

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Mayor's Conference Room, April 8, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

## Meeting Notes

### I. Welcome and Introductions; Volunteer to Take Notes

Tracy Corr, Chair, began the meeting with introductions. Mary Unger volunteered to take notes.

#### Attendees:

Mayor Gaylor Baird

#### Neighborhood Representatives:

Tracy Corr – Chair & 40<sup>th</sup> & A  
Gloria Eddins – Clinton  
Richard Piersol – Country Club  
Pat Steer—Hartley  
Nick Hernandez Havelock & Bethany  
Megan Grimes – Indian Village  
Mo Neal —Irvingdale

Mary Unger – Prescott Area NA  
Crystal Bock-Thiessen – South Salt Creek  
Bill Vocasek – West A  
Julie Flodman - Witherbee  
Mary Schwab - Witherbee  
Fred Freytag—Witherbee  
Randy Smith—Woods Park

#### City Staff:

Chief Michon Morrow – LPD, Presenter  
Jon Carlson—Mayor's Office  
Wynn Hjermstad—Urban Development

#### Other's Present:

Tut Kailech—NeighborWorks Lincoln

### II. Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments

#### A. Grow the Great Life Initiative

##### i. Updated plans for West Haymarket Park

1. Added 2.3 acres to the park
2. Will support downtown living
3. Will have a skate park, dog run, Community Hearth (Native culture), and more
4. Find designs online at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/Home>

#### B. Lead Safe Lincoln

- i. Lincoln is working with the state to eliminate lead pipes in the city.
- ii. Lincoln needs to replace 26,000 lead service lines.
- iii. There is no cost to the homeowner for the removal of lead pipes.

1. For more information: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Projects-Programs-Initiatives/Lead-Safe-Lincoln>

C. Bike Racks

- i. Free bike racks for public property
- ii. If interested, call 402.441.6373

**III. Introducing Chief Michon Morrow, Lincoln Police Department: 402-441-7238; [Lpd1143@cjis.lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:Lpd1143@cjis.lincoln.ne.gov).**

A. The department has brought back team investigators.

B. Hiring 4 new investigators

- i. Improve service to community.
- ii. What are the community's needs?
- iii. Look for opportunity for growth.
- iv. What are areas for improvement.
- v. The focus is on retention of officers.
- vi. There will be an extra domestic violence investigator.

C. Helicopter Noise

- i. Lincoln has a technical flight officer who works in conjunction with the State Patrol.
- ii. There has been an uptick in auto thefts—tend to be young offenders.
- iii. Instead of pursuing with a patrol car, the helicopter follows and waits for it to stop. Then they make contact with officers and patrol cars.
- iv. This is the same tactic that they use for motorcycles breaking the law.
- v. Goal is to reduce accidents due to on-the-ground pursuits.
- vi. Public can contact LPD and report dangerous driving
  1. Give as much detail as possible. Pictures, license plate numbers, etc.

D. Positivity and Mindfulness for LPD Officers

- i. LPD Slogan: "Mission First, People Always."
- ii. Internal wellness programs available for officers.
- iii. Purpose is to help officers deal with the trauma they face every day on the job.

E. LPD Response to Mental Illness Calls

- i. Unsheltered people
  1. Causes: illness, crime, mental distress
  2. CenterPoint gets calls for mental health issues for unhoused individuals.
    - a. They've had over 600 calls since last fall.
  3. Prepared Live
    - a. Coordinator: Jess Loos, Director of Communications.
    - b. Quick access for a language translation.
    - c. 988 is the direct line to mental health helpline at Centerpoint. Direct access without the need for police.

- F. In the Works
  - i. Co-Responder Model.
  - ii. Working to get a grant to fund the program and make selections for providers.
  - iii. There is a goal for three providers.
  - iv. Officers trained to be better prepared to deal with mental health calls.
- G. Most of what was discussed today is on the LPD website

**IV. Announcements**

- A. Nick Hernandez teaches West Coast Swing Dancing. Contact Nick for more information.
- B. Strong Towns Lincoln Conversation: Biking Kids to School – April 13, 3:00-4:30 PM, Bennett Martin Library, 136 S 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.
- C. Lincoln Housing Advocates, April Housing Advocate Potluck, Thursday, April 25, 5:30-7:00 P.M., Educare Lincoln, 2425 N 14<sup>th</sup> St., co-hosted by NeighborWorks Lincoln and Collective Impact Lincoln.

**V. Next Meeting / Agenda**

The next meeting will be May 13, 5:30 p.m., Mayor's Conference Room

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Unger*