



City of Lincoln
CITY COUNCIL

Directors' Meeting Agenda

2 p.m. Monday, March 2, 2026
555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, NE
Bill Luxford Studio

- I. Open Meetings Law Announcement**
- II. Approval of Directors' Meeting Minutes of February 9**
- III. City Clerk Advisories**
- IV. City Council Advisories**
- V. Director Advisories**
- VI. Councilmember Commission, Committee, and Event Updates**
- VII. Public Comment**
- VIII. Post-Meeting Council Members' Calls to City Directors**
- IX. Adjournment**

Next Directors' Meeting – 2 p.m. Monday, March 9

City Correspondence

LNM	2026 Legislative Bulletin #7
Planning & Dev	BP260220-1- Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission
"	Administrative Approvals
"	BP260226-1-Urban Design Committee
City Attorney	Civil Rights Conference 2026
LES	LES Administrative Board Meeting Minutes 2.20.26
Budget/Finance	Revision to 2027-28 Form D

Constituent Correspondence

Rosina Paolini	Community fitness and recreation planning
Tanya Mikhaylenko	Waterford Trail Alignment Concerns
Taylor Wyatt	"
Vish Reddi/NSNA	NSNA Position on ADUs & LB 1041
Nathan Brock/LincOne FCU	Bitcoin ATM Fraud in Nebraska City Leader Action and or Attention Required
Mindy Horn	Resident Request for Immediate Traffic Safety Measures in University Place
Downtown Lincoln Residents	Re: Concerns about "The Night Before" and downtown liquor licensing
Melissa Riggs -Robinson	LES power shut-off complaint

From: noreply@lonm.org on behalf of [Ashley Wolfe](#)
To: [Benjamin A. Sobel](#)
Subject: 2026 Legislative Bulletin #7
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 2:59:59 PM

LONM.org

| League
Job
Board

| League
Events

| Read
the
Review
Online!



[Legislative Bulletin #7](#)

The League would like to thank Municipal Clerks receiving the *Bulletin*, and any additional material, for forwarding and/or copying the information to all elected officials.

We would be happy to send the Bulletin directly to your municipal elected and appointed officials. Please send their email addresses to Brenda Henning at brendah@lonm.org.

Need help downloading the Bulletin to print for your files? [Click here for instructions.](#)



Contact Info:

League of Nebraska Municipalities
1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-2829
info@lonm.org

This email was sent to bsobel@lincoln.ne.gov by ashleyw@lonm.org

League of Nebraska Municipalities · 1335 L Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, United States · [402-476-2829](tel:4024762829)

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From: [Laura A. Tinnerstet](#)
To: [Benjamin A. Sobel](#)
Cc: [David R. Cary](#); [Steve S. Henrichsen](#); [Shelli K. Reid](#)
Subject: BP260220-1- Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 4:02:35 PM
Attachments: [BP260220-1 Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission.pdf](#)

Please see attached.

Thank you,



Laura Tinnerstet

Administrative Aide II
Lincoln-Lancaster County
Planning and
Development

Office: 402-441-6365

555 S 10th St, Ste 203
Lincoln, NE 68508
lincoln.ne.gov/PlanDev



NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a meeting on **Friday, February 27, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.** in the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, in **City Council Chambers** on the 1st Floor. For more information, please contact the Lincoln City/Lancaster County Planning Department at 402-441-7491.

AGENDA

February 27, 2026

1. Approval of meeting record from [January 23, 2026](#)

Discuss & Advise

2. [Sidewalk Café Playbook](#) (Planning & Development Services Department; UDR26015)
3. [LPS Parking Lot at 2403 and 2411 J Street](#) – Preliminary Discussion (Lincoln Public Schools: UDR26016)
4. Staff report & miscellaneous

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

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE: *The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at 402-441-7624, or the City Ombudsman at 402-441-7511, as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request.*

From: [Laura A. Tinnerstet](#)
To: [Benjamin A. Sobel](#)
Cc: [Steve S. Henrichsen](#); [David R. Cary](#)
Subject: Administrative Approvals
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 10:21:45 AM
Attachments: [BP260225-1 Administrative Approvals.pdf](#)

Good morning,

I've attached the Administrative Approvals for this week.

Thank you,



Laura Tinnerstet

Administrative Aide II
Lincoln-Lancaster County
Planning and
Development

Office: 402-441-6365

555 S 10th St, Ste 203
Lincoln, NE 68508
lincoln.ne.gov/PlanDev



Memo

DATE: February 25, 2026
TO: City Clerk
FROM: Clara McCully
SUBJECT: Administrative Approvals

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from February 17, 2026, to February 23, 2026:

Administrative Amendment 26005, to Change of Zone 16016A, 48th & Aylesworth Redevelopment Planned Use District (PUD), was approved by the Planning and Development Services Director on February 17, 2026, to revise Note #8 to reduce the commercial allocation on the south block from 25,000 SF to 4,000 SF; increase the residential units from 115 to 120 on the south block; and remove the residential percentage restriction requirement for the first floor on the south block; generally located at N48th Street and Holdrege Street.

From: [Laura A. Tinnerstet](#)
To: [Benjamin A. Sobel](#)
Cc: [David R. Cary](#); [Steve S. Henrichsen](#); [Shelli K. Reid](#)
Subject: BP260226-1-Urban Design Committee
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 8:01:18 AM
Attachments: [BP260226 -1-Urban Design Committee .pdf](#)

Please see attached.

Thank you,



Laura Tinnerstet

Administrative Aide II
Lincoln-Lancaster County
Planning and
Development

Office: 402-441-6365

555 S 10th St, Ste 203
Lincoln, NE 68508
lincoln.ne.gov/PlanDev

URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

The Urban Design Committee will hold a meeting on **Tuesday, March 03, 2026**, at **3:00 p.m.** in the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska in **City Council Chambers** on the 1st floor. For more information, contact the Planning Department at 402-441-7491.

AGENDA

1. Approval of UDC meeting record of [November 04, 2025](#) and [February 03, 2026](#).

ADVISE

2. [Sidewalk Café Guidebook-UDR26019](#) – *Advisory Review & Final Action*

Urban Design Committee's agendas may be accessed on the Internet at
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Planning-Department/Boards-and-Commissions/Urban-Design-Committee>

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From: [Francisca L. Beltran](#)
To: [Benjamin A. Sobel](#)
Subject: Civil Rights Conference 2026
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:34:51 PM
Attachments: [2026 Gerald Henderson Award Nomination.pdf](#)

Hi Ben, will you please share with city council the information about the Civil Rights Conference 2026. Thank you, Francisca

Hello everyone,

We are excited about the Annual Civil Rights Conference 2026 at Innovation Campus and the Gerald Henderson Award!

There is a registration link for the conference and the Gerald Henderson nomination form.

The Gerald Henderson Award is given to an individual who has advocated for human and civil rights for the Lincoln community and made a positive impact.

The deadline is March 13th, 2026. Any questions please reach out to fbeltran@lincoln.ne.gov

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/civil-rights-conference-2026-crc26-tickets-1982519426974?aff=oddtcreator>



Francisca Beltran

Community Outreach Worker | Lincoln Commission on Human Rights

City of Lincoln | Office of the City Attorney

Office: 402-441-7625 | Fax: 402-441-6937

555 S 10th St, Rm 304

Lincoln, NE 68508

humanrights.lincoln.ne.gov



City of Lincoln
**COMMISSION ON
 HUMAN RIGHTS**

**THE GERALD HENDERSON HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD
 NOMINATION FORM**

The Lincoln Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) awards a Lincoln community member annually with the Gerald Henderson Human Rights Award in recognition of their outstanding achievements and commitment to human rights. LCHR’s original Human Rights award was re-named in 2004 to honor the legacy of LCHR’s first Director, Gerald Henderson.

Mr. Henderson’s legacy includes, in part, his work at the Malone Community Center, the Lincoln Action Program, as well as his activity in many local and national organizations and movements, such as the NAACP, ACLU of Nebraska, Nebraskans for Peace, and the March on Washington in 1963 followed by organizing voter registration in Selma, Alabama. Mr. Henderson worked diligently throughout his lifetime for the rights of people and the elimination of racism and discrimination.

Please nominate a similarly dedicated individual who has advocated for human and civil rights for the Lincoln community and made a positive impact on the City.

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Who Do You Nominate? _____

Nominee’s Address: _____

Nominee’s Phone No.: _____ **Email:** _____

Your Name and Relationship to Nominee: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone No.: _____ **Email:** _____

Your Signature

Date

___ I have / ___ I have not notified the nominee of this nomination.

For information about past Gerald Henderson Human Rights Award Winners, please see <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/City-Attorneys-Office/LCHR/Annual-Civil-Rights-Conference>.

From: [Kellie Cave](#)
Subject: LES Administrative Board Meeting Minutes 2.20.26
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 12:46:19 PM
Attachments: [02-February 20, 2026 Administrative Board Minutes.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached meeting minutes from the February 20th meeting.

Thank you,
Kellie

Kellie Cave | Senior Executive Assistant



Office: 402-473-3382
Mobile: 402-802-0749

[LES.com](#) | 9445 Rokeby Rd. | Lincoln, NE 68526



MINUTES OF LINCOLN ELECTRIC SYSTEM ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Minutes of the regular meeting held at 9:30 a.m., Friday, February 20, 2026, at the Kevin Wailes Operations Center, 9445 Rokeby Road, Lincoln, Nebraska. Public notice of today's meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on February 13, 2026.

Board Members Present: Carl Eskridge, Chelsea Johnson, Alyssa Martin, Lucas Sabalka, David Spinar.

Board Members Absent: Kate Bolz, Donna Garden, Andy Hunzeker, Eric Schafer.

LES Staff Present: Emeka Anyanwu, Emily Koenig, Paul Crist, Jason Fortik, David Malcom, Lisa Hale, Katie Lechner, Jim Rigg, Matt Andersen, Garrett Klein, Dennis Florom, Scott Benson, Kelley Porter, Keith Snyder, Denise Parrott, Kellie Cave.

Others Present: Nathan Svatora, and numerous virtual participants via Microsoft Teams.

News Media Present: None.

Chair Lucas Sabalka declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. A safety briefing was provided. Sabalka noted that LES conducts its meetings in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and noted that a copy of the Act is located on the wall at the back of the room and with the Assistant Secretary. Shelley Sahling-Zart, General Counsel, reviewed duties and responsibilities of LES Board members. **Call to Order, Safety Briefing, and Board Member Duties and Responsibilities**

Chair Sabalka asked for approval of the minutes of the January 16, 2026, Board meeting. Carl Eskridge moved approval of the minutes. David Spinar seconded the motion. The vote for approval of the minutes was: ***Approval of Minutes**

Aye: Carl Eskridge, Chelsea Johnson, Alyssa Martin, Lucas Sabalka, David Spinar.

Nay: None.

Absent: Kate Bolz, Donna Garden, Andrew Hunzeker, Eric Schafer.

Ken Winston, speaking on behalf of the Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club, voiced concern with the Value of Solar Study being done in-house and potential confusion around information that comes out of that assessment. He indicated educational opportunities for ratepayers to learn about battery storage, as well as a survey of homeowners with solar to establish if their needs had been met. He detailed legislation that would affect the utility, LES customers, public power, and made suggestions about positions LES should take on energy-specific legislative bills. Winston indicated there would be benefit for members of the public to have conversations with LES staff about these positions.

Comments from Customers

Keith Benes, adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska, detailed a virtual presentation on Distributed Solar, being hosted by Creighton University. Benes indicated the public is welcome and invited board members to attend Wednesday February 25, 2026 from 6:00 – 7:00pm.

Pursuant to LES Policy No. 101, Chair Sabalka announced the board committee appointments for 2026. (Exhibit I)

Appointment of Committee Members

Chelsea Johnson, Chair of the Operations & Power Supply Committee Meeting reported on committee discussions held on February 17, 2026, including: 1) Value of Solar Study Update. (Exhibit II)

Operations and Power Supply Committee Report

Carl Eskridge, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported on committee discussions held on February 20, 2026, including: 1) 2025 Unaudited Financial Results, 2) Review Financial KPIs, 3) Semi-Annual Investment Report, 4) Financings Update, 5) Internal Audit 2025 4th Quarter Report, 6) Ethics Update – Quarterly, 7) Meeting with Internal Auditor and/or General Counsel. (Exhibit III)

Finance Committee Meeting Report

Alyssa Martin, Personnel & Organization Committee member, reported on committee discussions held on February 3, 2026, including: 1) 2025 Safety Year in Review, 2) 2026 LES Safety Goals/KPIs, 3) 2026 LES HR Goals/KPIs. (Exhibit IV)

Personnel & Organization Committee Report

David Spinar, Chair of the Legislation & Governmental Affairs

Legislation &

Committee, reported on committee discussions held on February 2, 2026, and February 6, 2026, including: 1) Review of staff recommended positions on legislation, 2) Discussion on impacts of large loads and battery storage legislation, 3) Finalizing positions on legislation affecting LES. (Exhibit V)

**Governmental Affairs
Committee Report**

Carl Eskridge, LES's representative on the District Energy Corporation (DEC) Board of Directors, reported on board discussions held on January 27, 2026, including 1) Appointment Notices and Election of Officers, 2) Management Report, 3) Financial Report. (Exhibit VI)

Quarterly DEC Report

Matt Andersen, specialist, Government Relations, provided an update on 2026 legislation that LES is monitoring in the second session of the 109th Legislature. Committee hearings are underway, and initial priority designations have begun. More than 500 bills were introduced this session, and LES is tracking roughly 30 to 35 of them. The full tracking table is available to employees on PowerNet and publicly on LES.com (Exhibit VII). Andersen highlighted the following bills:

**2026 State Legislative
Report**

- LB 964: Would require a public hearing and notice before a political subdivision sells, leases or purchases real property. An unofficial amendment, AM 1952, refines the threshold so that routine, low-value transactions do not create an administrative burden, while larger transactions remain subject to the act. LES submitted a letter in support, contingent on the adoption of AM 1952.
- LB 1010: Would define energy storage resources, confirm Nebraska Power Review Board (PRB) approval and require written consent and a contract for energy and capacity with a Nebraska public power utility for privately owned standalone storage. No amendments were offered at the hearing, but the bill has been named a Natural Resources Committee priority and could serve as a vehicle for a broader energy package. LES testified in a neutral capacity. The committee appears interested in advancing the bill, and additional amendments may surface as industry discussions continue.
- LB 1026: Would prohibit an electric supplier from retiring, shutting down, ceasing operation of or substantially altering generation when customers are waiting for service, with limited exceptions. The bill received significant opposition during its hearing, and committee members have indicated it is unlikely to advance. LES testified in opposition, noting

that the prescription restrictions would erode local decision-making authority and introduce additional litigation risk.

- LB 1027: Would require privately developed renewable energy generation facilities to undergo the same PRB approval process as other generation resources. The bill faced concerns similar to LB 1026 and is not expected to advance. LES submitted a letter in opposition, noting the bill would limit LES' ability to enter into power purchase agreements with Nebraska-based privately developed resources.
- LB 1064: Provides new tools for utilities interconnecting large loads (greater than 20 MW), including study fees, upfront infrastructure commitments, emergency curtailment and rate-tariff clarity. No verbal opposition was offered during the hearing. LES testified in support, emphasizing that many of the proposed practices are already in use and that statutory clarity may be beneficial if drafted appropriately.
- LB 1096: Introduced at the governor's request, the bill would create state-level restrictions and reporting requirements to the attorney general regarding access to critical infrastructure and ownership of foreign-adversary technologies. LES is opposed, citing existing federal NERC oversight and concerns about duplicative, conflicting state requirements and ambiguities affecting utility access to its own critical assets. Sen. Bostar has named the bill as his personal priority.
- LB 1111: Imposes additional requirements on large loads and on interconnecting public electric suppliers, and would allow a customer to choose service from a private generator. The Nebraska Power Association submitted a letter in opposition, citing long-term reliability, affordability and local-control risks.
- LB 1172: Would require electric suppliers to maintain at least 75% dispatchable resources. The bill faced broad opposition and does not appear likely to advance. LES testified in opposition, noting that local boards already follow Southwest Power Pool accredited-capacity resource adequacy standards and that prescriptive mandates would limit operational flexibility.
- LB 1186: Subjects energy storage facilities to the nameplate capacity tax and changes the distribution of funds. An amendment introduced on the day of the hearing would place privately developed standalone storage under a streamlined self-certification path rather than full PRB review. LES is opposed and supports treating standalone storage like other generation resources, requiring full PRB approval.
- LB 1193: Subjects energy storage facilities to the nameplate capacity tax, provides definitions, places such resources

under PRB jurisdiction and sets statewide safety and zoning standards that would preempt local control. Engagement at the hearing was mixed. LES testified neutrally, highlighting the importance of regulatory clarity while acknowledging overlap with ongoing work under LB 1010.

- LB 1255: Would prohibit public electric suppliers from exercising eminent domain for any purpose. LES is opposed, noting that the loss of eminent domain authority would impair the ability to plan and site necessary infrastructure, increasing costs for customers. A Judiciary Committee hearing is scheduled for Feb. 26.
- LB 1259: Adopts the Grid Modernization Act, which conflicts with Nebraska's public power model by allowing customers to receive electric service from private generators. The bill received substantial opposition and is not expected to advance. LES testified in opposition, citing concerns regarding infrastructure duplication, long-term reliability risks and cost-shifting to other customer-owners.
- LB 1261: Aims to address short-term challenges by allowing a public electric utility to contract with privately owned generation solely to serve a large load exceeding 1,000 MW. The bill includes guardrails to preserve the public power model, protect retail service territories, avoid cost-shifting and apply a sunset provision. It advanced from the committee on a 6-2 vote, with a minor amendment, and received a personal priority designation from Sen. Moser. LES testified in support, citing its narrow scope and safeguards, while noting that any major changes would require reevaluation.
- LR 335: Introduced by all state senators in the LES service area to commemorate LES' 60th anniversary. LES also received a congratulatory letter from Gov. Pillen.

Garrett Klein, Supervisor, Engineering Asset Planning, reviewed the outage report for 2025 and compared to previous years for LES and other utilities both regionally and nationally. He reviewed the causes of outages and programs to help improve outage numbers. Klein provided an overview of the metrics used to measure interruptions (SAIDI, CAIDI, and ASAI), the 2025 results, and the 5-year average. He also noted a monthly outage report is generated by LES's System Control team and reviewed the details of that report. Multiple major events in 2025 affected the SAIDI and CAIDI scores, which Klein detailed. A list of the proactive programs in place to improve system reliability were described, including:

- Distribution Outage Analysis Team (DOAT)
- Vegetation Management

2025 System Reliability Interruption Report

- Cable Replacement Program (CRP)
- Arterial Feeder Hardening
- Overhead Distribution Asset Management (ODAM)
- Precision Undergrounding Program (PUP)
- Underground Distribution Asset Management (UDAM)
(Exhibit VIII)

Chair Sabalka asked for a motion to go into closed session for the purposes of discussing market-sensitive information regarding All-in Generation Costs. David Spinar made the motion. Carl Eskridge seconded the motion. The vote for entering executive session was: **Executive Session – All-in Generation Costs**

Aye: Carl Eskridge, Chelsea Johnson, Alyssa Martin, Lucas Sabalka, David Spinar.

Nay: None.

Absent: Kate Bolz, Donna Garden, Andrew Hunzeker, Eric Schafer.

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:31 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:40 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the LES Administrative Board will be **Next Meeting** Friday, March 20, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Without further business before the Board, Chair Sabalka declared **Adjournment** the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Carl Eskridge, Secretary

BY: Kellie Cave
Kellie Cave, Assistant Secretary

Exhibit I



2026 LES ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board Chair is an Ex Officio Member of Each Committee

Personnel & Organization

Carl Eskridge, Chair
Andy Hunzeker
Kate Bolz

Finance

Kate Bolz, Chair
Carl Eskridge
Eric Schafer

Operations & Power Supply

Chelsea Johnson, Chair
David Spinar
Alyssa Martin

Communications & Customer Services

Eric Schafer, Chair
Alyssa Martin
David Spinar

Legislation & Governmental Affairs

Andy Hunzeker, Chair
Chelsea Johnson
Donna Garden

Executive

Board Officers
Past Chair

Labor Negotiations

Carl Eskridge, Chair
Donna Garden

Exhibit II

(Continues)

From: [Chad D. Mohr](#)
To: [Benjamin A. Sobel](#)
Subject: Revision to 2027-28 Form D
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 8:00:09 AM
Attachments: [City Council 2027-28 Form D revised.xlsx](#)

A revised FY2027-28 Form D for your department is attached. We will also update the budget intranet site with the revised Form Ds.

The Budget Team realized that the 27th pay period amounts shown for the General Fund included the impact of fringe benefits, as all other funds should. Because the fringe benefits for General Funds are under city unassigned and not budgeted within Departments' General Fund business units, the 27th pay period allotment on Form D Line 6 has been revised to exclude fringe benefits. We apologize for the inconvenience. Please call for any needed assistance.



Chad Mohr
Budget and Administrative Analyst
City of Lincoln
Finance Department

Office: 402-441-8306
Fax: 402-441-8325

555 S 10th St, Rm 103
Lincoln, NE 68508
lincoln.ne.gov/Budget

From: [OpenForms](#)
To: [Benjamin A. Sobel](#)
Subject: Council Comment - Rosina Paolini
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 12:37:44 PM
Attachments: [SubmissionReceipt-SubmitAComment-237.pdf](#)



Council Comment - Rosina Paolini

Rosina Paolini has submitted a comment for Council. Please see the attached comment

Name	Rosina Paolini
Phone number	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
	<p>When we read about another new volleyball facility in the paper, the new shiny thing provides scholarships to promising athletes in Nebraska's favorite sport. How many understand the funding mechanism or the impact to the maintenance and amenities of existing local parks especially in underserved areas.</p> <p>When we ask people who are passionate about organized sports, expansion is their priority. What we learned is the parent doesn't have the means to buy gas to drive their kid across town several times a week, the money for shoes that comes when the other parent ponies up with child support is</p>

real.

Outreach builds relationships and identifies varying perspectives to provide responsible, equitable investment that serves the people rather than special pay to play projects. Partnerships with special interests fill the council rooms with opposition because of the lack of community outreach conducted.

Are we putting a private venture in a sport where few succeed at the public expense of taxpaying citizens? Do we value “select” recreational teams over creative play in a community space? Where and when do kids learn to practice rule making, natural consequences and boundaries without adult intervention?

Community Health Endowment is pushing a Youth Fitness, Sports, and Opportunity initiative administered by PHL that supports scheduled organized sports rather than continuous movement at a talking heart rate to address childhood obesity. The director of PHL cites Creighton University studies regarding the prevention of childhood obesity with the focus of active lifestyle rather than the bench time associated in organized sports.

We are in times when funding sources will look very different for the next few years. With the grants non-profits relied on, no longer available. PTOs who must solicit funds for school ground upgrades rather than being covered by tax dollars are areas better served with funds. The complexity of private – taxpayer funded organized youth sports vs neighborhood access to play in school yards, and public parks is beyond a testimony. It requires a conversation.

City government wants a Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act (SAFFAA), a state grant along with private

donations to build volleyball facilities that host tournaments, the project relies on approval by Pillen. His Lt. Governor Kelly stood in at the October meeting with no applications were awarded at the December meeting. Eight others requested the incentive in the past years were not awarded. The next step is “a vote of the people”. The expense of an election to use “the turnback tax” requires approval from the Governor and Lincoln voters, with a potential election anticipated in 2026 sounds like an expensive way to get a pot of money. Do you have the announcement of the project before the funding mechanism? What is financial risk?

Your
comment

When will Lincoln government prioritize community outreach to understand what the public wants before announcing unfunded, questionable permanent investments in pay for play sports when park maintenance and tree maintenance that serve all citizens are at a minimum.

We grew up in a time when pickup games at the park and school yard entertained us all. Intermural sports led to varsity sports and even today ~ 1% may go on to professional sports. Private, “select” recreational leagues were not a thing, now they are the norm with a reduction to school led intermural activities, decreased recess times that need to be restored.

Eco tourism is growing with city funded multi – user, multi modal parks in Tulsa (Turkey Mountain), Joplin (Momentum Project), Mason City (Prairie Rock Trails), St. Joe (River Bluffs), Berm Arkansas (Berm Park) and Sioux City (Cone Park) to name a few, not in Lincoln.

I outlined the policies and action items in the Comprehensive Plan that need to be revisited to align with family inclusion with parks rather segregation of amenities that align with an age group. For example, parks associated with elementary school have amenities for elementary kids rather than

amenities that bring the whole family together with a variety of activity choices. Facilitating family inclusion increases overall health and wellness of the family unit.

These policies and action items in the Comprehensive Plan need to be revisited to align with family inclusion with parks rather segregation of amenities that align with an age group, for example, parks associated with elementary school have amenities for elementary kids rather than amenities that bring the whole family together with a variety of activity choices.

P27: Regional Parks and Tournament Facilities

P28: Community Parks

P29: Neighborhood Parks

P30: Recreation Centers / Community Learning Centers

P32: Other Recreational Facilities and Activities

P33: Parks and Recreation Partnerships

If we have the money to invest in non- profit - private partnerships that serve the few, might it be better spent increasing services in public parks and safe access to public parks through much needed traffic planning to prevent pedestrian / vehicular crashes?

Vision Zero relies on mostly grants to accomplish one of Lincoln's priorities, to reduce crashes. Providing safe multimodal access to all public places needs to be the priority.

On a philosophical note, who and what are we fostering? Rule followers who are refereed in all aspects of life with little space to learn decision and rulemaking without adult supervision or critically thinking youth who understand natural consequences early in life, learn spacial awareness, boundaries and develop tools. Have we scheduled our kids to the point that free play, pickup games, playing in the creek and building forts are our past?

The books I suggested, Last Child in the Woods and SPARK provide useful resources in the are of fostering independent

children who critically think.

How do kids learn to negotiate, navigate relationships, and test their creativity when continually helicoptered by adults?

STATE MOTTO

Our state motto: "The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness in the Citizen."

Rosina Paolini – 

From: [tanya rybak](#)
To: [Council Packet](#); [James M. Bowers](#); [Tom J. Beckius](#); [Bennie R. Shobe](#); [Sandra J. Washington](#)
Subject: Waterford Trail Alignment Concerns
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 3:26:19 PM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Lincoln City Council Members,

I am writing as a resident of Waterford Estates to express serious concerns about the proposed Waterford Trail alignment through the lake shoreline and wooded green space directly behind our homes.

Many families chose this neighborhood for the privacy, safety, and natural buffer provided by the lake and trees. This green space is our backyard, a quiet retreat, and an important environmental buffer for wildlife and erosion control.

A public trail immediately behind our homes would permanently change the character of our neighborhood by eliminating privacy and introducing constant public traffic, noise, and lighting. We are also concerned about the environmental impact of disturbing this sensitive corridor.

We support Lincoln's trail system, but respectfully ask that the City reconsider this alignment and evaluate a street-side or alternative route that preserves neighborhoods while still meeting connectivity goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
A Waterford Estates Resident

Tatyana Mikhaylenko

From: [Taylor Wyatt](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Waterford Trail
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 12:46:22 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council Members,

It has been brought to my attention, along with many neighbors, that a trail is going to be cut behind 104th St between houses and the lake.

I would like to voice my opposition to the trail. I have spoken to many of the affected neighbors that would like to extend an invitation to walking the trail vs alternative options. These neighbors are willing to engage in open thoughts and possibly even contribute to a better solution.

I realize that the number one desire of everyone is safety and community. I appreciate any of you that are willing to engage in this conversation. This particular issue is not all that simple and open dialogue is important. Furthermore, it is important to realize that the area has changed dramatically from the point of this plan being first put together many years ago.

I am excited to be a part of this conversation and hope to hear back from each of you soon,

TAYLOR Wyatt
REALTOR
402-440-0224
Taylorwyatt.realtor@gmail.com
www.cb-nhs.com
4230 Pioneer Woods Lincoln, NE
Ramsey Trusted
*People are capable of a lot more than they think they're capable of" -Mike Leach

COLDWELL BANKER
NHS REAL ESTATE

NHS Sales and Lease Services

RAMSEY TRUSTED

From: [Vish Reddi](#)
To: [Planning](#); [Council Packet](#)
Subject: NSNA Position on ADUs & LB 1041
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:50:08 AM
Attachments: [ADU Letter & LB 1041.pdf](#)

Dear Esteemed Members of the Planning Commission and City Council,

The Near South Neighborhood Association is celebrating its 53rd year. It was formed in 1972 by a group of concerned neighbors, whereby boundaries were created, a board of directors was elected, and articles of association were adopted that empowered and tasked the board

- to keep the neighborhood informed about zoning changes
- to preserve the character of the neighborhood
- to reduce vehicular congestion at commercial levels in a residential neighborhood
- to work with the various City departments to preserve the history and the future of our community

All of this was done to improve the quality of life and encourage taking pride in our neighborhoods.

Lincoln's retained standards—limiting ADUs to less than 50% of the primary residence, restricting them to one bedroom, requiring owner occupancy in either the primary dwelling or the ADU, mandating shared utilities, prohibiting greater height than the main structure, and disallowing separate sale of the unit—provide strong protections against overdevelopment and speculative conversion. These provisions ensure ADUs remain truly “accessory” in nature.

While the effort made by LB1041 to ease the restrictions around ADUs is commendable, we cannot support it at this time. We believe that ADUs should be allowed to conform to certain neighborhood standards without overcrowding the neighborhood and detrimentally affecting the quality of life for the residents of said neighborhood.

We understand that ADUs can serve multiple community benefits:

- Provide attainable housing options within established neighborhoods
- Support aging in place by allowing seniors to live near family
- Offer modest supplemental income for homeowners
- Increase housing supply without large-scale redevelopment
- Promote more efficient use of existing infrastructure

If neighborhood design standards continue to apply—and if the city maintains thoughtful development oversight—ADUs can integrate seamlessly into existing communities. In many cases, they are less visually impactful than traditional duplex construction.

However, it is important to recognize that Nebraska's cities and counties differ significantly in size, density, housing demand, infrastructure capacity, and neighborhood design. What is appropriate in Lincoln or Omaha may not be suitable in smaller communities with different lot configurations, utility systems, or development patterns.

For that reason, while establishing a statewide framework can be helpful in encouraging housing flexibility, local governments are best positioned to calibrate standards—such as parking, lot size,

setbacks, and design requirements—to reflect their specific conditions. A one-size-fits-all mandate risks overlooking legitimate local concerns related to infrastructure, neighborhood compatibility, and long-term planning goals. Preserving local discretion within the framework of LB1041 would allow communities to implement ADU policies in a way that aligns with their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. Local elected officials and planning bodies are directly accountable to their residents and are uniquely equipped to balance housing needs with neighborhood character.

We support that ADUs be considered as long as:

- The lot meets the minimum required lot area in place currently
- Limitations are placed on the size of the ADU
- Conformance with the design fabric of the neighborhood is met
- Adequate off-street parking is available
- The owner lives in either the main house or the ADU

Lincoln is growing, and housing affordability remains a critical issue. I do think other strategies can be a potential solution for this issue, without having to overcrowd our densely populated historic neighborhoods.



Vish Reddi, President

Near South
Neighborhood
Association

P.O. BOX 80143

LINCOLN, NE 68501-0143

Email: vish.reddi@nearsouth.org

www.nearsouth.org



25 February 2026

Sent via: plan@lincoln.ne.gov
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission
555 S. 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Sent via: council@lincoln.ne.gov
Lincoln City Council
555 S. 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: LB1041 & City of Lincoln ADU Standards

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- The owner lives in either the main house or the ADU

Lincoln is growing, and housing affordability remains a critical issue. I do think other strategies can be a potential solution for this issue, without having to overcrowd our densely populated historic neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vishnu Reddi".

Vishnu Reddi, President

Near South Neighborhood Association

From: [Nathan Brock](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [James M. Bowers](#); [Tom Duden](#); [Justin P. Carlson](#); [Brodey B. Weber](#); [Tom J. Beckius](#); [Sandra J. Washington](#); [Bennie R. Shobe](#); [Mayor](#); [Council Packet](#)
Cc: [Shannon Srb](#); [Nathan Brock](#)
Subject: Bitcoin ATM Fraud in Nebraska | City Leader Action and or Attention Required
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 10:00:53 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nbrock@linconefcu.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: Urgent Action Needed on Bitcoin ATM Fraud in Nebraska

Dear City of Lincoln Leaders,

The President has asked for a focus on fraud prevention.

In 2022, Nebraska took decisive action to address predatory payday lending practices. The closure of payday lenders was a major victory for consumer protection and for the 17,000 members we serve here in Lincoln. That action protected working families from excessive fees and financial harm. **Today, we are facing a similar and urgent threat:** Bitcoin ATMs operating with little oversight and charging predatory transaction fees often ranging from 10-30 percent of the transaction.

On top of the high fees, **our Lincoln community has already lost more than \$11 million to scams and fraud facilitated through Bitcoin ATMs.** Unlike federally insured banks, credit unions, and regulated fintech platforms, these machines offer no meaningful consumer protections. Transactions are frequently untraceable and irreversible, making recovery nearly impossible once fraud occurs.

Updated warning signage is not enough. Other municipalities across the country have taken proactive steps to restrict or remove these fraud magnets and have seen measurable success. With multiple safer, regulated methods available for transferring funds, the continued support of high-fee, lightly regulated Bitcoin ATMs presents unnecessary risk to our community.

To be clear, this is not an attack on cryptocurrency, blockchain innovation, or stable coins.

Financial innovation is inevitable and can be beneficial. However, for digital assets to gain responsible adoption in Nebraska, consumer trust and safety must come first. Currently, the negative experiences tied to **Bitcoin ATM scams** are harming the broader perception of crypto and stablecoin technology, slowing thoughtful adoption and eroding public confidence. Credit unions stand ready to educate consumers and provide safer, more transparent alternatives. But we need a regulatory framework that prioritizes fraud prevention and consumer protection.

We respectfully urge you to:

1. Introduce or support legislation regulating or restricting high-fee Bitcoin ATMs in Nebraska.
2. Require enhanced fraud safeguards, transaction monitoring, and consumer verification standards.
3. **Consider local authority to limit or remove Bitcoin ATMs in high-risk areas.**
4. Align oversight of digital transaction kiosks with the same consumer protection standards applied to financial institutions.

Nebraska has already demonstrated leadership in protecting consumers from predatory financial practices. Now is the time to act again. We stand ready to collaborate with your office to develop thoughtful policy solutions that protect our community's hard-earned wealth while encouraging responsible financial innovation.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting Nebraska families.

And thank you for your continued support of the federal credit union tax-exempt status, which allows us to exist, and better serve the underserved, the financial needs of our great community here in Lincoln and Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Nate Brock
Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO)

LincOne Federal Credit Union, Lincoln, Nebraska

nbrock@linconefcu.org



NATE BROCK
Chief Human Resources Officer

402-417-7685 ext. 685
nbrock@linconefcu.org
2500 N St., Lincoln, NE 68510
www.linconefcu.org



KEEP MONEY LOCAL

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From: [Mindy Horn](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Council Packet; James M. Bowers](#)
Subject: Resident Request for Immediate Traffic Safety Measures in University Place
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:32:25 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

I am a resident and business owner of the University Place neighborhood writing to express appreciation for the City of Lincoln's long-term investment in our community through the University Place Subarea Plan. It is encouraging to see a thoughtful vision for safer, more walkable streets.

At the same time, traffic conditions along 48th Street have become increasingly alarming. Recent fatalities and injuries have deeply affected our neighborhood, and crossing the street often feels unsafe for families, older residents, students, and visitors. With the upcoming closure of 33rd Street expected to divert additional traffic onto 48th, many of us are concerned that conditions may worsen before long-term improvements are implemented.

While we understand that full execution of the Subarea Plan is scheduled for 2033, we respectfully ask what can be done now to slow traffic and improve pedestrian safety. Even temporary or pilot traffic-calming measures would make a meaningful difference for those of us who live here every day.

Thank you for your continued attention to University Place and for considering near-term solutions that prioritize safety in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,
[Mindy Horn]

[REDACTED]
University Place Resident, business owner

Sent from my iPhone

From: downtownlincolnresidents
To: togden@downtownlincoln.org; lparks@downtownlincoln.org; jodee@downtownlincoln.org; [Council Packet](#)
Cc: info@downtownlincoln.org
Subject: Re: Concerns about "The Night Before" and downtown liquor licensing
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 3:00:04 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Just some follow up thoughts on this issue:

"Why are we spending millions to beautify downtown if we allow indicted strip club owners to stay via sham transfers?"

Zoning Compliance: Why a new license should be granted in the heart of the \$120M Convention Center redevelopment zone when better-suited industrial locations are available.

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

On Thursday, February 26th, 2026 at 1:20 PM, downtownlincolnresidents <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear DLA Leadership and Lincoln City Council Members,

As a concerned downtown resident writing anonymously due to potential backlash, I urge you to **oppose any liquor license grant, renewal, transfer, or relocation** of the strip club "The Night Before" into Lincoln's downtown core.

Past zoning efforts (e.g., 2014) failed because existing clubs were "grandfathered" as legal nonconforming uses under Nebraska law—protected if operations stayed substantially the same. Liquor licenses, however, are revocable privileges tied to "character and fitness" (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 53-1,180), with no such shield.

The 2025 federal indictments against owners Brent Zywiec, Dan Thomas, Shane Zywiec, and ex-NLCC head Hobie Rupe for bribery/fraud in liquor licensing already provide revocation grounds. Now reports indicate a "new female owner" applying for a fresh license—yet retaining the **same tainted management team**. This is a transparent workaround: Nebraska rules demand full disclosure of all control interests and managers (237 Neb. Admin. Code ch. 3 §002). Regulators can reject "straw owners" if prior disqualified parties pull strings behind the scenes.

Downtown thrives as a safe hub for families, students, and visitors. Don't let corruption-tainted operations undermine it via technicalities.

Please take these actions:

Publicly oppose the license/relocation and flag the suspect ownership change.

- Urge NLCC to halt approval pending full ownership/management investigation (background checks, org charts, affidavits).
- Direct city staff to review zoning compliance for any transfer downtown.

- Continue to prioritize businesses that strengthen downtown's reputation as a safe, welcoming, and family-friendly environment for residents, students, and visitors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing work to support a healthy, vibrant downtown.

Sincerely,
A concerned downtown resident

p.s.

We live very close to the strip club "The Night Before", since it has lost its liquor license we can for once walk the streets in the evening and at night to get back to our apartments

downtown, some of us from where we work or from campus. This has added a big plus to our way of life, we feel safe finally. There is no more nefarious activity at the intersection of 11th and M St, no more strange characters walking the streets, cars with very tinted windows driving by and the constant fear of some criminal activity will take place soon.

The **favorable review by the Lincoln Journal Star** could be rigged, Ava Thomas, the president of Lee Enterprises and the Lincoln Journal Star **was married** to Daniel Thomas, the indicted owner of the Night Before Lounge.

Also the so-called present owner Elena Settell, does not have the money to buy a gentleman's club or the expertise to run this club.

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

On Thursday, February 26th, 2026 at 1:14 PM, downtownlincolnresidents < > wrote:

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Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [OpenForms](#)
To: [Benjamin A. Sobel](#)
Subject: Council Comment - Melissa Riggs-Robinson
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 3:16:22 PM
Attachments: [SubmissionReceipt-SubmitAComment-238.pdf](#)



Council Comment - Melissa Riggs-Robinson

Melissa Riggs-Robinson has submitted a comment for Council. Please see the attached comment

Name	Melissa Riggs-Robinson
Phone number	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Your comment	<p>I would like to report LES for cutting our power on 2/24/26 without proper notice. No notice was received in the mail, by certified letter, or via email. When I spoke with them, they informed me you had to follow a link in an email, not labeled as important or a notice, to access their website to see if you are at risk of being shut off. This violates Nebraska revised statute 70-1605. Another violation of this statute is their egregious charge of \$400 to get your power back on. I believe this exceeds reasonable costs for the service to be resumed. The people need protections from the electric companies just like they do the natural gas companies who have limits for cutting service during the cold winter months (11/1-3/31). LES</p>

| should be held accountable for violating the state statute. |