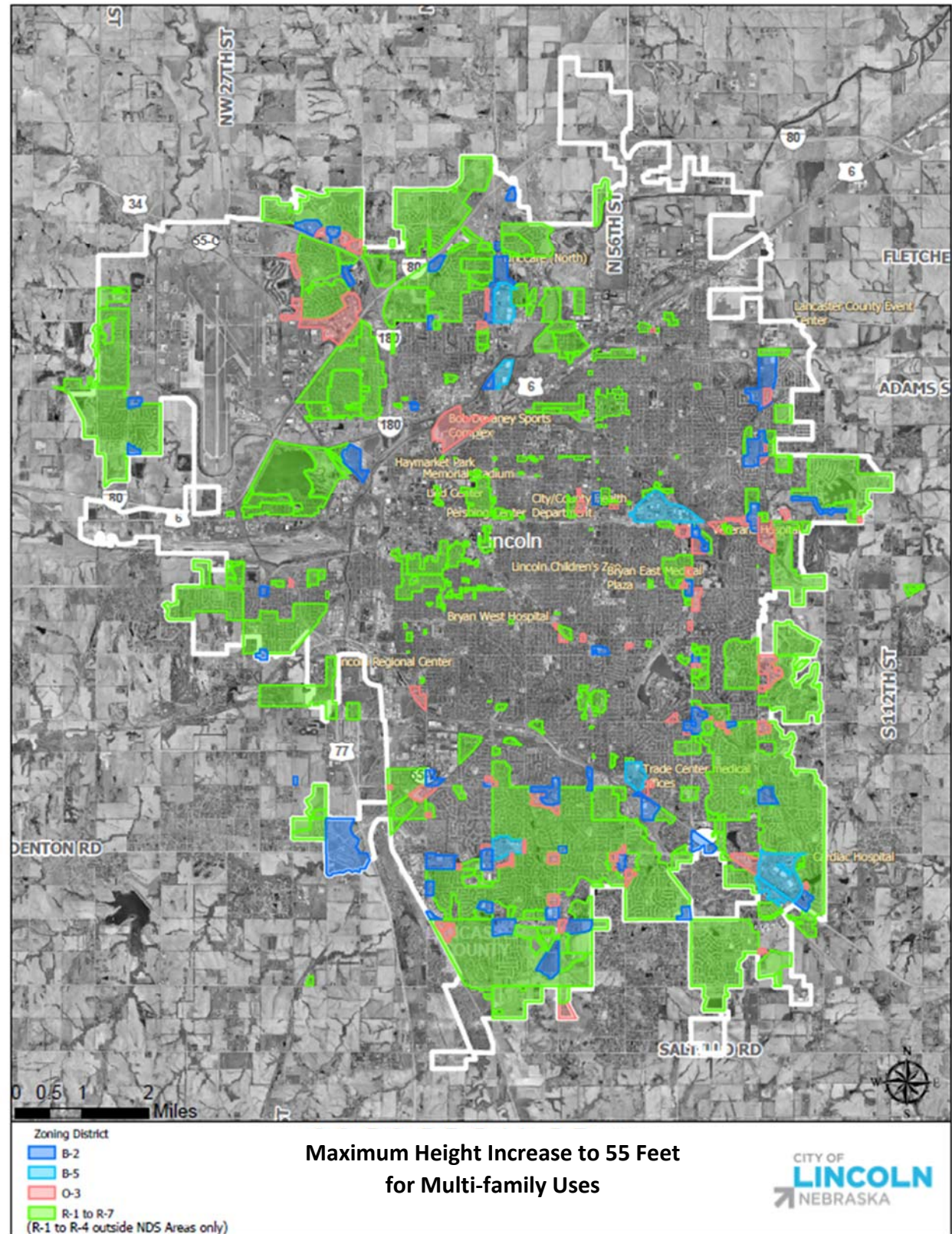


Exhibit 5: Areas where a 55-foot height limit would apply for multi-family projects



Planned Unit Developments

27.60.020 Requirements.

a. General Requirements.

1. The City or owners of any tract of land, at least three acres in size, may apply for a planned unit development designation in any district except the AG Agriculture and AGR Agricultural Residential districts.
2. All regulations of the underlying zoning district shall apply, except as provided herein and/or specifically modified by the City Council through the adoption of a development plan.
3. The maximum residential density of a planned unit development shall be determined by the City Council in order to permit flexibility in private and public development or redevelopment. In those instances where no maximum is established, the maximum residential density shall be in accordance with the City of Lincoln Design Standards for community unit plans, or the lot area requirements of the underlying zoning district. Planned unit developments which comply with the City of Lincoln Design Standards for Density Bonuses may receive dwelling bonuses per those standards.
- ~~3-4.~~ Signs shall conform to Section 27.69.340, unless modified by the City Council.
5. All development must meet the intent and spirit of the comprehensive plan.
6. In the R-1 through R-4 districts where Neighborhood Design Standards govern, the maximum height of multifamily structures shall not exceed a height of 45 feet. In the R-1 through R-4 districts where Neighborhood Design Standards do not govern, maximum height of multi-family structures shall not exceed 55 feet.

Community Unit Plans

27.65.020 Requirements.

b. Specific Requirements.

4. In the R-1 through R-4 districts where Neighborhood Design Standards govern, the maximum height of multi-family structures shall not exceed 45 feet. In the R-1 through R-4 districts where Neighborhood Design Standards do not govern, maximum height of multi-family dwellings shall not exceed 55 feet.

Lot Development

Issue Summary

Many parcels in older parts of Lincoln are nonstandard, meaning they do not meet the minimum lot width or square footage required to build a new dwelling unit. In the South of Downtown area thirty-six percent (36%) of the residentially zoned properties are nonstandard. Many of these types of lots could be built on today using provisions contained in 27.72.020 which provide exceptions to the minimum lot requirements if certain conditions on neighboring properties exist, however more often they require a special permit approved by the Planning Commission which adds time and expense to the project.

The proposed ordinance changes would make it easier to construct or rehabilitate a single or two-family dwelling on a nonstandard lot without requiring a special permit. This helps support affordable housing construction as existing lots are already connected to city services, removing a large expense associated with new lot development. These changes include:

- Making it easier to repair or reconstruct dwellings after damage
- Creating a new definition for corner lot yards which treats on front yard as a corner front yard with a reduced setback
- In the B-2 making all conditional residential uses permitted
- Amending the definition of required yard to allow landings for stairs as a projection into required yards, removing the need for a special permit to rebuild nonconforming landings

Research

Special Permit Data

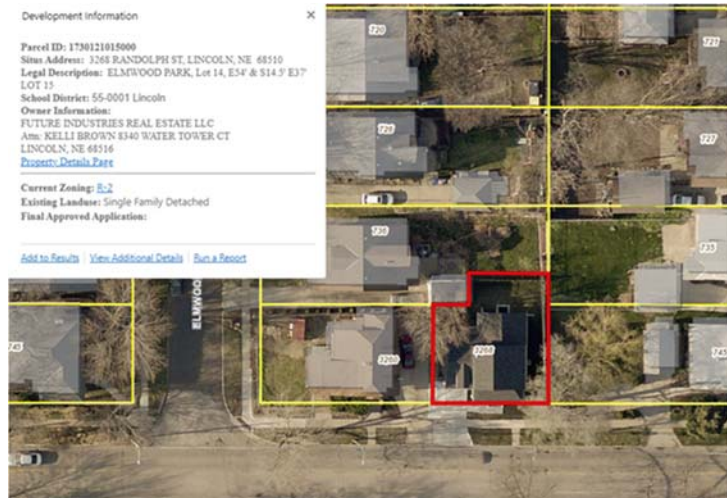
61 special permits were processed (excluding withdrawals) since 2011:

- 15 for rebuilding residential garages, carports, or sheds
- 8 related to residential dwellings
 - 2 were approved for complete reconstruction (SP19003 for a 4 plex and [SP18050](#) for a SFD and garage), the remaining were approved for expansions
 - Both reconstructions included waivers as did all the expansions except for the three oldest (2014 and 2011)
 - Applications:
 - Reconstruct a portion of the house with a nonconforming front yard setback [SP14020](#), [SP11008](#)
 - Expand into front and/or rear setback in line with existing house [SP17041](#), [SP18005](#); Front reduced to 6-8'

Non-Standard Lot Example

To the right is an example of what can be done by right using today's ordinance on a non-standard lot. The home was built in 2018 after the City purchased and demolished the previous home on the lot. The property is zoned R-2 and is 3,050 square feet. It is non-standard because the lot size exceeds the 6,000 square feet minimum. The lot does meet the 50-foot minimum lot width.

Section 27.72.020 (c) allows a single family home to be built on a lot that does not have enough area and/or width in all residential districts if the lot is at least 40 feet wide and was existed legally before November 2, 1953 (in R4 through R8 a similar provision allows for two-family construction as well), but the lot still must meet all other regulations. The owner used Section 27.72.080(e) to reduce the front yard setback from 25 feet to match the adjacent houses. The home meets the 5-foot side yard setbacks and 20% of the lot depth for rear yard setback.



If this lot had been only 40-foot-wide, it would have been challenging to fit the dwelling on the site while complying with the 5-foot side setback requirements.

Corner Lot Issues

Below are two common lot configurations in both new and older neighborhoods. On the left is the most common lot configuration for newer developments where the corner lots have two front yards. In this scenario, Section 27.72.080 reduces the required yard on the shared street side yard to 10 feet if the properties are zoned R-3, R-5, R-6, or R-7. At first the solution seemed to be amending this section to include R-1, R-2, and R-4, however upon closer review, many older neighborhoods with these zoning classifications have a proliferation of the lot types on the block to the right in the image below where a toothpick lot has been slipped between the two corner lots, making this provision non-applicable to a large number of corner lots in existing neighborhoods. Instead, the solution is to create a new definition of corner front yard and apply the 10 foot setback to that yard, preserving the intended setback from the street for safety and clearance, while making it easier to develop or rehabilitate properties on corner lots. These proposed changes appear on the amended tables above.



Code

27.61.50 Restoration after damage or Reconstruction

When the use of a building is nonconforming as defined in this chapter and such a building is damaged by a fire, explosion, act of God, or the public enemy to the extent of **more than sixty percent of its fair market value**, it shall **not be restored except in conformity** with the regulations of the district in which the building is located, or in conformance with the provisions of Chapter 27.75 (BZA), Section 27.63.280 (Special Permit), or this chapter. Notwithstanding this section, dwellings in the R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, or R8 districts damaged by fire, explosion, act of God, the public enemy, or intentionally demolished, in whole or in part, may be restored using the setbacks to the dwelling immediately prior to the restoration or reconstruction. If, however the proposed repair or replacement would increase any preexisting nonconformity or nonstandard setback or parking it shall only be rebuilt in conformance with the provisions of Chapter 27.75 (BZA), Section 27.63.280 (Special Permit), or this chapter.

27.02.260 Y (Definitions)

Yard, Required Front The required front yard shall extend across the front of a lot ~~between the side lot lines abutting a street. There shall be a one required front yard on each street side of a corner lot. On a corner lot, there shall be only one required front yard and it shall be adjacent to the lot line that is in line with the platting orientation of most of the structures on the block. If there is not a predominant platting orientation, the required front yard can may be on either street frontage. All other street frontages on a corner lot shall be required corner front yards. On a double frontage lot where the street frontages run parallel both lot lines are considered required front yards.~~

Yard, Required Corner Front On a corner lot there shall be one required front yard abutting the street frontage with the predominant platting orientation. All other street frontages shall be a required corner front yard. For the purposes of interpreting this chapter, any instance where front yard is addressed it is understood that corner front yard also applies unless otherwise stated.

Yard, Required Required yard shall mean the required minimum open space between the property line and the yard line. The required yard shall contain no building or structure other than the projection of the usual steps and landing, unenclosed balconies, or open porches, or as otherwise provided in this title.

27.72.060 Uses Permitted or Prohibited Within Required Yards.

d. Porches. An open, unenclosed porch may project into a required front yard for a distance not exceeding ten feet, however may not project into the required corner front yard under any situation;

27.72.070 Additional Front Yard Requirements.

b. In all zoning districts, there shall be a required front yard, in those lots requiring a front yard, on the street side of a corner lot that is in line with the platting orientation of most of the structures on the block. All remaining street frontages become required corner front yards;

27.72.080 Exceptions to the Front Yard Requirements.

~~(a) In the R-3, R-5, R-6, and R-7 where corner lots are separated by a common rear lot line, the minimum required front yard shall be ten feet on the side along the street adjacent to both corner lots.~~

27.72.020 Height and Lot Regulations R-1 through R-8 Zoning Districts.

The maximum height and minimum lot requirements within the R-1 through R-8 Districts shall be as follows:

- a. **R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-4 General Requirements.** See Table 27.72.020(a) below:

Table 27.72.020(a) Maximum Height and Minimum Lot Requirements for the R-1 through R-4 Districts					
		R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4
Single-family Dwelling	Lot Area (sq. ft.)	9,000	6,000	6,000	5,000
	Avg. Lot Width	60'	50'	50'	50'
	Front Yard	30'	25'	20'	25'
	Side Yard	10'	5'	5'	5'
	<u>Corner Front Yard (a)</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>
	Rear Yard	Smaller of 20' or 20% of the lot depth			
	Height	35'	35'	35'	35'
Two-family Dwelling	Lot Area per Family (sq. ft.)	7,200	5,000	5,000	2,500
	Avg. Lot Width per Family	48'	40'	40'	25'
	Front Yard	30'	25'	20'	25'
	Side Yard (0' if party wall)	20'	10'	5'	5'
	<u>Corner Front Yard (a)</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>
	Rear Yard	Smaller of 20' or 20% of the lot depth			
	Height	35'	35'	35'	35'
Other Allowed Uses	Lot Area (sq. ft.)	9,000	6,000	6,000	5,000
	Avg. Lot Width	60'	50'	50'	50'
	Front Yard	30'	25'	20'	25'
	Side Yard	10'	5'	5'	5'
	<u>Corner Front Yard (a)</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>
	Rear Yard	Smaller of 30' or 20% of the lot depth			
	Height	35'	35'	35'	35'

b. **R-5, R-6, R-7, and R-8 General Requirements.** See Table 27.72.020(b) below:

Table 27.72.020(b) Maximum Height and Minimum Lot Requirements for the R-5 through R-8 Districts					
		R-5	R-6	R-7	R-8
Single-family Dwelling	Lot Area (sq. ft.)	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
	Avg. Lot Width	50'	50'	50'	50'
	Front Yard	20'	20'	20'	10'
	Side Yard	5'	5'	5'	10'
	<u>Corner Front Yard (a)</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>
	Rear Yard	Smaller of 30' or 20% of the lot depth			20'
	Height	35'	35'	35'	35'
Two-family Dwelling	Lot Area per Family (sq. ft.)	2,500	2,500	2,000	2,000
	Avg. Lot Width per Family	25'	25'	25'	25'
	Front Yard	20'	20'	20'	10'
	Side Yard (0' if party wall)	5'	5'	5'	10'
	<u>Corner Front Yard (a)</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>
	Rear Yard	Smaller of 30' or 20% of the lot depth			20'
	Height	35'	35'	35'	35'
<u>Townhouses</u>	Lot Area per Family (sq. ft.)	2,500	2,500	2,000	2,000
	Avg. Lot Width per Family	20'	20'	20'	20'
	Front Yard	20'	20'	20'	10'
	Side Yard (0' if party wall)	10'	5'	5'	10'
	<u>Corner Front Yard (a)</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>10'</u>
	Rear Yard	Smaller of 30' or 20% of the lot depth			20'
	Height	35'	35'	35'	35'
Multiple-Family Dwellings and Apartment Hotels	Lot Area per Unit (sq. ft.)	1,500	1,100	700	550
	Avg. Lot Width	50'	50'	50'	50'
	Front Yard	20'	20'	20'	10'
	Side Yard (0' if party wall)	7' or 10' if over 20' in ht.		Total 15'; minimum 7' per side	10'
	<u>Corner Front Yard (a)</u>	<u>20'</u>		<u>20'</u>	<u>10'</u>
	Rear Yard	Smaller of 30' or 20% of the lot depth			20'
	Height	35' 55'	35' 55'	45' 55'	75'
Other Allowed Uses	Lot Area (sq. ft.)	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
	Avg. Lot Width	50'	50'	50'	50'
	Front Yard	20'	20'	20'	10'
	Side Yard	5'	5'	5'	10'
	<u>Corner Front Yard (a)</u>	<u>20'</u>	<u>20'</u>	<u>20'</u>	<u>10'</u>
	Rear Yard	Smaller of 30' or 20% of the lot depth			20'
	Height	35'	35'	35'	35'

(a) Facades on a corner front yard must have a minimum of two openings measuring a minimum of 6 square feet each.

27.72.030 Height and Lot Regulations Commercial Zoning Districts.

The maximum height and minimum lot requirements within the O-1 through O-3, R-T, and B-1 through B-5 Zoning Districts shall be as follows:

- a. **General Requirements.** See Table 27.72.030(a) below:

Table 27.72.030(a)											
Maximum Height and Minimum Lot Requirements for the O, R-T and B Zoning Districts											
			O-1	O-2	O-3	R-T	B-1	B-2	B-3	B-4	B-5
Dwellings	Lot Area (sq. ft.)	220 (per unit)	4,000	(a)	4,000	2,000 (per unit)	2,000 (per unit)	1,000 (per unit)	0	0	
	Frontage	50'	50'	50'	50'	50'	0'	0'	0'	0'	
	Front Yard	0'	20'	30'	10' (f)	20'	20'	0' (g)	0'	20'	
	Side Yard / Side Yard Abutting Residential	0'	10'	15' / (f)	0' / 10'	0' / 10'	20'	0' / 5'	0' / (f)	0' / 100'	
	Corner Front Yard (h)	0'	20'	30'	10'	20'	20'	0'	0'	20'	
	Rear Yard / Rear Yard Abutting Residential	0'	40'	40'	0' / 10'	Smaller of 30' or 20% of depth	50'	0' / 30'	0' / (f)	0' / 100'	
	Height	75' (d)	25' or 28' (b)	35' - 55' (i)	28'	40'	40' - 55'	45' or 35' (c)	See Figure 27.72.030(a)	40' - 55'	
Other Allowed Uses	Lot Area (sq. ft.)	0'	0'	4,000	4,000	0'	0'	0'	0'	0'	
	Frontage	0'	(e)	50'	50'	0'	0'	0'	0'	0'	
	Front Yard	0'	20'	20'	10' (f)	20'	20'	0' (g)	0'	20'	
	Side Yard/ Side Yard Abutting Residential	0'	0' / 10' / 0' / 20' (e)	15' / (f)	0' / 10'	0' / 10'	0' / 20'	0' / 5'	0' / (f)	0' / 100'	
	Corner Front Yard (h)	0'	20'	20'	10'	20'	20'	0'	0'	20'	
	Rear Yard/ Rear Yard Abutting Residential	0'	40'	40'	0' / 10'	Smaller of 30' or 20% of depth	0' / 50'	0' / 30'	0' / (f)	0' / 100'	
	Height	75' (d)	25' or 28' (b)	45' - 55' (i)	28'	40'	40' 55'	45' or 35' (c)	See Figure 27.72.030(a)	40' - 55'	

(a) In the O-3 zoning district the Minimum Lot Area shall be 1,500 square feet per multifamily dwelling unit; 2,500 square feet per Townhouse unit; and 4,000 square feet for single and two family dwellings.

Table 27.72.030(a)

Maximum Height and Minimum Lot Requirements for the O, R-T and B Zoning Districts

		O-1	O-2	O-3	R-T	B-1	B-2	B-3	B-4	B-5
<p>(b) The maximum height of the buildings in the O-2 zoning district shall be 25 feet if the roof pitch is less than 2.5:12; and 28 feet for all other roofs.</p> <p>(c) In the B-3 zoning district the maximum height shall be 45 feet except that it shall be 35 feet if abutting the R-1, R-2 or R-3 zoning district.</p> <p>(d) The maximum height of O-1 zoning district shall be the least of 75' or the height limitation imposed by Chapter 27.56, the Capitol Environs District.</p> <p>(e) In the O-2 zoning district if the Lot Area is less than 15,000 square feet the frontage requirement shall be 50' and the side yard shall be 10' if abutting a residential district and 0' if abutting a commercial or industrial district. If the Lot Area is 15,000 or more the frontage requirement shall be 100' and the side yard shall be 20' if abutting a residential district and 0' if abutting a commercial or industrial district.</p> <p>(f) In the O-3, R-T and B-4 zoning district required yards are as in 27.72.030(a) or the same as the abutting zoning district whichever is greater. Townhouses in the O-3 zoning district shall have a required side yard of 0' or 10' on the nonparty wall side.</p> <p>(g) In the B-3 zoning district if block face is partially in a residential zoning district then the front yard setback shall be the same as the residential district.</p> <p>(h) For each foot above 35 feet, the building must be set back an additional 1 foot, beyond the minimum setbacks, from the side and rear lot lines.</p>										

27.62.040 Household Living Use Group.

~~b. Dwellings are permitted in the B-2 zoning district when stated as an allowed use as part of a use permit.~~

27.06.070 Household Living Use Group Table

Uses	AG	AGR	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	O1	O2	O3	RT	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	H1	H2	H3	H4	I1	I2	I3
Apartment hotels	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	C		C	C	C P	P	P								
Connection of a single family dwelling	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S																
Dwellings for caretakers, resident watchmen, and supervisory personnel employed and residing on premises															P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Accessory Dwellings for domestic employees	S	S																P								
Elderly and Retirement Housing			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	S	S	C P	S	P	C P							
Housing for the Handicapped			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	S							

27.06.070 Household Living Use Group Table

Uses	AG	AGR	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	O1	O2	O3	RT	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	H1	H2	H3	H4	I1	I2	I3
<u>Mobile home courts</u>			S	S	S	S																				
Mobile home subdivisions			S	S	S	S																				
Multiple family dwellings	S*	S*	S*	S*	S*	S*	P	P	P	P	P	C	P		C	C-P	C	P	P							
<u>Single-family dwellings</u>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	C	C-P	C	P	P							
Single-family dwelling with detached accessory dwelling			C	C	C	C																				
Townhouses	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	C	P		C	C-P	C	P	P							
<u>Two-family dwellings</u>	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	C	C-P	C	P	P							
All other uses in this Use Group	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P				P	P							



Memorandum

Date: ♦ August 10, 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 August 3, 2021 through August 9, 2021:

Administrative Amendment 21037, to Change of Zone 05054E, Prairie Village North PUD, approved by the Planning Director on August 9, 2021, to allow covered and uncovered decks in the rear yard setback no closer than 10 feet from the rear property line for Lots 1-19 and 21, Block 15 on property generally located at N. 94th Street and Renegade Boulevard.

August 4, 2021

TO: City Council

I read in ^{journal store} paper today of plans by HyVee stores to build a new liquor concept here in Lincoln. According to Article HyVee filed a liquor application for a wall-to-wall wine & spirits at 5040 No. 27th, only two blocks away is the wine, beer & spirits Superstore. My question - How many more liquor stores do we need in Lincoln? Every grocery store has beer & liquor, as well as drug stores, gas stations, etc. I know we continue to have alcohol problems with many people in Lincoln and surrounding areas. It is also a problem with our youth here in Lincoln. Will you agree with this application? I will be looking forward to your decision

↓

Sinclair,

Robert Ewell

4341 SO. 45

LINCOLN, Ne 68516

402-489-6373

Ewell_R @ ~~MSN~~, ~~com~~ MSN, com.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Isabel Salas <isabel@lincolnsouthdowntown.org>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 11:12 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Shawn Ryba
Subject: Letter of support for Ord. 21-90
Attachments: 08-09-2021 Ord 21-90 SDCDO Support.pdf

Dear Council Members,

Attached is a letter of support for Ordinance 21-90 regarding sidewalk cafes. This letter is being submitted on behalf of the South of Downtown Community Development Organization.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Isabel Salas

--

Isabel Salas
Director of Community Engagement
She | Her | Hers
(308) 320-0821
1247 S. 11th St.
Lincoln, NE 68502



Dear Chairperson Bowers and Lincoln City Council Members,

The South of Downtown Community Development Organization is writing in support of Ordinance 21-90 to further the use of sidewalk cafes in the neighboring downtown area. Our communities are mutually supportive of each other's business and social well-being, and we urge the council to allow sidewalk cafes to further boost the vibrancy of our connected communities.

One large aspect of community building we have realized and seen proven time after time in our neighborhood is the vitality of social connectedness. Publicly visible gathering spaces are critical to this, and we believe sidewalk cafes will serve this purpose. In our neighborhood, many folks with porches see them as a space to celebrate their existence, laugh with friends and say hello to passing neighbors. This celebration of self and community needs a space to exist in the first place, and sidewalk cafes will help local businesses, patrons, and workers alike to foster a more socially connected community. Many folks in our neighborhood don't have access to porches – in fact, many buildings in the area only offer blank brick walls to the street, severing the opportunity for community engagement to flourish organically.

Moreover, folks who feel socially connected to their surrounding community are more likely to feel safety and security in their area. When canvassing our community, we quickly found that folks who felt this social connection were almost always more likely to feel a sense of safety in the neighborhood. Whether a person knows a friend down the street, knows their neighbor, or waves at the same person sitting on their porch while on a walk, all of these boost a sense of security and confidence that help is available to them should they need it. Sidewalk cafes offer a critical way to increase the safety of our community, especially in the transition streets between our community and the downtown area. This invaluable effect of social interaction with community members has the potential to similarly boost safety in knowing a friendly face nearby will be able to help.

The transitional area between downtown and South of Downtown will also benefit from increasing safety felt just by the physical presence of folks nearby. Many folks report a lack of perceived safety in the areas between N and K Streets outside of the 9-to-5 working hours, simply due to the nature of the office buildings. Expanding the use of sidewalk cafes offers an opportunity for safety to be felt in current and future establishments in this area because of the increase of eyes on the streets. Many folks – especially young folks, women, and people of color – refrain from walking alone at night in this transitional area. Increasing the access that establishments have in creating sidewalk cafes will offer a solution to this problem.



Finally, we have seen a dramatic effect of COVID-19 on the way that our local businesses functioned (or didn't), which thereby affected the employment of many folks in our community. Allowing outdoor space for businesses to function should be considered just for the economic effect and stability that it offers in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant. We saw many neighbors go out of work as businesses had to close temporarily or even permanently. Sidewalk cafes offer an opportunity for businesses to continue to function and neighbors to continue to earn wages by allowing them to conduct business outdoors, a practice recommended to lower the risk of COVID transmission. Utilizing the outdoor space we do have is a creative solution that allows folks to continue working and businesses to continue functioning during uncertain times.

Sidewalk cafes have the capacity to increase social connectedness, sense of safety, and offer an opportunity for businesses to safely continue operating and employ community members. We ask that the Council support ordinance 21-90.

Sincerely,

Shawn Ryba,
Executive Director

Angela M. Birkett

From: Bobby A <txbobbya@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Proof that I'm not a blowhard

Top media Tweet earned 13 impressions

[@IvankaTrump](#) My law suit is controlling my mind (I'm not multitask) - Hopefully I'll soon be able to get my first vocal to you ?? - Here's what I've done so far to deal with crap that of what we all have to put up with (various forms) - pic.twitter.com/pEyX9YAhzA



Angela M. Birkett

From: Maxine Tysdal <maxine.tysdal@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Support for Bar Sidewalk Cafes

Dear City Council,

My name is Maxine Tysdal and I live at 3215 C St, Lincoln, NE 68510. I am emailing you today to express my support for changing the ordinance to allow bars in Lincoln to have sidewalk cafes.

Given the financial impact Covid-19 has had on small businesses in our community, I believe it's crucial to assess how we can change ordinances to give businesses a fighting chance. This is particularly important regarding spaces like bars, which rely on the ability of people to gather.

There is much uncertainty on how long this pandemic will endure, especially given the recent uptick in infection rates due to spread of the Delta variant. The city of Lincoln claims there is currently only a moderate risk of Covid-19 spread, however, as of last week (Aug 1st-7th) the CDC has listed Lancaster county at a level of high community transmission.

It's clear that we don't yet know the full impact the spread of the Delta variant will have on this community, but one thing we do know is that gathering outdoors is safer than gathering indoors. Allowing bars to implement sidewalk cafes could help these businesses stay open during these uncertain times. This in turn would allow for bars to continue employing people, which is beneficial to the community as a whole.

Before the pandemic, I worked at a bar that has since been permanently closed due to the financial impact of Covid-19. I was unemployed for a significant portion of last year, and have worked extremely hard to get back on my feet. It would be meaningful to me and many others in the service industry, if the City Council would do everything they could to give small local businesses, like bars, the ability to continue operating safely as we see increased spread of the Delta variant.

Aside from the pandemic, it's worth noting that Lincoln is largely seen as a college town. I moved to Lincoln to attend college after I graduated from high school, and I am still living here 14 years later. However, I have watched the majority of my friends move away over the years, all looking for places more vibrant and exciting than Lincoln. If Lincoln wants to keep young people here to build a life and contribute to this community, we need to start taking steps to improve culture and nightlife in this city.

There are many areas in downtown Lincoln that already have wide enough sidewalks to implement sidewalk cafes, and doing so breathes new life into spaces. Sidewalk cafes tend to increase pedestrian use and revitalize areas by making them appear more inviting. Adding them to bars is an opportunity to transform our public environment in the city of Lincoln in a way that fosters a sense of community.

I urge those of you on the City Council to support changing the ordinance to allow bars to have patios/sidewalk cafes.

Thank you for your time,
Maxine Tysdal

Angela M. Birkett

From: Georgia Bihr <grbihr@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: catalytic converter theft deterrent

Dear Lincoln City Council Members

I am writing in response to one of today's meeting agenda items - theft of catalytic converters.

We have a home in Sacramento CA where this has been a major issue for many years.

As part of an effort to address this issue, several fire departments in and around the Sacramento area have initiated a theft deterrent program.

Vehicle owners can make an appointment to take their automobile to a fire station where specific identification data is engraved on the catalytic converters along with an engraved warning that this was done by that fire department.

The automobile owner is also provided a decal to apply to the vehicle's rear window as a warning that this has been done!

This links the converter to a specific vehicle and also prohibits stolen converter sales to bonafide salvage businesses.

At the time we used this service this was done free of charge but donations were accepted.

Perhaps something similar should be explored and initiated as part of an effort to address this problem in Lincoln.

Thank you for your attention. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Georgia Bihr

Angela M. Birkett

From: Bobby A <txbobbya@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Fwd: Photos in my file

I just sent this to the main person at the NE Insurance Investigation - It explains why I'm having to go over their heads to make my side of this farce known -

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bobby A** <txbobbya@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 1:46 PM
Subject: Photos in my file
To: <connie.drake@nebraska.gov>

Hi Connie -

I had to go through a four day subpoena process to gain access to the cruiser cam video that proved my case - Your people and the LPD had free (instant) access to that file, and were either too "rural" or bias to Preble to apply any enhancing tech to improve their registration -

"Let's Enhance" is used by hundreds of law enforcement entities nation wide - Had your people (and LPD) used it, Preble would be charged with insurance fraud right now - As it stands, you folks have closed the case, and I'm having to go to your bosses to (maybe) make anything happen -

Angela M. Birkett

From: Peter Watters <peterhwatters@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Sidewalks

Hi guys,

This is Peter Watters from the Zoo Bar. Unfortunately I can not make today's council meeting, but I would like to voice my support for allowing more businesses more sidewalk access. It would help a lot of us that don't have beer gardens or aren't in the Railyard. This would be a start to tip the scales of inequity between us. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, Pete Watters
Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Charles Baker <ckbakeriv@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Patio Seating Ordinance

Lincoln City Councilors:

I am Charles Baker, a lifelong Lincoln resident.

I write to you in strong support of the motion before you to permit businesses to expand exterior seating. This measure would create opportunity for businesses to revive and grow, and also to foster a safer and more inviting city for residents and visitors.

It is common sense to promote exterior seating during the ongoing pandemic. Not only would this protect our citizens from death and disease, it is a meaningful form of support for healthcare professionals, small business owners and employees, elderly who have limited opportunity to socialize safely, and the many others whose lives and livelihoods have been affected in this period.

Furthermore, incentive for businesses to invest in their property and beautify our streets beyond plain cement monotony will help to cultivate Lincoln into a more prosperous city for many years to come.

I ask that you affirm the measure before you.

Charles K. Baker IV

Angela M. Birkett

From: Sandra J. Washington
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:06 AM
To: Angela M. Birkett
Subject: RE: Redistricting Suggestion

Mr. Frohman: Thank you for sending your suggestion in writing and for taking the time to present your suggestion in person. I don't like the idea of gerrymandering but I would not go so far as to promise only right angles in the shape of a district. I feel it is important to keep precincts unsplit between districts and not all precincts have straight lines. I will promise to the best of my ability to balance districts by size of population, keeping precincts intact.

–Sincerely, Sandra Washington

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Angela M. Birkett](#)
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 3:12 PM
To: [Richard W. Meginnis](#); [Bennie R. Shobe](#); [Tammy J. Ward](#); [James M. Bowers](#); [Jane Raybould](#); [Sandra J. Washington](#); [Tom J. Beckius](#); 'Richard Meginnis'
Subject: FW: Redistricting Suggestion

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

Angie Birkett
Administrative Secretary
Lincoln City Council
555 South 10th St., Ste 111
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone 402-441-6867
Fax 402-441-6533
abirkett@lincoln.ne.gov



From: Jim Frohman <jimfrohman@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Cc: mreist@journalstar.com
Subject: Redistricting Suggestion

I have a suggestion on redistricting.

My suggestion is simple, I'm asking each of you and the mayor to take a pledge to not consider any redistricting maps from any source that were drawn using any form of political data.

My guess is that most if not all of you have discussed gerrymandering at some point in the past. I would further guess that most if not all of you oppose gerrymandering. If my guesses are right, then taking the pledge will be easy.

If you do support gerrymandering, especially since it has now been given the Supreme Court's stamp of approval, you should proudly exclaim your support and act accordingly.

Failure to take the pledge or to declare support for gerrymandering will leave the voters uncertain as to your position on gerrymandering. When the final district map is approved and gerrymandering is obvious you would rightly be labeled as cowards, gerrymanderers, and most likely hypocrites when you complain about others gerrymandering their districts.

I'm sure you're thinking that the district map you approve will be fair and not gerrymandered. History doesn't support this conclusion. The current district map was gerrymandered. Hollow excuses were made but the intent was clear. And current voters will see through your hollow excuses if you gerrymander again.

Drawing a non-partisan district map for four districts is a simple process. Using mapping software pick a starting point on the map then draw a vertical and horizontal line that follow precinct lines and that intersects at a right angle at the selected starting point. Calculate the population numbers in the four districts. If they are not equivalent move the intersection and its lines to another location. Continue until the populations in the four districts are equivalent. Simple. Understandable. Non-partisan.

This is an opportunity to show that you are considering all of Lincoln when doing redistricting. That despite your political affiliations you recognize that Lincoln has the same number of democrat and republican voters. That republicans and democrats each only represent 37% of the electorate. That 26% of the electorate are non-partisan or other parties.

If you believe that party is more important than the electorate and that gerrymandering is perfectly legitimate, then proudly stand and declare your position and gerrymander away.

Otherwise, take the pledge and refuse to consider politics when redistricting the Lincoln districts.

Jim Frohman

7335 Pioneers Blvd

Apt 212

Lincoln, NE 68506

402.617.2484

jimfrohman@outlook.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Alex Houchin <alex.m.houchin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: A brief argument for a downtown pedestrian mall

Hello Council,

I'm listening to today's Council meeting, and as I am unable to make it to offer in-person testimony I thought I'd write a brief-ish note to urge you all to strongly consider making certain areas in the heart of downtown Lincoln into pedestrian malls. I have visited other cities of comparable size that have made this change to their downtown districts (see photo of downtown Fort Collins, CO below) and I believe Lincoln is primed for such a change.

Further, every time there's a festival or some other sort of outdoor event in downtown Lincoln (RibFest, ZooFest, etc), we get to see first-hand what this might be like. Additionally, when there are events at/near the Arena, streets in the Railyard turn into temporary pedestrian malls. Whenever I visit such events, I always find the pedestrian mall style, though temporary, is quite a welcome change. It's safer, it's

It's a bold idea, and you would likely face some resistance, but the end result could be truly remarkable. For example, imagine this look for 14th Street between N and P Streets:



Fort Collins, CO

Thanks for your time,

Alex M. Houchin
Lincoln, NE

Angela M. Birkett

From: Cindy E <cindyelder@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 7:24 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Sidewalk cafes - oppose

Good evening,

I do not support the change to 14.50.030 and 14.50.040 to allow sidewalk cafes for businesses (including bars) that don't meet the current requirements.

It is already challenging to physically move down the sidewalk and around between the existing sidewalk cafes and planters when there is even a small crowd.

Thanks,
Cindy

Angela M. Birkett

From: Michelle Clifford <cliffordm25@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2021 8:30 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: mask mandates in LPS

Hello,

I am a teacher at Lincoln High School, but I'm also writing to you today as a Lincoln citizen, as what happens in our schools impacts our entire community. LPS recently announced its pandemic procedures for the year, which are inadequate.

While students in K-6 will be required to mask, students in 7-12 will not. This is based on vaccine eligibility, not on actual levels of vaccination, which I believe is still under 50% for 12-18 year olds. The exception to the rule that those in grades 7-12 do not need to mask are students in 3 special education categories. This distinction - which many parents of special education students have filed ADA complaints over - is based on a claim of "protecting" vulnerable students. While last year did see more outbreaks in the Life Skills program (one of the 3 SPED categories required to mask) than in other groups of students, this can be attributed to the close contact nature of the program and fewer masks, as the majority of students with mask exemptions are students with special needs.

The biggest flaw in LPS's partial mask mandate is that it is partial. There will be more outbreaks even outside of the Life Skills program without mandatory masking. The majority of special education students are integrated into "regular education" classes for at least a portion of their day (art, PE, music, etc.) where their peers will likely not be masked. This poses a problem of enforcement - Life Skills students are not differentiated from other special education students in teacher records, which means that teachers will not know whether a student with an IEP label needs to be masked or not. Life Skills students also have siblings in different grade levels, schools, and programs - what keeps a child safe in one arena goes out the window if their sibling brings it home because they were not masked. And the reliance on enrollment in the Life Skills program as the reason for mandating masks is inaccurate discrimination - while some of these students do indeed have health complications that go along with their disabilities, some do not. There is a plethora of students who are not in any special education services who have anemia, type 1 diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, etc. that put them at increased risk.

Finally - as I taught my students at the beginning of last school year - masks protect others around the wearer more than it protects the wearer themselves. A partial mask mandate will not be effective in keeping our most vulnerable students safe. It will not be effective in controlling the spread of the Delta variant at all, and it appears only to be a political maneuver. Families that are against vaccinations and masks will complain less, and if a special education student were to die from covid, LPS could claim that it was not school spread.

Today, school board member Dr. Bob Rauner told a student that political pressure from the governor is to blame. Rauner wants LPS to follow the expertise of medical professionals who unequivocally say that all students and staff should be masked for the upcoming school year. He later told a parent that reaching out to the school board was insufficient, but that we should also contact city council, the mayor, and the health department. Teachers want to teach again, students want to see their friends and experience school, and parents want their kids out of the house so they can go to work. We all want it to be normal again and I truly believe that we can have a relatively "normal" school year if we are all wearing masks at school.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Mark Grell <mark@millergrell.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Sidewalk Cafes

Greetings, Councilmembers:

I wanted to drop a short note in the hopes that all members decide to vote “yes” next week on the subject of sidewalk cafes. I feel that opening up this possibility to businesses, especially in the downtown/Haymarket area, would greatly benefit not only the private businesses who have long wanted this option, but also the city as a whole as we grow.

Thanks for all you do!

Mark

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(F) 402-261-4982
www.millergrell.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Ann Hunter-Pirtle <ann.hunterpirtle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Please support the sidewalk cafe ordinance

Hello, Lincoln City Council members,

I am sharing the below information in my personal capacity; these views are my own and not those of any organization. I was born and raised in Lincoln, attended UNL for undergrad and master's degrees, and after living in Washington, DC and France for several years, I returned to Lincoln in 2016 at the age of 29 to start a nonprofit to support public education in Nebraska.

There are lots of things I love about Lincoln--but I have to tell you, returning here after living in DC for five years was harder than I expected. Going from hundreds of great restaurants and bars and multiple live music options every night of the week to less of all of the above was tough, and it still makes me question my future here at times. Lincoln needs to do more if it wants to recruit and retain young professionals like me--it needs quality (not luxury) housing for young professional adults, more top-notch restaurants and bars, more fun activities for folks who don't have kids, and above all, more cultural opportunities.

One step in the right direction would be Councilman Bowers' sidewalk cafe ordinance. This proposal should truly be a no-brainer, especially in the COVID era. I can enjoy a beer outside on the patio at Yia-Yia's; I should be able to do the same at Jake's. Last winter, my partner and I did not visit any bars or restaurants in person unless we could sit outside (many establishments added outdoor heaters). The sidewalk ordinance would add a potential income stream for cafes in the event that indoor crowds have to be restricted again this fall and winter. Adding more patios won't cause folks to drink more; it will give them more ways to gather with friends, enjoy nice weather when we have it, and stay safer from COVID.

Beyond COVID, this is a small step Lincoln can take toward embracing being a vibrant city for young adults. Does it really matter? Yes--because to attract and retain the younger people Lincoln says it wants, it has to be more than an affordable place to live. It also has to be fun.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Ann Hunter-Pirtle

Angela M. Birkett

From: George Wolf <gwolf1226@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 4:52 PM
To: Council Packet; Mayor
Subject: Charlotte, NC

Dear Councilmembers and Mayor

FYI: <https://www.wral.com/charlotte-passes-ordinance-banning-discrimination-against-lgbtq-residents/19819237/>

George Wolf, for Fairness Lincoln

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Angela M. Birkett

From: Edison McDonald <edisonmcdonald@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: City Budget Items

Dear Lincoln City Council,

Hello, my name is Edison McDonald, and I am the Executive Director for the Arc of Nebraska. We are a nonprofit with 1500 members and nine chapters covering the State, representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 60 years. We are writing today to urge your support of expanding funding for two critical items for our members' accessible housing and adaptive playground equipment. While many other cities have taken action on this, unfortunately, Lincoln has been hanging behind with few sites that have accessible equipment. We hope that you will prioritize this and other vital pieces of the budget for our members.

Accessible Playgrounds

There are play spaces that meet playground accessibility ADA compliance requirements but fail to be genuinely inclusive. Accessible playgrounds are simply those that people with special needs can access. They may include playgrounds that permit children in wheelchairs to access some or all of the playground equipment, for example. Inclusive playgrounds are created for everyone — including children with no known special needs. Truly inclusive playgrounds allow children of all different ability levels to play together. With on average 20% of the population having a disability of some kind, this is vital to ensure we have a truly welcoming community.

Affordable and Accessible Housing

We are also appreciative of your efforts to expand affordable housing options as our members have been struggling to find adequate options. This is a growing issue both for Lincoln and Nebraska as a whole. We have found that many of the affordable housing options will not include apartments that are also accessible. This leads to greater difficulty for our members as they choose where they want to live as they try to be members of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. If you are interested in discussing further please call me at (402) 802-1109

Sincerely,

Edison McDonald

Executive Director

The Arc of Nebraska

Angela M. Birkett

From: mdblady@neb.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: \$3 million surplus

Dear members

By now I'm sure you had plenty of responses to the Surplus. But I beg of you to please consider 48th and A St. intersection repair immediately.

It has got to be the worst in town. We were hoping since they were Paving Cotner nearby that would have possibly included this intersection, but I guess not.

I invite you all to drive this intersection especially coming from a street. This road not only carries the local neighborhood but also carries those travelling to and from Pius High School and Lincoln East High School along with Culler Middle School as well as those going to and from Bryan East Hospital.

Please consider this intersection as a safety issue.....

Thanks
Dave Brady
1527 Ridgeway Road

Angela M. Birkett

From: George Wolf <gwolf1226@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Council Packet; Mayor
Subject: Athens, Georgia

Another city joins the list, but still not Lincoln:

<https://www.projectq.us/athens-adopts-broad-lgbtq-nondiscrimination-policy/>

George Wolf, for Fairness Lincoln

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Angela M. Birkett

From: Karen Kronhofman <kronhofman1005@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:40 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: property tax relief

To all Council Members:

In my opinion we as homeowners need/deserve the property tax relief. Those of us who have worked through the pandemic with shortened hours or no hours have struggled to keep up with our responsibilities.

The increase in property valuation was extraordinary high this past year. I am assuming that they will be raised again. Many of us would not be able to sell our houses for the amount that it has been assessed for.

Please don't advise that we fight it as when I brought attention to a few problem areas, I felt that I was not listened to. Your minds are already made up.

If property tax relief is given, there is a high probability sales tax would increase.

I believe part of the property tax goes to our schools. Maybe, they need to work within a smaller budget like many of the homeowners have to.

My fear is that if you keep raising the tax there will be many foreclosures and that will create a new set of problems.

Thank you for your time,
Karen

Angela M. Birkett

From: Marianne Young <myoung919@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive playground

Good afternoon,

I am writing you to let you know of the need for an inclusive playground in Lincoln. I would like to ask you to vote for the amendment on Wednesday. I support the funding of the project. Having a son on the autism spectrum I can tell you firsthand how difficult it can be to take him to any of the parks in our community. Lincoln really needs to show that children of all abilities need a place that they can play safely and be themselves. Thank you so much!

Marianne Young

Angela M. Birkett

From: Gill, Dana <dana.gill@celerion.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive playground

Hi,

My name is Dana Gill and I am the mother of a 12-year-old boy who has significant physical and cognitive impairment stemming from a brain bleed he experienced in utero. Physically speaking, he did not walk until the age of 5, requires the use of adaptive braces, and has significant right sided weakness. As a result, he is unable to utilize any equipment at regular playgrounds, and at this time the only options available to him for play are a single swing at Antelope Park, when it is not being used by typically developing children (or even teenagers and adults at times). My son is far from the only child in Lincoln with special needs that would benefit from an inclusive playground. I would ask that the council vote yes to an amendment on Wednesday to fund this project as it would be a wonderful addition to make our city more inclusive. Thank you!

Dana Gill, RN, MPH
Medical Writer II
Data Management and Biometrics
Celerion
Tel: 1.402.617.7991
dana.gill@celerion.com
www.celerion.com

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Angela M. Birkett

From: Anna Alcalde <annaalcaldeartist@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Anna Alcalde; cathykmart@yahoo.com; Council Packet
Subject: Special Needs play equipment

Dear City Council members

I hope this finds you all well and ready to take on another issue that will make Lincoln even more of a desirable place to live.

There is a great need and desire for inclusive playground in our community with over 7000 children falling with in the disability spectrum. Lps serves 7000 kids with disabilities in our schools and our city doesn't have decent, if any, adaptive play equipment or playgrounds.

In Lincoln, we only have two adaptable swings and one is usually broken most of the time. As a growing city of nearly 30,000 residents and 87 parks we should be able to keep up with rural communities such as West Point Norfolk York and Hastings, Nebraska who have less residents but more forward thinking playgrounds.

Every child, no matter their physical abilities deserve the gift of " play". What a gift to the families of such children to take their kids to play together with neuro-typical children side by side.

As a voting resident of Lincoln Nebraska for 40 years I support funding this project. This will only enhance " the good life".

I urge you all to vote for the amendment on Wednesday. I thank you for caring about our special needs community.

Sincerely,
Anna Alcalde
402-890-3278

Angela M. Birkett

From: Stef Flodman <sflodman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Adaptive playground

Dear council members,

I support funding an adaptive playground. Our children struggle on the daily and this would make life easier and more enjoyable. I would also suggest thinking bigger to include equipment for adults with special needs that often remain in the younger stages of development. I know my 10 year old is only getting bigger. He continues to have the heart of a toddler and joy for a playground. We have so few spaces that are designed for inclusivity. Help keep Lincoln at the forefront of progressive community developments. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Stefanie Flodman

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: erinhaynes1969 <erinhaynes1969@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Playground structures and adaptive equipment for special needs community

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Dear Members of the City Council,

My name is Erin Haynes, and It is my understanding that there will be a proposal put forth to amend the budget to include increased funding for adaptable playground equipment, and adding new structures to accommodate those with special needs. I would like to encourage each member of council to vote in favor of increasing the budget for this cause. This is a cause near and dear to my heart as my amazing grandson who is 6 years old has severe autism, and is non-verbal.

I want to start out by saying that I am appreciative to the City of Lincoln for the effort they put into the beautification of our city. We have some of the most beautiful parks and playgrounds, but there are many barriers for special needs children and adults alike. Playing in the park is one of my grandsons favorite pastimes, but unfortunately, most of these parks do not have the equipment many of these kiddos need. For instance, he, like many children and adults with special needs are much too big to fit in the safety swings that are built for much smaller children/babies. Playgrounds often have sand lots and are not accessible for those that are in wheelchairs or have mobility issues, and the structures do not have ramps for accessibility, which limits the fun and adventure these kiddos can have. These are just a few of the obstacles that surround these special needs children and adults. Many of the towns that surround Lincoln have made great headway, and have entire parks dedicated for special needs children and adults, and our city can do better. In a world where inclusiveness, patience, understanding, and acceptance are key, it is important that we don't leave our special needs community behind.

I am asking you today to vote in favor of increasing the budget and earmarking the funds needed for new structures, and adaptive equipment for OUR special needs community. They deserve every bit of our attention to this.

Sincerely,

Erin Haynes

1520 Longs Peak Cir

Lincoln NE 68521

Angela M. Birkett

From: BriAnna O <hbrianna21@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Amendment for Funds For Inclusive Playground

Dear Council Members of Lincoln,

Good afternoon. My name is BriAnna Olson, and I am a special needs mother to an amazing 6 year-old son with severe, nonverbal Autism, and advocate here in our capital city.

After much correspondence this last week with Parks & Recreation as well as Council, I've learned an amendment has been brought to the table, to be voted on, on Wednesday afternoon, to delegate funds within our city budget towards that of truly adaptive, inclusive equipment in our parks, for individuals with special needs.

I implore you to vote "yes" to this amendment, to put those funds towards what is fair for all, funding future inclusive projects that our city is fiercely lacking.

Our children deserve more from their city.

They deserve an inclusive playground, for those of all developmental and physical abilities; to be free to be a kid, and play without limitations. Every child deserves a safe, inclusive environment to play, learn and grow in, that is equally stimulating, physically, socially and emotionally.

Same play opportunities are a need left unfulfilled here in Lincoln. There is no respectable reason why our special needs children are still limited to ONE single truly adaptive piece of equipment (to then be shared among the 7000 disabled children within our city). It is unacceptable.

One form of adaptive equipment removes choice, and variety and options for play in our parks, for those of varying disabilities.

Furthermore, surrounding towns, with populations not even half of our capital city, have built (or are in the process of building) a fully inclusive special needs playground. -Examples include but are not limited to: Hastings, York, Ashland, North Platte, etc.

Devoted parents and caregivers should NOT have to drive to a separate community for our children to be a priority, respected, valued and included.

Our city is dragging its feet in serving its most vulnerable. It is failing our children.

Please vote "yes", to allocate funds for inclusive, adaptive playground structures and equipment.

I look forward to speaking with you all in the near future.

Sincerely, BriAnna Olson

Angela M. Birkett

From: Elizabeth Raasch <lizknuth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:03 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Amendment for Increased Funding towards Inclusive Playground Equipment

Dear Lincoln City Council,

Our family is thrilled to hear that the City of Lincoln is considering a more inclusive space for ALL kids to play. Having more inclusive playground equipment would be a valuable experience for every child in this community and around Lincoln. It will not only benefit those with special needs but their peers as well to experience diversity in one of the most social environments our children engage in. I am the mother of a 7-year-old son, Payton, who uses a wheelchair. Accessible and adaptive recreation opportunities are difficult to find in our city for him. While we can find certain activities here where he can feel like a kid, we are desperately missing an accessible playground like other communities have. His Dad and I have continued to this day to lift him at 40 pounds and assist him down slides and in swings as much as possible, so that he can enjoy the excitement of a playground like any other kid. Of course, our days of being able to do this for him are numbered as he grows up. A playground that meets him where he's at and doesn't force him to "figure it out" will be such a blessing to our family. Our other children, Paisley and Parker, will also enjoy being able to play with their brother, instead of seeing him stay and watch them from the sidelines.

We greatly support the amendment for more funding to be directed towards inclusive playground equipment and are asking for your vote on this as well as your ongoing support. Thank you for representing families like ours and so many others in Lincoln.

Sincerely,

Liz, Justin, Payton, Paisley & Parker Raasch

Angela M. Birkett

From: Beth Thomas <thomasbethann@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:09 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Playgrounds in Lincoln

Hello Council members,

I am emailing because, via social media, I was made aware of an upcoming vote on Wednesday in regards to an inclusive playground. I am encouraging all members to please, please, vote 'yes' to this amendment.

Lincoln playgrounds should be a fun and welcoming place for ALL children, families, and caregivers. If the council has the opportunity to provide accessibility and enrichment opportunities to families we should seize that. Ableism has kept families from being able to fully experience Lincoln playgrounds for far too long. You have a chance to change that.

Sincerely,
Beth Thomas

Angela M. Birkett

From: James Brewer <jamesbrewer136@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:31 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Adaptive Equipment at Playgrounds

I am the advisor for the Lincoln Aktion Club, a service club associated with Kiwanis International. Our members are adults living with disabilities.

I am writing to ask you to ensure that funding for adaptive playground equipment is included in the city budget. While our members are generally too old to use playground equipment, I do know there are many children and youth in our community who would appreciate having playground equipment that they could use safely and securely.

Thank you for your help making Lincoln a great community to live!

James S. Brewer, 1545 Old Farm Road, Lincoln, NE 68512

402-992-2729

Angela M. Birkett

From: Heather Vanourney <jemma83vip@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive special needs playground

My name is Heather and I'm the mother a 16yr old boy with Autism. His name is Trenton. Since my son's diagnosis at the age of a year and a half their hasn't been much services/places for special needs children. This hasn't changed much in the last 15 years. My son doesn't have friends. Isn't invited to birthday parties. Doesn't have sleep overs. If we had an inclusive playground for kids/people with disabilities this could possibly change. For once he might have someone just like him to interact with at the park. For the first time when he has an "autism" moment at the park all the other parents won't stare and look at me like maybe we should leave. Or we're being disruptive and aren't welcome. I fully support the funding needing to create an inclusive playground. Their are more and more kids born each year with disabilities. This is a park that will be needed/used well into future years and generations. I ask you to please vote YES to the amendment on Wednesday 8/11/21.

Thank you

Heather Vanourney

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Betty Olson <bettyolson52@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 4:34 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: inclusive playground

Please consider yes for a playground in our community for an inclusive playground equipment for special needs. Our beautiful grandson would really benefit as would many other children. Every child matters to grow up to have fun on playground equipment. Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Olson
7340 north 16th street
Lincoln, Ne 68601

Angela M. Birkett

From: Orwin Olson <orwinolson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:11 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Play ground swings for special needs children

Thank you for taking action for play ground equipment. My grandson Beckett and all special needs kids would truly benefit.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Angela M. Birkett

From: Amy Shumaker <amyshumaker96@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Playground

Hello,

I am writing to discuss an all inclusive playground for Lincoln. This would serve so many families not just in lincoln but surrounding towns.

I for one live in beatrice and have an autistic son. We are in lincoln atleast once a week and would spend time there quite often.

Please consider this in your next meeting. As a community we are all willing to help do our parts to see this project thru.

Thank you.

Amy

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Angela M. Birkett

From: Abbie LaVoie <faith4sox@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Adaptive playground equipment

Please include funding for adaptive playground equipment to make Lincoln's public play areas truly inclusive and welcoming to all citizens and guests.

Thank you for the important work you do!

Be well,
Abbie LaVoie
3627 A St
68510

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jennifer Frye <frye.jennifer.d@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive Playground

As an early childhood special education teacher and a parent of children with special needs, I value being in a community that provides inclusive playgrounds for our children to develop their gross motor skills and to have the opportunity to interact with typically developing children. I am willing for my city taxes to assist in funding inclusive areas within our community. This supports the development of families and social belonging within our city. Please vote for this amendment at your Wednesday meeting. The ongoing process of improving our city's inclusivity is a value that I want reflected around Lincoln.

Thanks,
Jennifer Frye

Angela M. Birkett

From: Autism Family Network <autismfamilynetworklincoln@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:45 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Amendment for inclusive playground/adaptive equipment

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Cathy Martinez. I've been a resident of Northeast Lincoln for 32 years. I'm a childcare provider and I run an advocacy agency for people with autism on a volunteer basis evenings and weekends. Most important role that I have is being a mom. I have 8 children, one of whom has severe autism, named Jake. Jake is an 18 year old senior at East. He has the developmental age of a 5 year old. Jake loves to go to the park. But often, we get unwelcoming stares from other park patrons. My fully grown son,(6 foot tall, 200 lbs with facial hair), loves to swing. I realize he makes parents of small children fearful as he looks like a full grown man swinging next to their small children. A backyard swing set doesn't support him like industrial playground equipment at a city park can. We need an inclusive park that is available for all people with special needs, children and adults. We need a park to accomodate the blind, those with sensory processing disorder, wheelchair bound, physical handicaps as well as developmental disabilities.

Lincoln needs adaptive play equipment for people with special needs. We have a town of nearly 300,000 people with thousands of people with special needs. Our school district serves approximately 7000 children with disabilities. We have 87 parks in our great city. In those 87 parks we have two adaptive swings for children with disabilities. One of the two swings is currently broken and has been for some time. A young mom recently brought this need to my attention asking for advocacy assistance. It reminded me of several other moms who have advocated for this over the years. Jennifer Reinboth, Najiba Niazi to name a couple. We can do better Lincoln.

The response we received from parks and rec was that the city's intention was to make Antelope Park inclusive over the next several years. The email indicated this has been an ongoing project over the past 40 years. I would like to see it actually happen in my lifetime. We've waited patiently for this for decades. I was diagnosed with terminal cancer 11 months ago. I don't have time to wait patiently for decades anymore. I'd love to see our city known for tolerance and inclusion actually put their money where their mouth is for people with special needs like my son. Jennifer's son is now in high school, mine too. Najiba's son is 30 years old. Still no park. How much longer do they have to wait? Another 40 years?

When I researched inclusive playgrounds in Nebraska, I was pleasantly surprised to see many rural communities have them in place. Hastings, West Point, York, Norfolk. Pretty awesome. York raised \$800,000 in 12 months and will have the largest inclusive playground in the state of Nebraska. And then I was disappointed. All these little towns are taking care of their people, while the capital city continues to ignore the needs of their most vulnerable citizens.

Please do the right thing and make Lincoln a great place to live for people with special needs. You have the power to be part of the problem or part of the solution.

Vote for the amendment on Wednesday and show your support for kids like mine.

Sincerely,

Cathy Martinez

Autism Family Network of Lincoln
402-499-8739

Angela M. Birkett

From: Savannah Baclich <savannahb713@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:57 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive Special Needs Playground

Hello,

I am emailing this group on the topic of a need for an inclusive playground for those with special needs.

As a mother of son who is on the Spectrum, I fully support this amendment as I feel it would fill just one gap for the special needs community. I can tell you from personal experience that there has been multiple times where the thought of taking my son to any playground has seemed daunting. When he was younger it was sometimes difficult when he would either play with things differently than other kids or fixate on the one thing that might interest him at the park, causing distress when he had to limit his time in order to share with others. As he has gotten older and bigger, I find myself following him around the park to ensure he is aware of the smaller, younger children and then also explaining at times to other parents why my teenage son would want to be playing with equipment that is generally aimed at a younger population.

I strongly encourage this group to consider the benefits of this plan and to vote for the amendment tomorrow. We already create different avenues and resources in other routes of those with special needs, so why not on this topic which would bring so much joy to all within the special needs community.

Outside of this current amendment, I feel the process of reviewing available resources and/or activities that are inclusive to the special needs community is not only imperative, but practical.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Savannah Baclich

Angela M. Birkett

From: Katie Baker <katie_bake@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 6:03 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Adaptive playground

I have lived in Lincoln since 2003, and I think it's a wonderful city!

However, I strongly support the need for an adaptive playground in Lincoln.

My daughter is 10 years old and in a wheelchair. She is getting a little old for a playground, but it would have been wonderful to have adaptive playground equipment when she was little. It is heartbreaking when your child can't participate in playing with other kids because he/she can't go on the equipment.

Thank you!

Katie Baker

Angela M. Birkett

From: Cecilia Rossiter <punion@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 6:15 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Request: more adaptive equipment in city parks

Hello and regards,

Please increase the amount of accessible and adaptive equipment in our city parks. This actually works for everyone and enhances life in our community. This is worthy of your attention.

Thank you.

Cecilia Rossiter
949 N 30th Street, Lincoln

Angela M. Birkett

From: Mariposa Elizabeth Reyes <claudiaaytony@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Need play Ground for disability Kids

we need an inclusive playground for kids of ALL abilities, I support it, and encourage you to vote for this!

Angela M. Birkett

From: Janelle Smith <nellejarred@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive playground

Please vote in support of the playground for children with special needs let's make this community inclusive for everyone.

Right now there are multiple parks in this town only 2 of them have a swing for children in a wheelchair none of them are all inclusive for all children with special needs. Having special needs doesn't just mean you are in a wheelchair and having only 2 swings available does not serve this community of special needs individuals in this town.

Let's fund a park for all children including those with handicaps and sensory issues we can have a world where all kids can play together and everyone can be included at this park. Imagine siblings can all play together at this park and everyone can enjoy as a family.

Please join me in supporting and vote YES for this necessary park in our community!

Janelle Smith

Mother, Registered Nurse and Vice President of Autism Family Network

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Megan Misegadis <jemmr5@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:04 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive Accessible Playground

Hello Council Members,

I am writing to share support for an inclusive, fully accessible, and safe playground for the city of Lincoln. The disability community is active and strong in our area. Families and individuals would greatly use a fully accessible playground and it would provide much-needed time outdoors enjoying vital safe and social exercise. Our current park system is not fully inclusive and safe for people with disabilities.

There are many cities in the state who either have or are actively working on fully functioning accessible playgrounds. It's time for Lincoln to join and show all of our citizens that they truly belong.

Please vote for the amendment on Wednesday. We intend to help and support this project.

Megan Misegadis
Autism Society of Nebraska - President
Citizen of Lincoln

Angela M. Birkett

From: Aaron Lyons <aaronlyons215@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:28 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive playground

I am writing to encourage the entire council to vote for the inclusive playground amendment Wednesday August 11th. I have several close friends with children on the spectrum that could greatly benefit from this type of public place. I, and my family, are 100% behind this project and believe the rest of the city is as well. We are willing to use our tax dollars to make Lincoln even better than it already is.

Aaron Lyons

Angela M. Birkett

From: Amanda Anderson <aanderson@cii.us.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:52 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Support of Playground for Special Needs

Have you ever felt left out or not invited somewhere? That can often be what children with disabilities experience. Help all children play and interact together with an inclusive playground! I support funding for this project and would encourage you to vote for the amendment on Wednesday. In addition, I would encourage an ongoing process and dialogue for additional projects in the future.

As long as I am emailing the City Council, I'll also share a few thoughts on the city dog runs. It is obvious that the dog park on 70th st. needs access to running water. The Stransky dog park behind HiWay Diner has the perfect set up with water to hose off a dog and water to drink. The Stransky dog park would benefit from a picnic table in the middle. Having recently adopted a dog, I can't believe how many people use these parks on a daily basis. It's amazing really, and everyone is super social. Anyone that makes those improvements would definitely get some votes!

Thanks for listening!

Amanda Anderson

Amanda Anderson
Quality Outcomes Coordinator

Signature Strengths

Strategic | Achiever | Relator | Ideation | Empathy

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Angela M. Birkett

From: C S <coffeemom1207@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:53 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive playground

Our kids need a place they can just be kids and an inclusive playground is key for them to have in the community. I support funding for this type of playground. I think this should be on going to keep these available for our kids. Please vote for the amendment on Wednesday. It would mean the world to our children.

Thank you,
Colleen Siracuse

Angela M. Birkett

From: Laurie <ltsteele4@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:57 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive playground

Please vote for the amendment on Wednesday so kids with disabilities in our community have a park where they feel included. They are left out of so much, it would be life changing for them to be able to just be a kid and play in a park like their siblings and peers. My visually impaired daughter is already excited about the prospect.

Laurie Steele
402-672-6992

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jennifer Reinboth <jennifer_magdanz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:42 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive playground

Hello!

My name is Jennifer Reinboth. We have lived in Lincoln for 6 years. My youngest is nine years old and has cerebral palsy. We have been to many inclusive parks around the area that are just wonderful. It makes my heart happy to see him playing on a playground with other kids.

Unfortunately, his own Elementary School does not even have inclusive equipment so he sits in his wheelchair and watches while the other kids play. It's utterly heartbreaking. I urge you to please consider this request from us mothers.

It is so important to our children for them to feel included and be happy. I think you would feel the same way if you were in our shoes. Lincoln is way behind on the times. We visit Norfolk, Nebraska to go to their inclusive playground often. It's wonderful and my two older typical children enjoy it as well. My friend in North Platte Nebraska is helping organize and build a new inclusive playground right at the moment. York opened one recently as well.

I am from Sioux City Iowa and Tyson Foods had a wonderful one up there that I urge for you to check out. It's sad that going to a park is almost like a little getaway because it makes my son feel normal for just a moment of time. Please consider allocating some funds to help our children. It would be greatly appreciated. I'm willing to help do any fundraising that may be needed to help get this going. Please respond if you have any questions or would like to meet my son Tyson.



Angela M. Birkett

From: Kari Upchurch <kupch323@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: inclusive park

To whom it may concern,

I am a mother of two kids with autism, one being who is non verbal. When I take them to the parks I get judgement, stares and just down right don't feel like I can take my children there. We need a park where we can take our children. where they can feel comfortable and without being judged. We need an inclusive park for our children. Thank you for your time.

Kari Upchurch

Angela M. Birkett

From: Richard Longacre <longacre68510@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:44 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: adaptive playground equipment. I ask you to include funding for this project. This is a plus for this community, and will be an example for other cities. thank you for your consideration Richard and Joan Longacre 6325 O St Lincoln.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Madison Clark <madisonclark583@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:22 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive park

Hello,

My name is Madison Clark. I have a 5 year old stepson, Finnley, who has cerebral palsy. Finnley's disability means he can not move his legs, feet, or his left arm. He is only able to get around via wheelchair. He would love being able to go to the park but there is nothing he can do at the current parks available without help from a parent and he is getting to big for us to carry around. He would greatly benefit from an inclusive park. Let him have the experience all other 5 year olds have when they go to the park.

Thanks

Madison Clark

Angela M. Birkett

From: Chastidy Clark <chastidyclark@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Council Packet; Autism Family Network
Subject: Inclusive playground

I am writing to express my support of an inclusive playground for Lincoln. I have an adult brother with autism spectrum disorder. He loves to go to the park but isn't always accepted because of his repetitive behaviors and his size. He needs a place where he can play and be accepted in our community.

Lincoln is behind the times with providing an adaptive and inclusive area for people with disabilities. We can do better. The one nice thing about not being the first to do this is we can look to the multiple communities across our great state who have already built inclusive playgrounds. The rural communities are setting the bar high. Hopefully we can provide for our people here in Lincoln too.

Sincerely,
Chastidy Clark

[Sent from Yahoo for iPhone](#)

Angela M. Birkett

From: Michelle Johnson <michellekjohnson57@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:57 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Adaptive Equipment for Lincoln Parks

Good morning Council Members. My name is Michelle Johnson and I am a community member of 49 years right here in Lincoln Nebraska. I am writing to you today as I would like for you all to include funds in the budget for a true all inclusive playground here in Lincoln Nebraska. I know there was an inclusive playground built numerous years ago, but unfortunately the area was not kept up and it is not very big. When putting together this playground you must remember that all children must be included including those in wheelchairs. I would like to point out that York Nebraska designed a wonderful all inclusive playground that meets 100% of the children's needs in their community. When you take your vote tomorrow please remember that anytime you might have a child, a grandchild, a friend that would benefit from an all inclusive playground and Lincoln must be ready to support all of our children.

Sincerely
Michelle Johnson
Executive Director of The Arc of Lincoln

Angela M. Birkett

From: Kelli Howe <kellistutzman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:21 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive Playground

Regarding making an inclusive playground in Lincoln for people with special needs.

I am Kelli & my 8 yr. old sons name is Matthew. He has moderate autism. He is my love. He requires a lot of interaction, exercise & patience. He loves people & animals & McDonalds! Two 4-piece chicken nugget happy meals with double fries & chocolate milk. Why happy meals at 8? Why 2 happy meals? Because 1 doesn't fill him up & he wants the toys & it's even better if both toys are the same.

Just from my experience I have only noticed a handful of inclusive playground equipment pieces in Lincoln. There are well over 1000 special needs kids enrolled in LPS. There are additional kids that don't utilize LPS. Our kids deserve a park for them. Adults with special needs deserve a park for them. They deserve to experience the sensation of swinging and sliding and twirling. All of those things that typical people get, special needs people deserve too. I have been to a park where a dad walked up to me and said my son should be on a leash. Just the other day I was at the park with a friend and her special needs son and she had to confront a grandpa who called her child weird. Oh and it's not always adults that are rude those same adults are not teaching their children to be inclusive. Kids can be really mean! Don't special needs families deserve a place to go where they're not judged or made fun of?

My son and I are both outdoor people. I would say we visit a park, weather permitting, at least once or twice a week. The anxiety I feel when we are on the way to a park is overwhelming. I honestly don't want to go and deal with it but I do it because my son loves it & needs it. It is a 50/50 shot of a good or bad experience. My son deserves to be able to run and play and get his energy out just like any other kid. We shouldn't have to worry about mean comments because Matthew flaps his arms or makes loud noises. So we go. We've had some good experiences but mostly not. An inclusive park would ease that anxiety as I know we would be there with people that get it.

There are special needs parents that have to fight, beg & plead for everything their child needs. NEEDS! We NEED this park. Please, please, please do the right thing. Vote for the amendment on Wednesday. Do it for all the people that are different but not less.

There are a tribe of parents like me that will do whatever we can to fight for our kids every single day. We will do what is needed to get this inclusive park built. We are the strong because we have to be. Our kids are our choice. Give us a chance.

Thank you,
Kelli Stutzman & Matthew

Angela M. Birkett

From: Carrie Stratman <cstratman306@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 10:23 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: inclusive playground

I'm writing in support of funding an inclusive playground in Lincoln and to encourage you to vote in favor of it this afternoon. This is very needed for all the special needs children in our city.

Thank you for your service!

Sincerely,
Carrie Stratman
Lincoln, NE

Angela M. Birkett

From: Erica Buescher <ericabuescher@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 10:52 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Support inclusive parks

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Erica Sousek, I've been a resident of Lincoln for almost 20 years. I am A homeowner and a proud parent of 3 kids that love their LPS schools. We have raised our kids to accept everyone no matter what they look like or what disability they have and some of our closest friends have children with disabilities. Things we can do with our able bodied kids, we take for granted, yet going to a park on a nice day leads to some of our friends and family members being left out because Lincoln has not invested in a free public park for everyone to enjoy no matter what physical limitations they may face.

We need an inclusive park that is available for all people with special needs, children and adults. We need a park to accomodate the blind, those with sensory processing disorder, wheelchair bound, physical handicaps as well as developmental disabilities.

Lincoln needs adaptive play equipment for people with special needs. We have a town of nearly 300,000 people with thousands of people with special needs. Our school district serves approximately 7000 children with disabilities. We have 87 parks in our great city. In those 87 parks, we have two adaptive swings for children with disabilities. One of the two swings is currently broken and has been for some time.

We can do better Lincoln.

I know the response from parks and rec was that the city's intention was to make Antelope Park inclusive over the next several years. However upon further investigation this has been going on for over 40 years. I would like to see it actually happen in my lifetime. The people of Lincoln have waited patiently for this for decades. I'd love to see our city, known for tolerance and inclusion, actually put their money where their mouth is for people with special needs. How much longer do they have to wait?

Hastings added their play ground about 20 years ago and I was pleasantly surprised to see many other rural communities have them in place including West Point, York, Norfolk. In fact, York raised \$800,000 in 12 months and will have the largest inclusive playground in the state of Nebraska. All these little towns are taking care of their people, while the capital city continues to ignore the needs of their most vulnerable citizens. Which makes me question what is going on when the council is trying to decide what to do with the extra money in its current budget.

Please do the right thing and make Lincoln a great place to live for people with special needs. You have the power to be part of the problem or part of the solution.

Vote for the amendment on Wednesday and show your support for ALL OF THE kids of Lincoln

Sincerely,

Erica Sousek

Angela M. Birkett

From: Michelle Howell Smith <huskersmithfamily@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: support for an inclusive playground in Lincoln

Dear City Council -

I am writing to add my support for creating an inclusive playground in Lincoln. We have so many wonderful parks in our community - it is one of the many things I love about being here. However, I am sad by the lack of accessibility for most of them. Playing outdoors is one of the true joys of childhood, one that many children cannot fully experience.

Accessible playgrounds not only benefit children with physical and developmental disabilities, but also their families and friends. How wonderful it would be to have a safe space to gather where children of all abilities could interact and have fun, while learning that having different abilities is a perfectly normal thing. They can learn about the inherent value in each human - all through the power of play.

I know you have any budget issues to consider, but I think you would find a large pool of citizens who would volunteer to help design, plan, fundraise, and build an inclusive recreational space.

Several surrounding communities are building accessible recreational spaces that include playgrounds, water parks, and sporting and exercise areas. It would be a shame to see our capitol city lag behind, when we should be leading in this regard. I encourage to show our state and other communities that Lincoln is a leader in promoting the health and well-being of ALL of its citizens. Please vote to approve the amendment for this project!

Sincerely,

Michelle Howell Smith
1240 Irish Pointe Place
Lincoln, NE 68521

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jennifer Platt <jen.gloystein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: All Inclusive Playground

Good afternoon,

I am emailing asking for your support and vote for the amendment this afternoon for an all inclusive playground in Lincoln, NE. I am a mother of a young child in Lincoln, NE, and although I am not a special needs parent, we have family and friends who have children with special needs and I think they deserve the opportunities that all children, like my 4 year old daughter get. I recently visited Norfolk, NE and we spent a couple hours playing at their all inclusive playground and splash park. The work that went into this design was amazing. It was truly inspiring to see how all children could experience the joy of a playground, even those with disabilities.

I was also born in York, NE and they are currently funding a project called Peyton Parker Lane Playground. It's named after two family friends, who have passed away from their disabilities, but their family wants their legacy to continue, and to create a community (which they have done a wonderful job of) that supports those with disabilities. The city of York is approximately 7500 people, and they will soon have a state of the art all inclusive playground. Lincoln, population of 266,000 does not have an all-inclusive playground.....I think that speaks volume.

Please consider changing this, and voting for this amendment this afternoon. The city of Lincoln should be setting the stage, not following all of these smaller communities.

Thanks,
Jennifer Platt

Angela M. Birkett

From: Melissa Blakemore <mblakemore@acnlincoln.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:46 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive play ground

Lincoln City Council,

Hello, I am Area Coordinator for the Autism Center Of Nebraska in Lincoln. I am writing to show my support in the city building an inclusive playground for people of all abilities. Playing at a playground is such a big part of being a child but when someone has a disability they can feel left out because things like playgrounds are not adaptable to their abilities. I personally have seen individuals of all abilities struggle with attempting to use current playground equipment. The City building an inclusive playground would be one more step in the direction of including all members of our community.

Thank you,
Melissa Blakemore
Lincoln Coordinator
Autism Center of Nebraska
402-979-4000

Angela M. Birkett

From: Karen Loll <kruzer6@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Inclusive playground

Please support the funding for the inclusive playground. This is a very needed addition to our community. Many, many children in our town need this.

Thank you,
Karen Loll

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
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Angela M. Birkett

From: Amera Nix <ameranix@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Special needs playground

As a mother of a child with special needs for 8 years now.
I am in favor of the special needs playground.

Thank you

Amera Nix
492.215.7583

Sent from my iPhone