DIRECTORS’ MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113

I. MAYOR

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Mayor Presents April Award of Excellence.  

II. DIRECTORS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: American Lung Association Praises Lincoln’s Air Quality. 
3. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Events Scheduled for Women’s Health Month. 

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING

1. Memo from Bruce Sweney to Board of Equalization summarizing proposed assessments for three assessment districts before the BOE at the May 15, 2006 meeting.

WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY


III. CITY CLERK

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

JONATHAN COOK

1. Request to Bruce Dart, Health Director - RE: Request for a sign at 31st & Calvert about dogs having to be on a leash and cleaning up after them (RFI#129 - 05/04/06)

2. Request to Harry Kroos, Public Works & Utilities Dept.-Sidewalks - RE: Sidewalk Ramps around Milder Manor (RFI#130 - 5/04/06)
ROBIN ESCHLIMAN

1. Request to Steve Hubka, Budget Officer - RE: Weeks ago the City had deficit of $6 million-What is it now? - RFI#4 - 04/12/06.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Correspondence Opposed to Proposal to Ban Concealed Weapons
1. Email from LeRoy Penlerick.
2. Email from David Oenbring.
3. Email from Doug Vandervort.

Correspondence Supporting Proposal to Ban Concealed Weapons
1. Email from Beatty Brasch.
2. Email from Penny Siefker.
3. Email from Dick Boyd.
4. Email from Tim K. Johnson.
5. Email from Joan Anderson.

Other Correspondence
1. Email from Barbara Woodbeck - RE: Opposed to Starbucks at Intersection of 9th and Van Dorn Streets. (Distributed to Council Members on 05/08/06).
2. Email from Michele York - RE: Safety in public schools on election days with possible sex offenders visiting to vote.
3. Email from Justin Smith - RE: His LES bill.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2006
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

MAYOR PRESENTS APRIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Mayor Coleen J. Seng today presented the Mayor's Award of Excellence for April to Police Officer Sidney Yardley. The monthly award recognizes City employees who consistently provide exemplary service and work that demonstrates personal commitment to the City. The award was presented at the beginning of today's City Council meeting.

Yardley has been employed with the Lincoln Police Department since May of 1974 and is currently a patrol officer assigned to the Center Team. He was chosen as the 2006 Officer of the Year. Yardley was nominated in the categories of productivity and customer relations by Captain Jon Sundermeier of the Police Awards Committee, which noted that Yardley tackles difficult cases while remaining considerate and helpful to citizens.

Yardley has worked to get weapons out the hands of potentially dangerous people. In 2005, he initiated several projects that resulted in 146 guns being taken off the streets. Several of the cases resulted in federal weapons charges. Yardley initiated 26 firearm cases, including 13 tied to domestic violence, and charges were filed against 27 people. Seized were $10,000 rounds of ammunition, one grenade, bomb-making materials, methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana.

Yardley is actively involved in the operation of the Rapid Brass Identification System and has received specialized training. For the past several years, he has been test-firing weapons and entering the brass image into the national database.

Yardley is active in the Free to Grow Project in the Center Team and has assisted the Building and Safety Department with investigating and enforcing code violations. His efforts have led to charges being filed against owners of substandard and dangerous housing.

Yardley is very involved with both Clinton and Hartley Elementary Schools. At Clinton, he attends meetings to discuss services for students with special needs. Some of these students have no positive role models, and Yardley has taken them "under his wing" and helped them set goals. When these students' behavior has improved, Yardley is quick to praise and reward them. When one of these students recently received an award at Clinton, Yardley was one of the first people the student invited to attend the award ceremony. Yardley received the Lincoln Public School's Gold Star Award for his work at Clinton. At Hartley, the Principal said Yardley has contributed to a safe environment, helped improve student behavior and tackled attendance issues.

- more -
The other categories in which employees can be nominated are loss prevention, valor and safety. All City employees are eligible for the Mayor’s Award of Excellence except for elected officials and some managers. Individuals or teams can be nominated by supervisors, peers, subordinates and the general public. Nomination forms are available from department heads, employee bulletin boards or the Personnel Department, which oversees the awards program.

All nominations are reviewed by the Mayor’s Award of Excellence Committee, which includes a representative with each union and a non-union representative appointed by the Mayor. Award winners receive a $100 U.S. savings bond, a day off with pay and a plaque. Monthly winners are eligible to receive the annual award, which comes with a $500 U.S. savings bond, two days off with pay and a plaque.
PUBLIC INVITED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Citizens are invited to learn about plans and provide input on the City Transit Development Plan at two open houses on Thursday, May 11. The open houses are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 101 of the Energy Square Building, 111 “O” Street, and from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Bennett Martin Library Auditorium, 136 South 14th Street. The meetings will include presentations by City staff on the Transit Development Plan Study and an opportunity for public comment.

The purpose of the study is to identify policies and action items that will enhance transit service in Lincoln, and public involvement is an important part of the study. Development of the Transit Development Plan will include:
• A comprehensive operations analysis,
• the development of short-term and long-term transit service alternatives,
• updated service standards and policies, and
• options for management and funding.

The findings of the Transit Development Plan will be used to develop updated concepts and goals in the City-County Comprehensive Plan, as well as to identify action the City may take to enhance transit service in Lincoln.

For more information on the Transit Development Plan Study, see the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: transit) or contact David Cary, City-County Planning Department, at 441-6364.
BUDGET
Senate approves supplemental in spite of veto threat, while the House begins the FY 2007 appropriations process. The Senate approved a $109 billion supplemental appropriations bill for FY 2006 this week, and in the process ignored several statements from the White House that indicate the President will veto any bill that exceeds $94.5 billion.

The original intent of the bill was to provide additional funding for overseas military operations and hurricane relief to Gulf Coast states, but the measure quickly became bloated in the Senate, where Members successfully attached a number of projects to the bill unrelated to those areas. Last month, the House approved a $92.2 billion supplemental measure that does not include an additional $2.3 billion for pandemic flu preparations that the President now supports and is included in the Senate bill.

The difference in funding levels will make for a difficult House-Senate conference committee, but Members do feel pressure to complete a bill quickly, as troops overseas are expected to run out of funds by the end of May. If Senators choose not to compromise on their additional projects in the bill, conferees may choose to enact an across-the-board reduction in the bill to close the funding gap.

Meanwhile, the House Appropriations Committee decided not to wait for the approval of a FY 2007 budget resolution and began the process of considering its 11 annual spending bills this week. Subcommittees were given the allocations (known as 302(b) allocations after their budget function) based on the President’s overall cap of $873 billion for domestic discretionary spending.

Only the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee (0.6 percent reduction) and Interior and Environment Subcommittee (level funding) did not receive an increase from FY 2006 levels. Meanwhile, the Military Quality of Life-Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee received the largest increase, 11.4 percent. Once given their allocations, three subcommittees wasted no time in considering their bills. Agriculture, Military Quality of Life, and Interior and Environment Subcommittees all cleared their measures for the full committee, which could take up the bills as early as next week.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Jerry Lewis (R-CA) would like to approve all 11 of his bills on the House floor prior to the July 4 congressional recess.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COPE bill headed to House floor; Stevens unveils Senate bill

Dubbed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancements Act (COPE), HR 5252 was introduced by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX). It is largely designed to ease the entry of the regional bell operating companies into the video services market. To do so, it would allow them to offer video services by obtaining a national franchise. It would also allow incumbent cable television providers to immediately abandon their local franchises and obtain a national franchise. (For a full description of the bill and its shortcomings for local governments, see last week’s Washington Report).
In a conference call with mayors this week, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and senior Democrats on the Energy and Commerce Committee stated that they hope to offer a series of amendments – similar to those that were defeated in committee last week – designed to address local government concerns.

They include amendments to: remove a loophole in the definition of “gross revenues” loophole and preserve local governments rights-of-way enforcement authority; require video services providers to build out their services to an entire community within a reasonable period of time; give local governments the authority to determine discrimination and punish it; require support for public, educational and governmental channels equal to that provided by the largest incumbent cable television provider, and give local governments and the courts, as opposed to the FCC, enforcement authority in rights-of-way disputes.

While supporters of local amendments hope to use as many procedural tactics to get their amendments up, it will ultimately be up to the House leadership to determine what amendments will be allowed on the floor.

The House was originally scheduled to consider the bill this week. However, House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) asked for a referral of the bill to his Committee, claiming that it has jurisdiction over the issues of redlining and network neutrality. Most observers consider Sensenbrenner unsympathetic to the regional bell operating companies so Barton and the bill’s other supporters are pushing hard to avoid having the bill referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Though the bill’s supporters will likely prevail and the bill will reach the House floor in the next week or two, Sensenbrenner’s action has bought time for local government organizations to sharpen their message and advocate their position.

In the Senate, Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) of the Senate Commerce Committee introduced telecommunications legislation (S 2686) that is much more comprehensive than HR 5252. S 2686 has a strong focus on universal service in general and on expansion and reform of the Universal Service Fund, which subsidizes service to rural areas and to schools and libraries via a fee levied on most telephone bills.

S 2686 includes a title on video franchising that, based on preliminary review, does not eliminate local governments entirely from the franchising process. Under the Stevens bill, video services franchising would remain the domain of local governments. However, it would require the FCC to create a common franchise that would serve as a template for all agreements between local governments and video services providers. In addition, the bill would require local governments to reach an agreement with a provider seeking a franchise within 30 days.

The bill includes language affirming local government rights-of-way authority, although it appears vague on enforcement authority. In addition, the bill remains silent on the issues of redlining and build out. Given that the FCC would probably not include a build out requirement in the franchise template required by the bill, this would be a major problem with the bill. However, the bill would retain the five percent franchise fee payment and would require video services providers to provide public, educational and governmental access channels.

The Senate Commerce Committee plans to hold two hearings on the bill this month and mark it up in June.

ENVIRONMENT

House panel slashes wastewater revolving loan fund. A subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee approved FY 2007 funding for the Environmental Protection Agency this week. The bill would provide EPA with a total of $7.56 billion, lower than its FY 2006 level of $7.6 billion but $254 million higher than what was proposed by the Bush Administration.

While full details of the bill were not yet available, reports are that the subcommittee recommended funding levels for most EPA programs at or near their FY 2006 levels. However, the exception was the wastewater state revolving loan fund (SRF), which would be reduced to the President’s request of $687.6 million in FY 2007, a 22 percent reduction from FY 2007 levels. Meanwhile, the drinking water SRF would be funded at $841.5 million which is slightly above its FY 2006 level of $837.5 million.

The White House has proposed cuts to the wastewater SRF in the past, but Congress has traditionally restored those funds through the appropriations process. However, subcommittee members, citing the extremely tight budget caps they are facing this year, conceded that an increase down the road would be unlikely. As recently as FY 2004, the wastewater SRF was funded at $1.35 billion.

The subcommittee also has jurisdiction over the Interior Department and recommended the elimination of one program of note, the Land and Water Conservation Fund stateside grant program. The program was funded at $30 million in FY 2006, but had been funded at or around $90 million in recent years. In 1979, the program, which provides formula grants to states for local conservation and recreation initiatives, received $369 million.

In a related item, a bipartisan group of Senators this week introduced legislation designed to reduce emission at power plants. The measure is an alternative to the President’s “Clear Skies” initiative that has been stalled in the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee for over a year. Senators Tom Carper (D-DE), Lincoln Chafee (R-RI), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Judd Gregg (R-NH), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) are sponsoring the bill, which differs from Clear Skies in that it seeks to place restrictions on carbon monoxide emissions.

The bill would mandate that power plants cap their carbon monoxide emissions levels at those achieved in 2006 by 2010, and levels achieved in 2001 by 2015. If plants are unable to reduce carbon monoxide on their own, they would be able to purchase credits from plants that have achieved lower
emissions. Mercury emissions would have to be reduced by 90 percent by 2015 under the bill, but there would be no “cap-and-trade” system for those emissions.

TRANSPORTATION

House price-gouging legislation passes as Senate gas rebate flounders. On Wednesday, the House voted 389-34 to pass price-gouging legislation (HR 5253) sponsored by Rep. Heather Wilson (R–NM). The bill would make price gouging a federal crime punishable by up to two years in prison and violators could also be subjected to civil penalties of up to $150 million.

The bill prohibits price gouging in the sale of gasoline, diesel fuel, crude oil, and home heating oil. It also requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to define price gouging, thereby allowing the federal government to determine whether market conditions or improper practices are to blame for high prices. However, the legislation is not expected to lead to any immediate reduction in gas prices.

Also on Wednesday, the House defeated a bill to establish a federal coordinator to bring agencies together to set a schedule for permitting new refinery projects (HR 5254). The bill would have directed the President to designate three former military bases as possible refinery sites, one of which would be used for biofuels. While the bill was supported by a majority of the House, it was considered on the House “consent calendar” and thus needed a two-thirds majority to be approved. As a result, the legislation may return to the floor to be voted upon again in the future.

Supporters say the bill would have “streamlined cumbersome and duplicative permit requirements,” while opponents claim that it would have weakened important environmental laws and that those laws have never stopped any refinery projects.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) has backed off a $100 fuel-tax rebate because it is not getting much support in either chamber, nor from the general public. However, several efforts are underway in both the House and Senate to develop some kind of energy package for consideration over the next two weeks.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Department of Health and Human Services: The Administration for Children and Families is accepting applications for the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program. There is $9.7 million available to award approximately fifty grants to create and maintain one-on-one mentoring relationships between children of incarcerated parents and supportive adult mentors. Grants are awarded for one budget year although the project period may last up to three years. Extended funding may be granted. There is a 25 percent required match, and the deadline to apply is June 12, 2006. For more information, see: www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2006-ACF-ACYF-CV-0029.html.

Department of Justice: The Community Capacity Development Office has published guidance for the FY 2007 competitive round of the Weed and Seed Communities program. The Office is seeking communities with persistent violent crime that have not received official recognition in the past. The program aims to be a comprehensive approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration. Grants of up to $1.0 million will be awarded over a five-year project period for those sites that obtain official recognition through the process and meet performance measurements. Letters of intent are due June 29, 2006, and more detailed information can be found at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/ws/2007guideline.html.

Environmental Protection Agency: The Office of Wastewater Management is soliciting nominations for Clean Water Act Recognition Awards to recognize municipalities and industries that demonstrate outstanding technological achievements or an innovative process, method, or device in their waste treatment and pollution abatement programs. Nominations are due June 9, 2006, and awards will be made during the Water Environment Federation’s annual Technical Exposition and Conference. For more information, see: www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/intnet.htm.
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION PRAISES LINCOLN’S AIR QUALITY

For at least the third year in a row, Lincoln has been listed among the 25 cleanest cities in the United States by the American Lung Association in its annual *State of the Air* report. The rating was based on Lincoln’s low ozone emissions.

Ground-level ozone is a hazardous air pollutant caused by emissions from gasoline-burning engines that mix with other pollutants and then is warmed by sunlight. It is harmful to breathe, damages crops, vegetation, and forms smog.

Harmful, ground-level ozone can cause lung problems, worsen bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma. These conditions are particularly dangerous among the elderly and the young, especially those with asthma. Ozone pollution has been linked to heart attacks. People who exercise or work outside can become seriously ill.

Confusion is caused by concern for the ozone layer. Ozone can occur naturally high in the atmosphere. Atmospheric ozone protects the earth from harmful solar rays. To avoid confusion, remember the saying, “Ozone is good up high but bad nearby.”

In Lincoln, emissions from large industrial sources have reduced steadily over the years. Over 75% of the ozone air pollution in Lancaster County comes from private vehicles, gas powered lawn and garden equipment, and heavy equipment. Ozone pollution increases as more people drive more frequently or take longer trips.

Lincoln faces potential air pollution problems as the city grows. The Lincoln Planning Department estimates a 1.5% population growth per year. The Nebraska Department of Roads projects that if current trends continue, traffic volume could more than double by 2030. The increase in population, the extension of city borders, and increased traffic could harm Lincoln’s
Steps residents can take to protect Lincoln’s air quality are to:

- Drive less (walk, bike, or combine trips),
- Fuel vehicles early in morning or later in evening,
- Not “top off” the tank (when the nozzle shuts off, stop), and
- Use electric powered lawn and garden tools.

More information about air quality in Lincoln and what you can do to keep Lincoln healthy can be found on the internet at http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/environ/pollu/.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2006
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Meghan Sittler, Environmental Health Educator
441-8084

PFIZER INC TO HOST HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AND LATEX PAINT EXCHANGE

FREE LATEX PAINT

Pfizer Inc is hosting its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Latex Paint Exchange for the public on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The collection will be held at Pfizer’s main plant located at 601 West Cornhusker Highway. Pfizer is once again sharing the responsibility for this event because of its community focus and desire to help with environmental issues. The collection is for households only; business waste will not be accepted.

Only homeowners may bring good, useable latex paint to the paint exchange. However anyone, including business owners, schools, community organizations, artists and teachers may select from the paints and stains brought to the exchange. The paint must mix when stirred, not be lumpy and not have been frozen. The paint must be in its original can with the label intact and readable and should be at least two-thirds full.

“We appreciate Pfizer’s partnership in protecting public health and the environment. Over the last eight years, Pfizer has helped collect and pay for the recycling and disposal of over 77,400 pounds of hazardous waste from households in Lincoln and Lancaster County,” said Beth
Mann, the Health Department’s Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator. “The Latex Paint Exchange provides homeowners an opportunity to share good usable paint with others in the community.”

Items accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste collection include: turpentine, paint thinners, stains, oil-based paints, pool cleaning chemicals, old pesticides, flea and tick powders, rodent poison, charcoal starter fluids, mixed or old gasoline, mercury-containing items including thermometers, upholstery cleaners, grease removers and brake and power steering fluids. Banned chemicals such as Diazinon, Dursban, DDT, and Chlordane should also be brought to the collection. Items that cannot be brought to the collection, but can be recycled in Lincoln include: batteries, automotive oil, antifreeze, fire extinguishers, propane cylinders, mercury thermostats, computers and electronics. Also not accepted at the collections are medicines, fertilizers, explosives or ammunition.

For recycling information, advice on how to dispose of items that are not accepted and alternatives to hazardous products contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8021 or http://www.lincoln.ne.gov keyword: “households”.

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EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR WOMEN’S HEALTH MONTH

May is a time for remembering and honoring the special women in our lives through the celebration of Women’s Health Month. In observance, the Every Woman Matters Program of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and several faith-based organizations will highlight the importance of annual health exams, healthful diets, moderate exercise, and discontinued use of tobacco products as the best means of preventing and eliminating the health risks associated with breast and cervical cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and other illnesses. The Every Woman Matters program encourages women to remind other women in their lives to receive regular health screenings and to honor those whose lives have been affected by breast and cervical cancer.

Throughout May, information about the Every Woman Matters program as well as diabetic assessments will be available through the Mobile Health Clinic services of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. Health screenings for adults of any age are scheduled at the following Lincoln locations: Norwood Park Elementary School (4710 N 72 St.), May 11, 5-7pm, and Super Saver (48th & O St.), May 23, 3-5pm. Health screening services will include blood pressure, cholesterol, colon-rectal screening, body mass index, and resting heart rate. Education will be provided regarding diabetes, breast and cervical exams, cardiovascular risk assessment and other women’s health issues. Remember your health for those you love!

The Every Woman Matters program at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, funded through Nebraska Health and Human Services, provides income-eligible women 40-64 years an opportunity to receive regular breast and cervical health screenings, mammograms, and Pap tests when they may not be able to afford the costs. Women may receive additional screenings on an annual basis to include blood pressure and cholesterol checks, and a blood sugar (glucose) check. Every Woman Matters is now also offering the opportunity to screen clients across the state for colon cancer. This program, the Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program (NCP), is available to EWM clients ages 50-64, and to those who live in the same household who are over 50 years of age. For more information, contact Every Woman Matters at 471-0929 or 800-532-2227.

-more-
Breast cancer is Nebraska’s second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women. Although breast cancer can happen to anyone, major risk factors include being a woman and getting older. Studies have shown that when detected early, a woman has a 96 percent chance of surviving the disease. To help ensure a healthy lifestyle, the Every Woman Matters program recommends that women over 40 years perform a monthly breast self-exam, have a yearly clinical breast exam by a health care provider, have a mammogram every one to two years, and be routinely screened for heart disease and diabetes.
May 8, 2006

To: All Physicians, Administrators and Laboratory Personnel

From: Steve Beal, MPA; Assistant Health Director

Subject: Physician Advisory

MUMPS UPDATE

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has received 27 reports of possible mumps since January 2006. Three of those case reports have been confirmed, two by lab confirmation and one as an epidemiologically linked case. Seventeen reported cases meet the case definition* for mumps but have noncontributory or no serologic or virologic testing and are not epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or probable case. The remaining reported cases are currently under investigation as suspect cases or have been determined to not meet the case definition for mumps and are not supported by lab confirmation.

The average age of the 21 reported cases (suspect/probable/confirmed) is 22 years of age. All three confirmed cases had two or more doses of mumps vaccine. A total of 53 percent of the probable cases had 2 doses of mumps vaccine and 18 percent had 1 dose of the vaccine.

Important items related to the current mumps situation:

1. All individuals diagnosed with suspected or confirmed mumps, need to be isolated at home for 5 days from their symptom onset date. No cases of mumps are known to have been transmitted after this 5 day period, although in studies mumps virus has been isolated in saliva up to 9 days.
2. Mumps should not be ruled out on the basis of a positive immunization history.
3. Mumps should not be ruled out in vaccinated individuals with negative laboratory tests, if they have symptoms consistent with mumps.
4. Report to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department all cases in which the clinical presentation is consistent with mumps regardless of lab results. This allows public health to identify and reduce potential spread in a timely manner within the community.
5. There is no recommendation at this time to give a third dose of mumps vaccine to individuals with documentation of having had two doses of vaccine.
6. There is no recommendation to accelerate the current childhood immunization schedule for mumps. The schedule is to give the first dose of MMR at 12 to 15 months and the second dose at 4 to 6 years of age.
7. Mumps IgM lab testing can be obtained through the Nebraska Public Health Lab on patients with suspected mumps. Providers can access this testing by contacting the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. Other mumps serologies or virologic cultures would need to be done through a private lab and the cost covered by the patient or a third-party payer.
8. Those health care workers in high risk settings for exposure to mumps would be areas where symptomatic individuals would likely go to seek care (i.e. acute care hospitals, primary care provider practices, etc.). Laboratories involved in handling specimens and doing testing for Mumps would be a high risk setting for those employees involved in that process. These health care workers with no known history of having had two doses of MMR or having had Mumps illness, should, be considered for an MMR immunization or a Mumps titer (IgG).

*Clinical case definition:*
An illness with acute onset of unilateral or bilateral tender, self-limited swelling of the parotid or other salivary gland, lasting 2 or more days, and without other apparent cause.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department’s Communicable Disease Program can be reached at 441-8053 or after hours and on weekends call 441-8000 and ask for the Communicable Disease Program.

**Physician Advisory Available By E-Mail**

Physicians, Advance Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Health-Care and Laboratory Administrators can receive periodic physician advisories by e-mail. Send an e-mail to ttimmons@ci.lincoln.ne.us with your name, type of practitioner (MD, ARNP, PA-C, Administrator, etc.) and location of practice.

PC: Mayor Coleen J. Seng
   Board of Health
   Steven Rademacher, MD, Medical Consultant
   Thomas Stalder, MD, Medical Consultant
   James Nora, MD, Medical Consultant
   Shelley Jones, MD, Medical Consultant
   Joan Anderson, Executive Director, Lancaster County Medical Society
To: Board of Equalization

From: Bruce Sweney

Subject: May 15, 2006 Board of Equalization Meeting

Date: May 9, 2006

cc: Mayor Seng, K.Fredrickson, R. Figard, T.Shafer, J.Rupp, E. Cole

The table below summarizes the proposed assessments for the three individual assessment districts which will be before the Board of Equalization at the May 15, 2006 meeting.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Project No.</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>City Subsidy</th>
<th>Assessed Amount</th>
<th>Proposed Assessment Rate</th>
<th>Original Estimated Rate</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All owners of record within these Districts have been notified of their proposed assessment and the time and location of the Board of Equalization meeting.

Paving District #2626 (SW 27th - West “A” to West South Streets and West South Street - SW23rd to SW 27th) was created December 8, 2003 by petitions representing over fifty percent of the abutting property owners. Original project costs were estimated to be $800,000. TCW Construction Co., was awarded the contract and the work was accepted October 28, 2005 at a final construction contract cost of $650,280.64. We have proposed a $103,243.17 subsidy for the over-width paving($49,699.74) and the major storm sewer($53,543.43). Major reasons for cost over-runs were; a) the length of time from creation to completion(2 years) which generated interest charges($43,647.07)which accrued over a longer period of time, b) issues concerning the water main in SW 27th which had insufficient cover necessitating a split construction season and some additional costs, c) easements and right of way were acquired at a cost of $24,595.25 since grading and storm sewer installation extended beyond the existing property lines.

Water District #1192 was created May 5, 2004 at the request of Steel Fabricators with an estimated cost of $75,000. It was constructed by K2 Construction, with final construction contract cost of $66,015.40 and was accepted February 15, 2006. The State owned property west of Folsom was excluded from the District for assessment purposes and we are proposing that the Lincoln Water System subsidize that portion of the assessment.

Paving Unit #139 was created February 7, 2005 at the request of the 3 property owners on the north side of Benton. We have proposed a $29,049.17 subsidy for main line storm sewer(including the pipe in North 1st, necessary to drain inlets installed in West Benton) and we have billed each individual property owner for the cost of the driveway pavement necessary to connect existing drives to the new
pavement. The balance of the increased costs can be traced to right of way acquisitions ($12,529.96) and several miscellaneous constructions costs such as a modular block wall, erosion control items, hydrant relocation, and general clearing/grubbing (approximately $10,145) related to the significant grading necessary immediately west of the North 1st Street intersection.

We have a pre-council meeting scheduled for 9:45 the morning of May 15, 2006.
Inspection Activity

• 536 inspections on 534 sites on 15,317 acres were made during the month.

Spring Musk Thistle

• Made 511 inspections on 509 sites on 14,429 acres.
• Found 400 violations on 2,241 acres.
• Found no violations on 110 sites.
• 5 sites controlled prior to inspection.
• 1 site controlled by inspectors.

• Sent 5 notices, 255 letters, 76 trace cards and made 40 personal contacts.
• 58 control plans have been received.
• Control is pending on 394 sites.

Leafy Spurge

• Made 25 inspections on 25 sites on 888 acres.
• Found 20 violations on 140 acres.
• Found no violations on 4 sites.
• Eleven personal contacts were made.
• Control is pending on 23 sites.

Threats to Nebraska Rivers-Invasive Plants

The Lower Platte Weed Management Area is involved in planning for a state-wide conference to address the non native plants invading the riparian areas of Nebraska Rivers.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

511 Inspections of 509 sites

- Cards 16%
- Notice 1%
- Letter 52%
- Direct contact 8%
- None 23%

APRIL Activities

10 Musk thistle inspections begin
12 Threats to Ne Rivers Mtng
17 Great Plains RC&D 10:00 AM
20 LPWMA Meeting
30 Monthly activity report

Planned MAY Activities

2 County Commissioners' Meeting
3 Begin City Weed Abatement inspections
11 Mgt Team Mtg
16 Prepare leafy spurge roadside map
16 Press Conference Jordan cemetery
16 LPWMA Mtng 10:00 AM
17 Threat to River Conf Planning
18-19 Vacation
26 Vacation
15-31 leafy spurge roadside spraying
Just a note to say that I disagree with Mayor Seng on her proposal to ban concealed weapons.

The words Concealed weapons scares the hell out of some people, and the words are intimidating. But the fact that 48 states have a concealed weapons law and those fears have been unfounded should be reassuring as to the safety of it.

According to the Mayor, the police chief and others are feeling a threat from "Law Abiding Citizens" carrying weapons. It's the criminal that should be their concern. Of those whom do get a permit to carry only a very small percentage actually carry a weapon on themselves. It would be only in a high crime area for their own protection.

As for those that I know who will apply, the intention is to be legal when carrying a weapon in a vehicle. When your weapon is out of sight it is called a concealed weapon. When it's in plain sight it is an invitation for auto break in's and theft, this we don't want. There are several couples "Yes couples" that are going to apply for this permit. We are law abiding and would not carry on our person when in a quiet city like Lincoln. There is no doubt in my mind that the good Mayor and police chief are jumping to conclusions when facts of other states have proven otherwise.

I feel like those who respect the law and are treated otherwise ,maybe should not patronize those cities who distrust us so much. I would hope you would deny the Mayors proposal and you will find nothing will change that would threaten your city or citizens. I have family living in Lincoln and will not feel threatened at all.

Respectfully
LeRoy Penlerick
<dixon56@nntc.net>
Dear Council Members;
I’m writing to request that you reject any efforts by the Mayor or the Police Chief to force a ban on concealed weapons in Lincoln. If draconian firearm regulations could make a city safe, then Washington D.C. would be the safest city in the country, instead of the most dangerous city. In other areas where anti gun laws have been passed crime, especially gun crime, has increased. Look at what has happen in Australia.

If my appeal to you to not infringe our rights any further is not convincing perhaps a selfish reason would help. As you know you may be held personally accountable when your actions harm another person. The lawsuit recently filed by the group home operator who was denied a request to add another resident is proof enough.

Just think what could happen if you deny citizens the right to protect themselves. If a person that is victim to a rape, assault or murder could have protected them self with a handgun I would not want a vote for a concealed weapons ban on my record.

Thank you for your time.
David Oenbring
2630 S 13th
Lincoln, NE 68502
402-474-4300
Dear Council Members:

As a Realtor I am asking you to vote AGAINST any efforts by Mayor Seng to ban Concealed Carry within the City of Lincoln.

It is my belief that citizens have the right to protect themselves, especially in my profession.

Doug Vandervort
Dear Friend,

Please help us keep Lincoln a safe community by supporting Mayor Seng’s effort to ban the concealed carry of weapons.

Mayor Seng acted in response to the Legislature’s passage of LB 454, a bill to allow the carrying of concealed weapons. The bill did not prohibit a city from banning the carry of concealed weapons. In fact, state law gives cities authority to prohibit concealed weapons in their cities. The Mayor announced her intention to introduce an ordinance based on this authority.

Now, the gun lobby, gun manufacturers and their advocates are mobilizing to tell Lincoln what is best for our community. They want you to ignore key facts about the problems associated with concealed weapons:

In Texas, concealed weapon permit holders committed over 5,300 crimes in 5 ½ years or about 2.5 per day.

Nebraska’s concealed weapon law allows those convicted of crimes such as stalking, violation of a protection order, and impersonating a police officer to receive concealed weapon permits.

Testimony presented to the Legislature’s Judiciary Committee by the domestic violence community in 2003 points out that for each time a woman used a handgun in 1998 to kill an intimate acquaintance in self-defense, 97 women were murdered by an intimate acquaintance using a handgun.
Police Chief Casady and 85% of Lincoln’s police officers oppose a concealed weapon law.

In the most recent five years currently available, 1999 through 2004, violent crime in Nebraska fell 35%—from 7,172 offenses to 5,302—without a concealed weapon law.

Crime has been falling nationwide due to a number of factors. Studies show that it is falling faster in states that either do not have a concealed weapon law or had concealed weapon laws that were very strict on permit eligibility. Concealed weapon laws that simply allowed a permit to anyone without a felony record (such as Nebraska’s new law) did not experience as great a decline.

The gun lobby points to the study by John Lott, “More Guns, Less Crime” as the definitive evidence that laws like concealed carry laws reduce crime. A number of academic studies refute Lott. The Violence Policy Center points out that Lott’s fellowship at the University of Chicago is funded by the John M. Olin Foundation and the Olin Corporation, which owns Winchester Ammunition.

We need your help to win this battle. Please write to the Lincoln City Council and let them know that you support Mayor Seng’s effort to ban concealed weapons. Send an email to the Lincoln Journal Star stating the facts so others can be educated on the impact of concealed weapons law.

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so others can be educated on the impact of concealed weapons law.

Lincoln City Council: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star: oped@journalstar.com

See below for City Council members phone numbers and address.

Thanks Beatty.
## City of Lincoln

**City Council Address List**

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE - (Area Code 402)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JON CAMP</td>
<td>Home: 2220 South 66th Street</td>
<td>Home: 489-1001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southeast District</strong></td>
<td>Lincoln, Nebraska- 68506</td>
<td>Office: 474-1838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preferred Mailing:</td>
<td><strong>e-mail:</strong> <a href="mailto:campjon@aol.com">campjon@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box82307</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lincoln, Nebraska-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68501-2307</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JONATHAN COOK  
Southwest District  
Home:  
2701 Stratford Avenue  
Lincoln, Nebraska-68502  
Home: 476-8686

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN  
At-Large  
Work:  
555 South 10th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska-68508  
Office: 441-8795

DAN MARVIN  
At-Large  
Home:  
2523 Woods Blvd  
Lincoln, Nebraska-68506  
Work: 421-2024

ANNETTE McROY  
Northwest District  
Work:  
555 S. 10th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska-68508  
Voice Mail: 441-9669  
e-mail:  
amcroy@lincoln.ne.gov
PATTE NEWMAN  
*Northeast District*  
Work: 555 S. 10th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska-68508  
Home: 484-8770

KEN SVOBODA  
*At-Large*  
Home: 7309 Skyhawk Circle  
Lincoln, Nebraska-68506  
486-3392

COUNCIL’S PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY COUNCIL OFFICE  
OFFICE #: 441-7515

COUNTY-CITYBUILDING  
FAX #: 441-6533

555 S. 10TH STREET

LINCOLN, NE 68508  
e-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

[IMAGE] City Council
Beatty Brasch
Executive Director
Center for People in Need
2025 Holdrege St.
Lincoln, Ne. 68503
work 402-476-4357, cell 402-730-0029
home 402-423-1085
bbrasch@centerforpeopleinneed.org
Dear Council members,

I write to urge you to block the concealed weapons bill in Lincoln. There are so many reasons to block this law that it seems superfluous to add more. Certainly the opinion of our police chief and his staff should be enough to influence your vote. If you choose not to listen to the persons who have the most knowledge of crime in Lincoln, then you run the risk of being influenced by those persons who deal in innuendo, rumor and fear mongering. One would expect our city council to make decisions based upon fact not opinion.

Sincerely,
Penny Siefker
1641 South 26 Street
I support the Mayor's ban on concealed weapons. LB 454 should have never been passed by our State Legislature.
I am a sportsman and have a dozen guns (locked in a gun cabinet) and also am a member of numerous sportsmen groups. At one time, was a member of the NRA but they have become a radical group and their lobbying efforts indicating that concealed weapons are best for Lincoln is ridiculous.
Over the years; have been to most, if not all, of the major cities seeder parts and have never believed that I needed to be carrying a concerned weapon for my own protect.
Lincoln and Omaha nor any other city or town in Ne. needs concerned weapons.
Dick Boyd
4 Sussex Place
Lincoln, Ne.68506
484-0446

Yahoo! Messenger with Voice, PC-to-Phone calls for ridiculously low rates.
Dear Council members and Mayor Seng,

I urge you to consider banning concealed weapons from Lincoln. Along with the obvious increase in dangerous situations it will be impossible to monitor the buildings/offices where guns are banned. Can 85% of law enforcement officers including the Chief of Police be wrong? Thank you.

Tim K. Johnson

4333 E St

Lincoln

483-0425
Council members, I hope you see fit to support the mayor's proposed ban on concealed weapons in Lincoln. Anyone who impersonates a police officer is a potentially dangerous person and to think that the impersonator could legally carry a concealed weapon makes me cringe.

Joan Anderson
2427 Kessler Blvd.
Lincoln NE 68502
This is to let you know that I am OPPOSED to the proposal to irrevocably change this neighborhood by adding a Starbucks at this intersection, due to high traffic volume and safety concerns. I live in Lincoln - near 40th & A - but my daughter and her husband live near 9th and Van Dorn.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodbeck
402-544-5588
Dear Michele York:  Your message has been received in the Council Office and will be forwarded to the Council Members. Thank you for your input on this issue.

Tammy J. Grammer  
City Council Office  
555 South 10th Street  
Lincoln, NE  68508  
Phone:  402-441-6867  
Fax:        402-441-6533  
e-mail:   tgrammer@lincoln.ne.gov

Hello, my name is Michele York and I am a parent of two Lincoln elementary students. I am sending this email to anyone I possibly could find who may help me. I have a security issue with Lincoln Public Schools and I would like to take action. My phone calls to the Lincoln Public School district office, election commission and Mayor's office today have not been returned.

This morning as I dropped my children off at school I watched a male exit the building after voting. Though I am not certain, and will not point fingers, I believe this man is a registered sex offender in our area. **Why is election poling done in elementary schools?** Many of the older schools in Lincoln are not set up with our children's security in mind, and we invite the public in? The school in my area has a handicapped entrance located far from the office and not even within sight of the poling area. To get to the poling area visitors must pass classrooms, stairwells and even the kindergarten restrooms. There is no one to assure visitors continue to the poling area or to the office to sign in as a visitor.

With the current legislation Colleen Seng is trying to get passed, registered sex offenders must not reside within a certain distance of schools. Recently she was quoted in the Lincoln Journal Star “It simply is not in the best interest of our community to have high-risk sex offenders living within close proximity to schools.” Yet we invite registered voters into our school doors on election day? This is simply not right! Most certainly, my children will
not attend school unless I feel LPS can provide for their safety, and they will not attend on election polling days.

Thank you for time and efforts.

Sincerely,
Michele York
(402) 477-0027
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Justin Smith
Address: 2002
City: Lincoln, NE 68502
Phone: 770-2024
Fax: 
Email: JMShusker@gmail

Comment or Question:
General Council,

Today I opened my LES bill and found a new account fee of $25. I thought this was odd after having been an LES customer for several years, however we recently moved and transferred service to our new home. I am confused as to how this constitutes a new account. I am also aware that the city council voted to approve this underhanded fee that enables Lincoln to maintain the image of low electric rates, while at the same time reaching deeper into the wallets of unsuspecting customers. Yes I know you had meetings and advertised in the Journal Star, granting access to the public on this issue. Using that same reasoning I should be able to advertise in the Journal Star that I am going to come by and take $25 dollars out of your wallet while you're not looking, and if you fail to respond I should feel justified in doing so. The other bit of reasoning that the other utilities are assessing a similar fee is just as faulty. It would be like saying there are already three people beating that man in the street, why not a fourth? I am sadly disappointed and would refuse to pay this fee if I would not fear having my electricity shut off, this is nothing short of the school yard bully taking smaller kids' lunch money because he can.

Disappointed in your lack of ethics,
Justin Smith