IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2007

I. MAYOR
*1. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule for Week of July 21 through July 27, 2007. (Distributed to City Council on 07/20/07)
*2. NEWS ADVISORY. City Council Tentative Changes to Recommended Budget Available on 5CITY-TV (Time Warner Cable Channel 5)
*3. Petition on Retaining Services of Lifetime Health in City Budget.
*4. NEWS ADVISORY. City Council Tentative Changes to Recommended Budget Available on 5CITY-TV (Time Warner Cable Channel 5)
*7. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Thanks Blood Donors for Response to Emergency.

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
3. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Appoints Three to Planning Commission.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Appoints Three to Planning Commission.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Upgrading of Peter Pan Skate Park Under Way.
6. NEWS RELEASE. Public Invited to Lincoln Fire and Rescue Badge Ceremony.
7. NEWS RELEASE. StarTran Introduces New Fare Cards.

II. DIRECTORS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FINANCE BUDGET DEPARTMENT
*1. July Sales Tax Reports:
   a) Actual Compared to Projected Sales Tax Collections;
   c) Sales Tax Refunds, 2001-2002 Through 2006-2007; and

FINANCE TREASURER DEPARTMENT
LIBRARIES
*1. Letter from Carol Connor, Library Director, with Attachments of Letters and Resumes of Six Persons Interested in Being Appointed to the Library Board.

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
*3. Charleston Heights Addition Final Plat No. 06083. Generally Located at North 14th Street and Humphrey Avenue.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES
*1. ADVISORY. 56th Street and Elkcrest Drive Intersection Safety Improvement Project. Project No. 700846.
*2. ADVISORY. Water Main Project No. 700294. St. Paul Avenue; 42nd - 47th Street.

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Reply from Randy Hoskins, Assistant City Engineer, Regarding Lincoln North Creek Street Lighting.
   a) Letter from Gregory S. Nielsen, Lincoln North Creek LLC. Letter Regarding Concerns With Street Lighting in the North Creek Development.

III. CITY CLERK

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

JON CAMP
*1. Response from Dan Wright, Interim Fire Chief, Regarding the EMS Enterprise Fund Utilities and Explanation Regarding Workers Comp with EMS and General Fund.

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Email from, and Response to, Andrea Dickey Regarding Cutting Firefighters Budget.
2. Email from, and Response to, Norma Kamtz Regarding Continuing to Fund Lifetime Health for Senior Citizens.
3. Email from, and Response to, Marlys French Regarding City Budget Cut on the Lifetime Health Program of the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging.
4. Email from, and Response to, Bob Cunningham Regarding Budgets on Firefighters and County Receiving City Taxes.
5. Response to Email from Interim Fire Chief Danny D. Wright to Council Chair Marvin on LFR Budget.
6. Email from, and Response to, Reba Schafer, Director for Lincoln Area Agency on Agency Prior to Retirement in 2000 Regarding Maintaining Services to Older Adults and Final Budget Cuts.
7. Email from, and Response to, Pat Scott. Find Funding to Continue the Life Time Health Program’s Care and Services to the Elderly in Lincoln.
8. Response from Public Works and Utilities to Don Wright’s Concern on the Railroad Crossing at South 56th Street and Old Cheney Road.
9. Email from Bob Kacvinsky on Requiring Talent Plus to Use Pollution Free Lighting in Expansion Plans, Giving Consideration to Neighbors, Hyde Observatory and the City.
10. Email from Norma Kamtz. Agree with User Fee Idea to Keep Lifetime Health Operational, with Fee Determined by Income.
12. Email from Ken Ring Agreeing With a User Fee for the Lifetime Health Program, Structured for Everyone to Pay According to Income.

JONATHAN COOK
*1. Letter from Sharon Fry. Thanks for Supporting our Fire Department.

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Letter from Mrs. Abe B. Sidiki. Do Not Allow Senior Services to be Cut. Do not Make the Seniors Responsible for Mismanagement of City Funds. Perhaps an Appropriate Fee Could be Charged to Keep Program.

DOUG EMERY
*1. Letter from Sharon Fry. Thank you for Supporting the Fire Department.

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Letter from Lina Driscoll Requesting the Belmont Aging Center Remain Open.

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Letter from Tracie Foreman, Aging Specialist/LAAA/Lifetime Health, Stating Facts in Response to Comments Made About the Lifetime Health Program. (Received for, and Distributed to Other Council Members on 08/02/07)

DAN MARVIN
*1. Memo from Dan Wright, Interim Fire Chief, Regarding Impact on Lincoln Fire and Rescue if Another $250,000 is Reduced from the Fiscal Year 07-08 Budget.
*2. Letter from Sharon Fry. Thank you for Supporting our Fire Department.

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Letter from a Concerned Citizen Regarding Lincoln Fire Department Supervisory Employees.
2. Letter from Theresa Hohmeie. Oppose Elimination of Lincoln Area Agency Lifetime Health Program.
JOHN SPATZ

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Letter from Alice Stillahn. Do Not Close Belmont Active Age Services.
2. Letter from Arlene and Herman Gerlach. Reconsider Closing the Active Age Center at Belmont Senior Center. Would be Unable to Attend Another Center.
4. Letter from Wallace Gant. Need Maxey Center, Do Not Close.
7. Letter from Iren Hraban. Keep Maxey Center Open.
8. Letter from Harlan Chamberlain. Support Keeping the Maxey Senior Center Open.
9. Letter from Juanita McWilliams. Keep Open the Senior Maxey Center Located at the Malone Community Center.
10. Letter from Joy Snell. Keep the Maxey Center Open.

KEN SVOBODA

*1. Response from Dan Wright, Interim Fire Chief, Regarding Question of FEMA Grant, the Cooperative Agreement Reimbursement to General Fund for Assistant Chief Huff.

Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Letter from a Concerned Citizen Regarding Lincoln Fire Department Supervisory Employees.

V. MISCELLANEOUS
*1. Email from Russell Miller on Police and Taxes.
*2. Correspondence from Dana Roper, City Attorney. Consequences for Allowing Propane Tanks on Balconies.
*4. Letter from Phyllis Roehl. Suggestions/Comments on City Budget.
*5. Email from Paul Haith. Comments on Budget, and Councilman Cooks’ Comment on the Lincoln Fire Department.
*6. Comments from Jason Stege on City Council Actions at Meeting on 07-23-07.
*9. Correspondence from Neighbors of Talent Plus to Comply with Written Requests if Talent Plus is Allowed to Expand. (Distributed to Council Members on 07/26/07)
*10. Email from Bob Norris. Comments, Suggestions on the Budget.

Emails Received Week of July 30, 2007 Regarding Keeping the Senior Lifetime Health Program and Senior Centers Open
*1. Phone call from Melva Buhrdorf.
*2. Message Sent to Action Center.
*3. Letters From the Word Weaver’s Calvert Writing Group. Explanation of Participation in Various Programs/Activities at the Calvert Senior Center.
*4. Letter sent to Councilmen Jonathan Cook and Dan Marvin from Frances Bockelman. Continue to fund the Lifetime Health Program.
*5. Letter from Cy Miller. Keep the Calvert Senior Center Open, Plus Suggestions on Budget.
*6. Email from Lisa Henning. Very Saddened and Concerned with Ending the Lifetime Health Program.
*7. Email from Gerald D. Poppe. Use Lifetime Health Programs, Consider Keeping in Budget.
*8. Letter from Lavaughn Oorlog. With Different Location for Calvert Senior Center Keep Fee Paid Previously to Parks and Recreation Department.
*9. Email from Shirley Maly. Abolishment of the Lifetime Health in Aging Services seems to lack foresight and common sense. Lifetime Health offers affordable preventative care.
*11. Note from Berena Snyder. Need the Calvert Center.
*12. Letter from Gertrude N. Involved in ActivAge Programs for 28 Years.
*15. Letter from Jennie Tesch. Do Not Close the Senior Centers.
*16. Letter from Sam B. Cuts from Seniors and Youth Programs Absurd.
*17. Letter from Lincoln Citizen. Do Not Close Belmont ActivAge Program.
*18. Letter from Henry T. Upset at Closing Senior Centers, Especially the Belmont Center.
*19. Letter from Effie J. Depend on Belmont Rec Center for Resources.
*20. Letter from John B. Disappointed Belmont Senior Center is Closing.
*22. Letter from Lyle and Shirley. Upset on the Closing of the Belmont Senior Center.
*24. Letter from Connie B. Father Uses Belmont Senior Center.
*25. Letter from Charlotte Macku. Sad to Take Away Services for the Elderly.
*26. Letter from Mark F. Need to Keep Services at Belmont Center in Place.
*27. Letter from Concerned Citizen of Lincoln with Concern for the Lifetime Health Program. (Distributed to Council Members on 07/26/07)
*28. Email from Joyce Morgan. Keep the Calvert Center Open. Deeply Offended if Maintaining a Golf Course over Senior Centers.
*29. Email from Patricia Lehecka. Do Not Cut Lifetime Health Budget. Vote in the Best Interests of Lincoln Senior Citizens.

Miscellaneous Correspondence Received Week of August 6, 2007
1. Email from Teri Bullock. Very Disappointed in Proposed Cuts Affecting the Youngest and Oldest Members of our City.
2. Email from Bob And Barbara Boyce. Proposed Sewage Treatment Plant, SW Wastewater Facility, by Wilderness Park Again in the CIP Budget at a Cost of $5.6 Million.
3. Email from Sara Friedman. Reasons to Vote to Remove the Entire Entry of the SW Wastewater Facility Improvements from the Budget.
4. Email from Coby Mach, Executive Director of Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Responding to Russell Miller’s Letter to the Mayor and City Council Regarding the Lancaster Event Center.
5. Position Statement from LIBA Regarding the Storm Water Bond Issue.
7. Email from Pam James. Preserve Wilderness Park as a Natural Heritage Sight.
8. Email from M. Harvey Regarding Maintenance of Trees Along Winthrop Road.
9. Email from Steve Crouch with Suggestions.
10. Email from Josh Mehlin Thoughts on Returning to Lincoln.
11. Letter from Dr. Theresa de Langis on the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission.
12. Letter and Resolution No. 490 from the Airport Authority.


16. Email from Sam Johnson. Think of Residents at 70th and Pioneers and Deny the Land Sale to Talent Plus.

17. Letter from Erik Hubl, Hyde Memorial Observatory. For Land Sale to Talent Plus have Written Terms of Sale on Lighting Cutoff Times, Minimum Amount of Lighting, and Reflective Surfaces.

Emails Received Week of August 6, 2007 Regarding Keeping the Senior Lifetime Health Program and Senior Centers Open

1. Letter from Lisa A. Taylor. Mother Uses Programs and Also Gives Back to Community.

2. Email from Margaret Elley Distressed over Cuts Asked of the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging Members.


4. Email from Theresa Parker. Vote No to mayor Beutler’s Proposed Budget Cut for the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging.

5. Letter from Frank Coyne. Keep Maxey Center Open.


8. Letter from Maggie Whirl. Allow Consideration for Keeping the Maxey Center Senior Program.

9. Letter from Donna Busch. Programs Like Lifetime Health Needed in Our Community.

10. Letter from Jo Wallick. Do Not Eliminate the Calvert ActivAge Center. Come and Personally Visit the Class.

11. Letter from Betty Wilken. Do Not Eliminate the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging Lifetime Health Program. This Community Should Serve People of All Ages.

12. Letter from J. Houk. Volunteer at the Maxey Senior Center which Provides Individuals in Wheelchairs, with Canes, Walkers a Balanced Meal and Socialization. Give Consideration to Keep Open. (Council Members Received Individual Copies on 08/02/07)

13. Statement from Senior Citizens and Other Citizens and Five (5) Pages of Signatures Asking for Continued Funding for the Maxey Senior Diner Program at the Malone Community Center. (Council Members Received Individual Copies on 08/02/07)

* HELD OVER FROM JULY 30, 2007.*
Thanks for coming forward with your perspective on the City budget. Your comments about the reductions in services provided by the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging are appreciated. I'm forwarding your comments to Rick Hoppe, the mayoral aide who deals with budget policies for Mayor Beutler.

Sincerely,

Lin Quenzer
Ombudsman, City of Lincoln
Office of the Mayor
555 South 10th Street, Suite 208
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 441-7511
lquenzer@lincoln.ne.gov

Good Morning, Mayor and Council,

During the past year I have been a part of the LAAA WPS here in Lincoln. I have been impressed in the variety of services which Lincoln has provided for senior citizens. However, I was dismayed when I read/heard that financial cutbacks have been requested from the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. I would join in the concern expressed by my friend and colleague, Rev. Robert Neben.

I am very distressed over the amount of money this agency is being asked to reduce in the recent budget proposal. The senior citizens of our community are being asked to give up some very important services; services that are needed to help them maintain good health through nutritional meals, exercise programs, foot care, blood pressure checks, and social...
interactions that many of them do not get elsewhere. These are people who are on limited incomes and cannot always afford to receive these services in other places, because they do not have the funds to do so. It would seem inevitable that many of this group would have no option other than to be placed on the welfare roles in order to obtain the type of care they now have available at the senior centers.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider the cuts you are asking for from the LAAA, that seniors will not be put in a position of sacrificing their health status because the facilities they have had open to them are no longer there. These people, who have given so much over the years to our community, deserve better!

Sincerely,

Rev. Hughes B. Morris, Jr.
1919 So 50th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

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July 27, 2007

Dear Rev. Morris:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding proposed cuts to the budget of the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. I appreciate hearing from constituents about issues important to them.

This year’s budget process was particularly difficult. When I entered office two months ago, I faced a $9 million gap between revenues and expenditures. I asked all departments to submit a budget that was 94% of their respective current budgets. Working from that baseline, I then focused on core city services—services like police, fire and 911, which benefit every member of our community. Public safety requires that these services be maintained. The budget shortfall therefore required that the other city departments suffer a loss.

These are cuts that I did not want to make. I understand the value of programs like Lifetime Health. But during these times of decreasing revenues and increasing costs, I was forced to make very difficult decisions with respect to every department.

I look forward to an on-going discussion with the community throughout the next four years as we formulate our vision for Lincoln’s future. To that end, I thank you, again, for your letter, and I invite your continued participation in this discussion.

Sincerely,

Chris Beutler
Mayor of Lincoln
Good Morning, Mayor and Council,

During the past year I have been a part of the LAAA WPS here in Lincoln. I have been impressed in the variety of services which Lincoln has provided for senior citizens. However, I was dismayed when I read/heard that financial cutbacks have been requested from the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. I would join in the concern expressed by my friend and colleague, Rev. Robert Neben.

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I sincerely hope that you will reconsider the cuts you are asking for from the LAAA, that seniors will not be put in a position of sacrificing their health status because the facilities they have had open to them are no longer there. These people, who have given so much over the years to our community, deserve better!

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MAYOR APPOINTS THREE TO PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Chris Beutler today appointed Leirion Gaylor Baird, Wendy Francis and Robert Moline to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission. The appointments must be approved by the City Council and County Board. They will replace Jon Carlson, Gerry Krieser and Mary Strand, whose terms expire in this month. Planning Commissioners serve six-year terms.

“The Planning Commission plays an important role in the development of our city, and I am pleased that these three outstanding individuals have agreed to serve the community in this way,” said Mayor Beutler.

Gaylor Baird has a bachelor’s degree in history from Yale University and master’s degree in comparative social research and social policy from the University of Oxford in England. Before moving to Lincoln, she was the Director of the Center for a New Generation at the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, California. She also served as a fiscal and policy analyst in the San Francisco Mayor’s Office of Finance and Legislative Affairs. In Lincoln, she has been active in Friends of the Lincoln Children’s Museum, Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center Board and the Friendship Home.

Francis is a Realtor® with Woods Brothers Realty. She is active in the REALTORS® Association of Lincoln, serving as a Director and as Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee. She also serves on the police/neighborhood task force and is a member of the Public Policy and Governmental Affairs committees. In the Nebraska REALTORS® Association, she is chair of the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Advisory Council Committee and of the Professional Standards Review Committee. She is on the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights and on the Board of the NE American Civil Liberties Union and has served on the Lincoln YWCA Board.

Moline is CEO and President of HomeServices of Nebraska, the holding company for HOME Real Estate, Woods Bros. Realty and several other business in the field of real estate. He has a bachelor’s degree in business administration and accounting from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and has been a CPA since 1983. He is a member of the National, Nebraska and Lincoln REALTORS® Associations and other trade organizations. He is on the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission and is a past member of the Nebraska Real Estate Commission. He is active on the boards of Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra and the Boy Scouts – Cornhusker Council.

The nine-member Planning Commission is responsible for helping to develop a comprehensive land use plan for Lancaster County and for making policy recommendations to the City Council and County Board. State statute requires counties to form planning commissions if a primary class city (population 100,000 to 300,000) is located in the county.
UPGRADING OF PETER PAN SKATE PARK UNDER WAY

The upgrading of the Peter Pan skate park at 32nd and “W” streets began this week. The equipment installed in 2001 was removed today. A perimeter fence is scheduled to be installed tomorrow, and the installation of the new equipment will begin this week, weather permitting. The City Parks and Recreation Department said the new equipment is expected to be open for use on Tuesday, August 21.

The wood-framed skate park equipment at the park had reached the end of its useful life. It is being replaced with new steel-framed equipment in a similar configuration to the current layout.

For more information, contact J.J. Yost at Parks and Recreation at 441-8255.

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PUBLIC INVITED TO BADGE CEREMONY

The public is invited to welcome the newest members of Lincoln Fire and Rescue at a ceremony at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 2 at the Firefighter Reception Hall, 241 Victory Lane. Mayor Chris Beutler and Interim Fire Chief Danny Wright will present badges to five recruits who have completed the department’s training requirements: Nic Cunningham, Mark DeForge, Dave Keber, Ryan Moser and Jason Urkoski.

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PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT  
StarTran, 710 “J” Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7185, fax 441-7055  

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 1, 2007  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Kitty Miller, StarTran Marketing Director, 441-7185  

STARTRAN INTRODUCES NEW FARE CARDS  

To increase customer convenience, StarTran will begin offering new fare cards Monday, August 13. Fares will remain the same, but the new cards will use magnetic strip technology to keep track of bus transactions.  

Changes include:  

- Those using a ticket book will now receive a 20-ride pass for $23.  
- The HandiVan ticket book will be replaced with the 20-ride HandiVan pass for $46.  
- The Senior Saver/Go For Less punch pass will be replaced with the Senior Saver/Go For Less 20-ride pass for $12. To receive the discounted fare, customers are required to present their Senior Saver/Go For Less/Medicare ID to the drivers before paying.  

Current ticket books and punch passes will be accepted through October 31. They can be exchanged for the new magnetic cards only at the StarTran Office, 710 “J” Street. For information on exchanges, call 441-7185.  

- Those using the monthly passport will now receive a 31-consecutive-day pass for $35.  
- The HandiVan Monthly passport will be replaced with the 31-consecutive-day HandiVan pass for $70.  

September passports will be the last ones honored. StarTran will continue the Passport Saver Program. Customers who save 11 consecutive 31-consecutive-day passes will receive the 12th one free. The discount offered through the Russ’s Privilege Plus program will be discontinued.  

- The Ride for Five monthly pass will be replaced with a 31-consecutive-day pass for $5.  
- The Ride for Ten HandiVan monthly pass will be replaced with a 31-consecutive-day HandiVan pass for $10.  

These customers must provide proof of income, identification and the previous pass each month.  

Students who use the bus have two options through August 31.  

- They can buy a 20-ride pass for $23. These will be available at schools.  
- They can buy a discounted “StarPass” (summer bus pass for ages six through 18) for $10.  

Students will not be able to use September passports in August as they have in the past.  

Fares also may be paid with cash. For more information on the City’s bus service, see lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: startran) or call 476-1234.  

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CONGRESS

Focus is on FY 2008 budget as Members look to August recess. Both the House and Senate spent virtually the entire week on FY 2008 budget bills, as leaders looked to wrap up as much of the spending debate as possible before returning home for a month-long recess at the end of next week.

The House engaged in several hours of debate this week over the FY 2008 appropriations bills for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) and Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS). Democratic leaders were able to turn back dozens of Republican amendments to alter the bills -- including the now requisite attempts by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) to remove selected earmarks -- and each bill was ultimately approved by wide margins. Details on each of the spending bills may be found in the July 13 Washington Report.

Meanwhile, the Senate began floor debate on its first FY 2008 spending bill, for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As has been the case in the Senate much of the year, debate has been slow, but the measure was approved late Thursday. Partisan rhetoric in that chamber has increased in recent weeks to levels normally only seen in the House, with Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) accusing his GOP colleagues of slowing floor activity for political purposes, while Republicans claim that Reid could accelerate things by not forcing issues that have no chance of passage (such as Iraq withdrawal measures) to gain a political advantage.

Reid has also made threats that the long August recess for Senators could be in jeopardy if they do not make progress on a number of items. He listed four “essential items” that must be completed before the break could begin: the DHS appropriations bill (which was completed), lobbying and ethics reforms, implementing recommendations of the 9-11 Commission, and expanding the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Meanwhile, House members will take up appropriations bills for the Department of Agriculture and Defense next week, and likely a conference report on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) as well as comprehensive energy legislation. There have been no threats to shorten the House recess, and Members are expected to complete their business by Friday August 3 and return to Washington on September 4.

FARM BILL

House approves Farm Bill. The House today approved legislation (HR 2419) that would reauthorize farm subsidy, agricultural research, rural development and nutrition programs through FY 2012 at a cost of $286 billion.

The defeat last night of an amendment (known as the Kind Amendment) that would have significantly scaled back traditional subsidy programs cleared the way for passage today by a vote of 231-191. Nineteen Republicans from farm states voted for the bill while 14 liberal Democrats voted against the measure.

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The sound defeat (117-309) of the Kind Amendment was a victory for Democratic leadership, who feared that such substantial changes to farm policy would have divided their caucus, stymied the farm bill and complicated the reelection efforts of farm state Democrats from conservative-leaning districts. Passage of HR 2419 will allow those lawmakers to head home for the August recess with a major accomplishment.
However, the demise of the Kind Amendment was a blow to urban areas, environmental organizations, anti-hunger organizations, budget hawks and proponents of free trade. The amendment united those strange bedfellows because it would have significantly scaled back farm subsidies, limited those subsidies to farmers earning $250,000 or less and directed the resulting savings towards conservation programs, nutrition programs, rural development programs, fruit and vegetable growers, locally-based agriculture programs and deficit reduction.

The bill approved by the House would limit subsidies to farmers earning $1 million or less, substantially increase support for fruit and vegetable growers and for locally-based agriculture, increase funding for nutrition programs, including Food Stamps, and modestly increase funding for conservation programs. Without the specter of the Kind Amendment, the Agriculture Committee would likely not have made even those modest changes to farm policy.

The House ultimately approved HR 2419 today despite a White House veto threat and Republican objections to language in the bill written by Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) that would offset $7.5 billion of the spending in the bill by eliminating a tax benefit for foreign-owned companies with Internet access prior to 1998 to continue to do so. The telecommunications industry has long sought a permanent extension, but state and local government organizations counter that constant changes in technology would make permanency short-sighted. The organizations point to earlier attempts by the industry to change the definition of Internet access in previous moratorium extensions allowing almost all local telecommunications fees and taxes to be included under the ban.

Bills in both the House and Senate to enact a permanent moratorium were introduced earlier this year and have significant bipartisan support. Some of those bills would also eliminate a grandfather clause that allows communities that were taxing Internet access prior to 1998 to continue to do so. However, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) have introduced a measure (S 1435) that would extend the current moratorium for four years and keep the grandfather clause intact.

No companion bill to Alexander-Feinstein has been introduced in the House, but Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) is considering proposing a six or eight year extension that also reportedly may make some changes to the definition of Internet access. State and local government organizations are working with Sanchez to ensure that franchise fees and other telecommunications fees that help maintain local rights-of-way are protected.

Sanchez held a hearing on the moratorium issue this week in a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. With the exception of testimony from the National Governors’ Association, there was little to no opposition to a permanent extension of the moratorium, even from committee members with a local government background.

No formal action on any of these bills has been scheduled to date in either the House or Senate.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Department of Justice

The DOJ has announced the Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Office Support Grant Program for FY 2007. Funding will be provided to enhance sex offender registration and notification programs. $12.8 million is available and a maximum of $300,000 will be awarded. The deadline for applications is September 4, 2007. For more information see: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/07SMARTttaSol.pdf.

Department of Homeland Security

DHS will be accepting applications for the $115 million Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant for FY 2007. Funding will be awarded to agencies to assist with increasing staffing and deployment capabilities. The deadline for all applications is August 31, 2007. For more information on the program and applicant tutorials, go to: www.firegrantsupport.com.
PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
NOTIFICATION

TO : Mayor Chris Beutler
     Lincoln City Council

FROM : Jean Walker, Planning

DATE : August 2, 2007

RE : Special Permit No. 07028
(Nonprofit educational and philanthropic institution - Nebraska Family Council
- northeast corner of S. 11th Street and E Street)
Resolution No. PC-01065

The Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission took the following action at their
regular meeting on Wednesday, August 1, 2007:

Motion made by Carroll, seconded by Strand, to approve Special Permit No.
07028, with conditions, requested by Nebraska Family Council, for authority to
operate a nonprofit educational and philanthropic institution, on property
generally located at the northeast corner of S. 11th Street and E Street.

Motion for conditional approval carried 7-0: Cornelius, Larson, Sunderman, Krieser,
Strand, Carroll, and Carlson voting 'yes'; Esseks and Taylor absent.

The Planning Commission's action is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a Letter
of Appeal with the City Clerk within 14 days of the date of the action by the Planning
Commission.

Attachment

cc: Building & Safety
    Rick Peo, City Attorney
    Public Works
    Al Riskowski, Nebraska Family Council, 315 S. 9th, Suite 212, 68508
    Lincoln Federal Home Mortgage, 1410 Spring Hill Road, McLean, VA 22102
    Everett Neighborhood Assn., P.O. Box 81044, 68501
    Sue Landholm, Everett Neighborhood, 946 Peach Street, 68502
    William Wood, Everett Neighborhood, 808 D Street, 68502

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RESOLUTION NO. PC-01065

SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 07028

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Family Council has submitted an application designated as Special Permit No. 07028 for authority to operate a nonprofit educational and philanthropic institution on property generally located at the northeast corner of S. 11th Street and E Street and legally described as:

The south 100 feet of Lot 7, the south 100 feet and the west 5 feet of Lot 8, Block 178, Original Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska;

WHEREAS, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission has held a public hearing on said application; and

WHEREAS, the community as a whole, the surrounding neighborhood, and the real property adjacent to the area included within the site plan for this nonprofit educational and philanthropic institution will not be adversely affected by granting such a permit; and

WHEREAS, said site plan together with the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth are consistent with the comprehensive plan of the City of Lincoln and with the intent and purpose of Title 27 of the Lincoln Municipal Code to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission of Lincoln, Nebraska:

That the application of the Nebraska Family Council hereinafter referred to as "Permittee", to operate a nonprofit educational and philanthropic institution, be and the same is hereby granted under the provisions of Section 27.63.580 of the Lincoln Municipal Code upon condition that construction of said institution be in strict compliance with said application, the site plan, and the following additional express terms, conditions, and requirements:

1. This approval permits a non-profit educational and philanthropic institution with up to 3 staff and a 3' by 3' sign located on the house.

2. The house must comply with all building and fire codes for a commercial use.

3. This Special Permit will not take effect until the Permittee provides a Certificate of Ownership to the Planning Department showing that they are the owners of the property described in the legal description above.

4. Before occupying the building all development and construction must conform to the approved plans.

5. The site plan approved by this permit shall be the basis for all interpretations of setbacks, yards, locations of buildings, location of parking and circulation elements, and similar matters.

6. This resolution's terms, conditions, and requirements shall run with the land and be binding upon the Permittee, its successors and assigns.
7. The applicant shall sign and return the letter of acceptance to the City Clerk within 60 days following the approval of the special permit, provided, however, said 60-day period may be extended up to six months by administrative amendment. The clerk shall file a copy of the resolution approving the special permit and the letter of acceptance with the Register of Deeds, filing fees therefor to be paid in advance by the applicant.

The foregoing Resolution was approved by the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission on this 1st day of August, 2007.

ATTEST:

Chair

Approved as to Form & Legality:

Chief Assistant City Attorney
PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
NOTIFICATION

TO : Mayor Chris Beutler
     Lincoln City Council

FROM : Jean Walker, Planning

DATE : August 2, 2007

RE : Special Permit No. 07022
     (Expansion of nonstandard single-family dwelling - 404 C Street)
     Resolution No. PC-01067

The Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission took the following action at their regular meeting on Wednesday, August 1, 2007:

Motion made by Carroll, seconded by Taylor, to approve Special Permit No. 07022, with conditions, requested by Fernando Ostiguiin, for authority to expand a nonstandard single-family dwelling into the required front yard setback to construct an addition to the existing structure located at S. 4th Street and C Street.

Motion for conditional approval carried 8-0: Cornelius, Larson, Suderman, Taylor, Krieser, Strand, Carroll, and Carlson voting 'yes'; Esseks absent.

The Planning Commission's action is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a Letter of Appeal with the City Clerk within 14 days of the date of the action by the Planning Commission.

Attachment

cc: Building & Safety
    Rick Peo, City Attorney
    Public Works
    Fernando Ostiguiin, 404 C Street, 68502
    Danny Walker, South Salt Creek Community Org., 427 E Street, 68508
    Gary Irvin, South Salt Creek Neighborhood, 645 D Street, 68502
RESOLUTION NO. PC- 01067

SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 07022

WHEREAS, Fernando Ostiguin has submitted an application designated
as Special Permit No. 07022 for authority to expand a nonstandard single-family
dwelling into the required front yard setback to construct an addition to the existing
structure located at S. 4th Street and C Street, and legally described as:

Lot 7, Block 201, Original Plat of Lincoln, Lancaster County,
Nebraska;

WHEREAS, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission has
held a public hearing on said application; and

WHEREAS, the community as a whole, the surrounding neighborhood,
and the real property adjacent to the area included within the site plan for this
expansion of a non-standard single-family dwelling will not be adversely affected by
granting such a permit; and

WHEREAS, said site plan together with the terms and conditions
hereinafter set forth are consistent with the comprehensive plan of the City of Lincoln
and with the intent and purpose of Title 27 of the Lincoln Municipal Code to promote the
public health, safety, and general welfare.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lincoln City-Lancaster
County Planning Commission of Lincoln, Nebraska:

That the application of Fernando Ostiguin, hereinafter referred to as
"Permittee", to expand a nonstandard single-family dwelling into the required front yard
to construct an addition to the residence on property described above be and the same
is hereby granted under the provisions of Section 27.63.540 of the Lincoln Municipal
Code upon condition that construction of said addition be in strict compliance with said
application, the site plan, and the following additional express terms, conditions, and
requirements:

1. This permit approves the expansion of a nonstandard single-family
dwelling into the required front yard setback along S. 4th Street for the purpose of
constructing an addition to the north side of the home.

2. The expansion shall not extend further into the required front yard
along S. 4th Street than the furthest extension of the existing dwelling.

3. The use of the main structure shall remain a single- or two-family
dwelling.

4. The site plan must be revised to show the correct dimensions of
setbacks.

5. The Applicant must show that he will meet the requirements stated
by Watershed Management.

6. Before occupying the addition all development and construction
must comply with the approved plans.
6. The site plan approved by this permit shall be the basis for all interpretations of setbacks, yards, locations of buildings, location of parking and circulation elements, and similar matters.

7. This resolution's terms, conditions, and requirements bind and obligate the Permittee, their successors and assigns.

8. The Permittee shall sign and return the letter of acceptance to the City Clerk within 60 days following the approval of the special permit, provided, however, said 60-day period may be extended up to six months by administrative amendment. The clerk shall file a copy of the resolution approving the special permit and the letter of acceptance with the Register of Deeds, filing fees therefor to be paid in advance by the Permittee.

The foregoing Resolution was approved by the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission on this \text{\textit{1st}} day of \textit{August}, 2007.

\textbf{ATTEST:} \hspace{2cm} \\
\hspace{2cm} \text{Chair}

\textbf{Approved as to Form & Legality:} \hspace{2cm} \\
\hspace{2cm} \text{Chief Assistant City Attorney}
The City's policy on lighting arterial streets has changed in response to funding needs and the way that streets are being built. As we try to stretch our limited road building dollars, it has become necessary for us to reduce our standards for lighting streets during the temporary phase before the entire street is constructed. When an ultimate 4 through lane street is built initially with only 2 lanes, street lighting is now only being installed at intersections. This is partly due to the fact that the first two lanes built are offset from the centerline of the street. In order to effectively light these two lanes, twice as many poles need to be installed along the side that is built. This creates not only a higher up-front cost of construction, but the ongoing costs of maintenance and electricity are also a drain on the City's budget. Half of those poles would then need to be removed when the other two lanes are built and moved to the other side of the street. The removal of the poles represents yet another cost to the project.

Many of the problems you note will be largely eliminated when Fletcher is connected through to 14th St. Concerns with vandalism and dumping will be greatly diminished when through traffic starts using this street on a regular basis. As it is now, people are committing these crimes because of the lack of traffic, which means little chance that they will be caught. When traffic is consistently moving through this area, it will become less attractive for these types of activities.

We anticipate that Fletcher Ave will be extended through from 27th to 14th St yet this year. The only lighting that will be installed at this time will be at the intersections, but again, we feel that the presence of traffic moving through this area will help to minimize some of the concerns you have.

Randy Hoskins, P.E.
Assistant City Engineer
City of Lincoln, NE
Mr. Nielsen,

Mayor Beutler has asked that I assist you with your concerns. Please see the below attached letter.

Thanks for contacting the Mayor's office.

Lin Quenzer
Ombudsman, City of Lincoln
Office of the Mayor
555 South 10th Street, Suite 208
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 441-7511
lquenzer@lincoln.ne.gov

Mayor and Council:

Attached is a letter regarding Lincoln North Creek’s concern regarding safety and completion of the city obligation to install street lights on Fletcher Avenue. Please see attachment. <<...>>

Lincoln North Creek LLC

c/o DeCameron Group, Inc.

6701 Northfork Circle

Lincoln, NE 68516

GNielsen@neb.rr.com

402-540-5600 Mayor and Council Lighting.doc
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July 9, 2007

Mayor Chris Beutler

Council Members
  John Spatz
  Jon Camp
  Robin Eschliman
  Dan Marvin
  Jonathan Cook
  Ken R. Svoboda
  Doug Emery

Mayor Beutler and Council Members:

Lincoln North Creek, LLC embarked on the development of the North Creek Development approximately 10 years ago and has consistently made progress in creating a quality environment for residential living and commercial development. Lincoln North Creek development includes the Commercial area on North 27th Street on or near Fletcher Ave and includes such commercial property as the AmericInn, Lincoln Dodge and Performance Toyota.

It was Lincoln North Creek's obligation under escrow agreements to install street lights in all the residential areas of the development, which was done and escrows released. However, it was the city's responsibility to install street lights on Fletcher Avenue west from 27th Street. Lincoln North Creek built Fletcher Avenue to the agreed upon standards of the city and continues to this day to develop these properties. The city would continue to develop the Fletcher Avenue corridor as a major corridor on the north edge of the city and expand the 2 lanes of the developer to 4 lanes and ultimately extend the 4 lanes to 14th Street.

Lincoln North Creek developed the trade center that today consist of 4 buildings at approximately 21st and 22nd and Fletcher and is scheduled to develop the trade center to 17 commercial buildings. Tenants have long complained about the lack of street lighting along Fletcher and now it has become critical to keeping tenants and drawing new tenants that the long overdue street lights are installed. Several attempts to resolve this matter in the past have met consistent resistance.

Security has become increasingly important to our tenants as this stretch of Fletcher remains unlit and our tenants consist of a day care, a dance studio and various other businesses that are increasingly concerned about their property and children not being safe in the darkness. Vandalism has been on the increase including property damage and illegal dumping of hazardous materials in the unlit portions of Fletcher Avenue.

Lincoln North Creek LLC wants to continue to develop and be an asset to Lincoln, but believes that it is now time for the city to fulfill its obligations regarding this development and take the pride that we do in our project. As a developer, we have a 2 year period to fulfill our obligation to install street lights, but the city has not fulfilled its obligation to install street lights in the 7 years since Fletcher was installed. In addition the North Creek villas are now being developed on Fletcher across from the trade center and the first closing is to take place in the first part of July. Therefore we will now have residential townhouses without street light security.

The management of Lincoln North Creek LLC is now vested in Larry Talbott and Loyd Terpsma who have engaged me as operational manager to move things forward. Please feel free to contact me at any time.
Thanks for your prompt attention to this issue.

Gregory S. Nielsen

Lincoln North Creek LLC
c/o DeCameron Group Inc.
6701 Northfork Circle
Lincoln, NE 68516
402-540-5600
Gnielsen@neb.rr.com
Andrea:

Thank you for your email and concerns.

First, let me explain my goal: "efficient, effective and economical deployment of fire department personnel and equipment."

Perhaps I did not fully explain my concerns.

The Nebraska legislature enacted a law that "requires" 24-hour work schedules, primarily with heavy lobbying by the fire union. Thus, cities have no choice but to have firefighters serve a continuous 24 hours. However, they do NOT work several days in a row for 24 hours per day.

Changing the 24 hour mandate is something that needs to be considered so that cities can individually determine what is best for their citizens. For example, perhaps it would be more efficient to have some firefighters work 24 hour shifts and other work 8 or 10 hour shifts.

Other comments you made concerning eating, buying groceries, and exercising, need scrutiny. I have no problem with firefighters eating during their work schedule. . .however, driving expensive and fuel-consuming firetrucks during their work time does concern me. Former Chief Mike Spadt changed procedures to allow this. . .previously firefighters purchased food on their own time just like all other working citizens do.

Regarding the weightlifiting. . .my point was that paying a workers injury claims of $52,600 for a weightlifting accident on the job needs to be revisited. The same goes for playing basketball, volleyball and jogging. There have been tens of thousands of dollars paid by the city for such injuries, which raises your taxes.

Again, I ask that you consider my initial goal stated above.

Thank you,

Jon Camp

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793
Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
To: Jon Camp <jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Wed, 25 Jul 2007 10:34 pm
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
   Jon Camp

Name:     Andrea Dickey
Address:  7801 Lake Street
City:     Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone:    402-327-9555
Fax:       
Email:     andreasmileon@earthlink.net

Comment or Question:
I was listening to the news tonight and they were talking about
the city budget.
I did not hear the whole thing but I heard something about you
having a problem
with the firefighters lifting weights while on duty. I may have
misunderstood
but I don't understand how that has anything to do with the
budget and why you
would even consider cutting their budget. Firefighters have a
very unique job
that requires them to sleep while on duty as well as buy
groceries and cook
meals. They have to work 24 hr periods several days in a row, so
are they not
suppose to sleep and eat either? I am very disappointed in your
judgement and I
think there are other areas to consider cutting before you even
think about
putting public safety at risk!

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AOL.com.
Norma:

Thank you for your email.

As we review this proposal from Mayor Beutler, I am interested in the opinion of you and other citizens on the idea of trying to continue the programs with "user fees".

May I have your response?

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: KamtzN@aol.com
To: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov
Sent: Thu, 26 Jul 2007 6:38 pm
Subject: SAVE LINCOLN AREA AGENCY--LIFETIME HEALTH PROGRAM

How can you city officials consider eliminating the department and the valuable preventive health services for seniors? Where will Lincoln seniors turn for such services? We realize that there is a great need to cut the budget, but this is the most unfair place to cut. If this preventative service is eliminated, it will end up costing much more in the "long-run" to fund health concerns that could have been prevented. PLEASE vote against this cut! Lifetime Health does such a terrific job--so please continue funding it. A concerned citizen, Norma Kamtz

_________________________________________________________________
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Marlys:

Thank you for your email and thoughts on the Lifetime program.

As we review this proposed budget change, I am interested in your input on the possibility of refocusing this as a "user fee" based program that is supported through user fees.

Would you please provide your input on this?

Thank you,

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: marlys french <mfrench6241@hotmail.com>
To: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov
Sent: Wed, 25 Jul 2007 8:37 pm
Subject: Elimination of Lifetime Health Program

July 25, 2007

Jon Camp
Council Member Lincoln Ne.

Dear Councilman Camp:

According to the Mayor's proposed 2007-2008 City Budget, the entire Lifetime Health Program of the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging may be eliminated.

As a senior citizen of Lincoln, I am requesting that you thoroughly study the information available regarding the many facets of the Lifetime Health Program that is offered to the Lincoln area. The many exercise classes, nursing/nutritional assessments, caregiver support, health educational programs, health screenings, as well as a lot of individual specialized assistance that is provided.

After reviewing this further, I believe you will want to disagree with the elimination of the
Lifetime Health Program. Thanking you in advance for taking time to consider this issue

Marlys French 6241 Benjamin Place Lincoln, Ne 68516 402-421-2520

Need a brain boost? Recharge with a stimulating game. Play now!  

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AOL.com.
Bob:

Thank you for your email. I apologize for not responding sooner but my schedule has been very busy this week.

I respect your opinions on the County.

As I reread your email, it appears we are very much in agreement. Let me address a few items.

First and foremost, you say I "have a thing about the firefighters and it is because of the union." Well, you are partially right. If you have followed my 8+ years on the City Council you may recall I have both questioned and supported LFR. But, the Fire Union leadership has taken every opportunity to criticize me, so perhaps your statement should be reversed and stated "the union has a thing about Jon Camp and it is because he asks questions."

Accountability is very important in all areas of the City and County governments. I ask questions of all departments. I care about being fiscally responsible and supporting economic growth.

Bob, not knowing for sure what your preferences are, let me summarize that I put the people of Lincoln first and believe very much in governments being fiscal responsible. I also like to be proactive and look ahead 5 - 10 - 20 years, as well as globally. Our daily actions lay the groundwork and foundation for the future. Budgets are constrained and priorities must be set. At times, this means that certain groups express concerns that their favorite programs may not receive the funding those groups want. It falls upon the elected officials to prioritize. . .to make tough decisions. . .to take the heat.

In conclusion, I welcome "constructive criticism" as long as all parties stick to the facts. Public safety is a high priority for City government. . .it is our major mission. But, to achieve that mission, we must act prudently and stretch our taxpayers' dollars. I will always seek government that is efficient, effective and economical.

Best regards,

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793
-----Original Message-----
From: rcunningham@neb.rr.com
To: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov
Cc: rcunningham@neb.rr.com
Sent: Mon, 23 Jul 2007 11:08 pm
Subject: fire dept cuts

Grow up John Camp. You are right, we probably do not have the amount of fires that we use to have and that is good. We do have more and more people requiring health needs. Working a full code would be bad if you only had a few people at the scene. Get real. You know that you do have a thing about the firefighters and it is because of the union. My name is Bob Cunningham. You are my councilman. I live at 9130 Foxtail Drive and pay plenty of property tax. Why don't you spend your time finding out why the county gets almost as much of my taxes as the city does. That is ludicris. We should get at least 80% of the county money for our city. County people pimp this city out big time. They work here, use our streets and infrastructure, make their money here and then run home and spend it. And we foot a big share of their bill. That is bogus. It is taxation without representation. The county commissioners seem to always squash things that will benefit the city because it may negatively affect 20 people or so. I think I need to move away from all of this.

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Danny:

I am a bit behind in my email and just read your memo to Dan Marvin. By now, we all know that 4 of us on the City Council supported an additional $175,000 in the LFR budget.

As you review areas to cut, please be mindful that the citizens of Lincoln have been very supportive of LFR and its budget has seen consistent annual increases in funding. At the same time, I want to relay to you and your command staff at LFR that since my proposal last Monday, I have literally been besieged by communications from citizens seconding this modification to the LFR budget.

I ask that you wisely review areas that can provide savings, such as

1. more 3 firefighter crews on fire apparatus staffing (you have stated that 7 trucks or fewer typically have 3-person crews)
2. reduce overtime
3. adjust the supply budget
4. work injury program--reduce risks by reducing activities like volleyball, basketball, weightlifting, jogging
5. deployment of fire trucks and engines for QRT--further review of not sending so many personnel and equipment
6. shift services to the private sector

The LFR budget will still increase under the Mayor's $250,000 proposal and my $175,000 proposal. Actually, LFR gets a larger increase than LPD even though LFR has fewer personnel.

All Lincolnites will appreciate your help in this budget.

Thank you,

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: DWright@ci.lincoln.ne.us
To: dmarvin@neb.rr.com; CAMPJON@aol.com; dougemerypm@aol.com;
Chairman Marvin, Attached you will find my memo regarding the budget. dw

(See attached file: Marvin re budget and personnel 072207DM.pdf)
"Training provides Knowledge, Skills and Abilities. Incidents provide opportunities to perform. Courage enables you to act". dw

Danny D. Wright
Interim Fire Chief
Lincoln Fire and Rescue
Fire Administration
1801 Q Street
Lincoln NE, 68521
Work, 402-441-8350  Cell, 402-430-6023
Fax, 402-441-8798
(Note: Email address change, dwright@lincoln.ne.gov)

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Reba:

Thank you for your thoughtful and passionate email...and dedication during your years as Director.

Question: can you suggest ways that Aging programs can be structured more to be supported by "user fees"?

Thanks,

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: Reba Schafer <rs55003@alltel.net>
To: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov
Sent: Sun, 22 Jul 2007 7:34 pm
Subject: Proposed Budget for Lincoln Area Agency on Aging

Dear Jon:

I am writing to you as a citizen of this community, but with a background of 30 years experience in the field of aging, 27 of those with the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. The last seven years of my career I was the Director for the LAAA, retiring in 2000.

I am greatly concerned by the proposed budget put forth by Mayor Chris Beutler, which proposes severe cuts to the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. This agency has been taking cuts as long as I can remember in order to increase or maintain the numbers of staff in other Departments, considered of more vital importance to our city. But with the hard-working and
dedicated staff at the agency, they have been able to maintain a wide variety of support services to the older adults of our community.

This budget proposal goes way beyond anything that has ever been asked of this Division or any other Department in the City. It leaves others affected in much smaller ways by a much smaller percentage reduction in city funding. This proposed budget will require the agency to completely drop a number of important services to the older adults of this community. At the point I write this, the final budget cuts are not public.

Lincoln has been known to have a model Area Agency on Agency, with Lincoln and Lancaster County known nationwide as a model for the comprehensiveness and coordinated services that it provides. Cities and counties across the nation are the major providers of aging services, supplementing the small federal and state budgets for older adults. But area agencies were designed to be able to pool federal, state and local dollars to build a system for older adults.

We now face a situation where we have elected officials who don’t understand the need for a system of preventative, educational and supportive services for older adults. Where without these services, older persons begin to fall through the cracks because they are sent here and there to attempt to receive services.

I maintain that services to older adults are as important as most of our other city services and I resent them being relegated to the scrap heap as being less important.

I will be out of town from July 12 - August 1st. When I return I would like to meet with you, if possible. The final proposed budget cuts will be
public and I could answer any questions you might have. You know that I care greatly about this agency and about the older people of our community.

I can be reached at 402-450-2856. Reba

Reba Schafer
4840 S. 65th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516

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Pat:

Thank you for your email.

Do you have any thoughts on ways the restructure the Lifetime program to be financially based on 'user fees', even if that meant some users would pay more to help subsidize less affluent and economically challenged individuals?

Thank you,

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: Pat Scott <pat.scott@licor.com>
To: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov <jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Wed, 18 Jul 2007 10:01 am
Subject: Budget cuts - Life Time Health Program

[Unable to display image] [IMAGE]

Dear Mr. Camp,

I am writing this to plead my case NOT to cut the Life Time Health Program. My father, Iven May, depends on the services; having his feet and toenails cared for, and the transportation provided to him to get to the downtown Senior Center. My father is legally blind, and lives alone since my mother's death 3 years ago. He will be 90 years old in November, and this program offers him a great service. When my mother was still alive, they both used the services. So please, find the funding to continue the Life Time Health Program which has provided so much wonderful care, and services to the elderly in Lincoln.

Thank you for your support.

Family of Iven May

Pat Scott
Daughter of Iven May

phone: 402-476-0590

email: pat.scott@licor.com
Dear Jon:

RE: Don Wright's Complaint on Railroad Crossing at S 56th St and Old Cheney Rd

Public Works and Utilities is aware of the rough surface condition at the subject railroad crossing. While it is a nuisance to those using this crossing, surface conditions do not warrant immediate action. We will plan to grind the edges in the near future as workload allows. The Street Maintenance Division is currently operating with eight fewer employees due to the hiring freeze and injury leave and our response to maintenance issues will need be prioritized accordingly.

Sincerely,

Karl A. Fredrickson, P.E.
Director Public Works & Utilities

donwright@msn.com

Thomas:

Please see Mr. Wright's thoughts below. How about this as a simple, inexpensive solution?

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: Don Wright
To: campjon@aol.com
Sent: Wed, 20 Jun 2007 5:25 pm
Subject: Re: S 56th Street

Jon: The department response concerning the 56th Street RR crossing problem is unsatisfactory.
This does NOT require a 'project' or a big budget outlay. Just simply grind down the asphalt up-thrust that was a problem some 3-4 years ago. The same problem was finally taken care of at the crossing on Pine Lake Road (in that case, repair was made in anticipating heavier PLR traffic once the widening project was finished).
I can guarantee you there will be serious accident at the rail crossing caused by the angled ridges that many drivers are not anticipating.

Just grind down the ridges.

Thanks and regards,  Don Wright, 423-2530

----- Original Message -----  
From: campjon@aol.com  
To: dm-wright@msn.com  
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 8:48 AM  
Subject: S 56th Street

Don:

Just an update. . .the recent email responses by Thomas Schafer are not totally what I know you wanted to hear. The railroad crossing appears to be less than a "top" priority right now.

The tree situation appears to be in the hands of the adjacent property owners.

But, the good news is that the City is still engaged on the S. 56th project.

I will keep your concerns in mind. And you are welcome to keep me posted on your concerns.

Best regards,

Jon

Jon Camp  
Lincoln City Council  
City Council Office:  441-8793

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Dear Councilman Jon Camp,
I am a volunteer at the Hyde Observatory in Pioneer Park and also frequent family participant in the free Saturday night sky observing program at Hyde Observatory. As a volunteer, each Saturday night we have from 50-200 families attend the open observing at Hyde. I deeply enjoy this activity, especially the smiles and "oow and ahhs" of the children as they get the chance to view the moon, planets, and other star formations. This is one of many activities that makes Lincoln the family friendly city it is so well known for.

I realize that progress is a fact of life, and the recent proposed expansion of the Talent Plus facility just a few blocks from Hyde may be part of that progress. Yet, with a little consideration, both the local residents, Talent Plus, and the users of Pioneer Park including the public use of Hyde Observatory can be accomplished.

Please consider requiring Talent Plus to install pollution free lighting on any expansion project. This lighting is very accessible, is of similar costs, and can reduce light pollution significantly. Open
lighting that flows into the sky and surrounding area is not efficient, does not add to security, is energy wasteful, and obtrusive to the businesses surrounding neighbors.

As a part of our good neighbor city, Talent Plus should be considerate of their impact on the local citizens and those that use the park system that they are requesting to reduce. I urge you to consider the needs of the public by requiring Talent Plus to use pollution free lighting in any expansion plans.

Thanks you for your consideration and helping to protect the citizens of our great city.

Bob Kacvinsky
Syngenta Crop Protection
2915 Tennyson Street
Lincoln, NE  68516
402-423-4967
402-499-1816bob.kacvinsky@syngenta.comCC: Lynn Johnson, Director of Lincoln Parks, parks@lincoln.ne.gov

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For Council
Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office:  441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: KamtzN@aol.com
To: CAMPJON@aol.com
Sent: Mon, 30 Jul 2007 7:08 pm
Subject: Re: SAVE LINCOLN AREA AGENCY--LIFETIME HEALTH PROGRAM

Dear Sir: I think the user fee idea may be okay---I assume that would be fees according to income. It would be better than getting rid of Lifetime Health completely.

Norma Kamtz

*****************************************************************************
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Jon Camp  
Lincoln City Council  
City Council Office: 441-8793  

-----Original Message-----  
From: marlys french <mfrench6241@hotmail.com>  
To: campjon@aol.com  
Cc: mfrench6241@hotmail.com  
Sent: Mon, 30 Jul 2007 7:52 pm  
Subject: Re: Elimination of Lifetime Health Program  

Dear Jon:  

Thanking you for the response. Yes, I think a "user fee" based program could work. As long as it is not too expensive, as you are dealing with Seniors on a fixed income. I have never felt they should have anything for free with no charge for the use.  

Let me know the outcome, or wherever else I can be of help.  

Marlys  

>From: campjon@aol.com  
>To: mfrench6241@hotmail.com  
>CC: tgrammer@lincoln.ne.gov  
>Subject: Re: Elimination of Lifetime Health Program Date: Sat, 28 Jul 2007 >13:21:48 -0400  
>
>Marlys:  
>
>Thank you for your email and thoughts on the Lifetime program.  
>
>As we? review this proposed budget change, I am interested in your input on >the possibility of refocusing this as a "user fee" based program that is >supported through user fees.?  
>
>Would you please provide your input on this?  
>
>Thank you,  
>
>Jon
-----Original Message-----
From: marlys french <mfrench6241@hotmail.com>
To: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov
Sent: Wed, 25 Jul 2007 8:37 pm
Subject: Elimination of Lifetime Health Program

July 25, 2007

Dear Councilman Camp:

According to the Mayor's proposed 2007-2008 City Budget, the entire Lifetime Health Program of the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging may be eliminated.

As a senior citizen of Lincoln, I am requesting that you thoroughly study the information available regarding the many facets of the Lifetime Health Program that is offered to the Lincoln area. The many exercise classes, nursing/nutritional assessments, caregiver support, health educational programs, health screenings, as well as a lot of individual specialized assistance that is provided.

After reviewing this further, I believe you will want to disagree with the elimination of the Lifetime Health Program. Thanking you in advance for taking time to consider this issue.

Marlys French 6241 Benjamin Place Lincoln, Ne 68516 402-421-2520

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AOL now offers free email to everyone. Find out more about what's free from AOL at AOL.com.
AOL now offers free email to everyone. Find out more about what's free from AOL at AOL.com.
Your user fee approach is good especially taking the poor into account. Thanks for your work.

> From: campjon@aol.com> Date: 2007/07/29 Sun PM 03:45:50 CDT
> To: ktring@alltel.net> Subject: Re: Re: InterLinc: Council Feedback
>
> Well stated.? I purposely did not comment before getting your response.? A user fee approach should incorporate a structure under which those who could afford the service would pay a "bit more" to offset a "subsidy" for those who can least afford the service.? However, I would like all users to pay something for two reasons:? (1) they will appreciate service if they are paying at least a portion and (2) by having to pay something, we can best judge whether people are just using a service when totally "free" versus how much they value service when they have to pay at least "something."
>
> My experience has found that when consumers have to pay something for a service or product, they appreciate it more and the free-loaders are quickly sorted out.
From: Ken Ring <ktring@alltel.net>
To: campton@aol.com
Sent: Sun, 29 Jul 2007 3:30 pm
Subject: Re: Re: InterLinc: Council Feedback

-----Original Message-----
From: Ken Ring <ktring@alltel.net>
To: campton@aol.com
Sent: Sun, 29 Jul 2007 3:30 pm
Subject: Re: Re: InterLinc: Council Feedback

I think user fees are always a possible or partial way to solve funding problems in areas where citizens benefit. I would be concerned about the users who are very poor which would be many of the elderly users in the programs of Lincoln's Area on Aging. I would hope you would make your user fees more public for a review of all citizens. Thank you for your response to my first email, and good luck on the difficult budget.

From: campton@aol.com
Date: 2007/07/28 Sat PM 04:34:57 CDT
To: ktring@alltel.net
Subject: Re: InterLinc: Council Feedback

Ken:

Thank you for your email.

If I may, let me ask you a question: how do you feel about
restructuring this program to be paid for through "user fees"?

Thanks,

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: ?441-8793

-----Original Message-----
From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
To: Jon Camp <jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Mon, 23 Jul 2007 3:57 pm
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for Jon Camp

Name:     Ken Ring
Address:  6010 South 72nd Street
City:     Lincoln, NE. 68516

Phone:    402-489-7078
Fax:       
Email:    ktring@alltel.net> >
Comment or Question:
I think as a resident of your district you should be cautious in cutting programs of care for the elderly since they have a tendency to show up under different conditions and more costly later. I appreciate the effort at controlling the budget, but certain cuts like health issues for the elderly does not really save money. Thanks for your attention. Ken Ring

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The Honorable Jonathan Cook  
555 So 10th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2307  

Dear Mr. Cook,  

I, Mrs. A. B. Sidiki, 2590 Woodsdale Blvd, Lincoln,  
NE, 68502, reside in your district, I voted for you,  
and that's why I am writing to you,  
Please do not allow the Senior Services to be cut  
which also have the name:  

Forever Lifetime Health Program or  
Forever Strong Lifetime Health Club.  
The word forever means, eternally, without ever ending, so  
always, just to name a few services and Lifetime =  
life of something, for the duration of a person's life, et  
This is what the Seniors believed in 23 years ago, a promise  
made to them. If the club is discontinued, from now on, whatever the City Council promises will have no meaning.  
Whatever the Council says are just words to look good at the moment. They discard a promise as they see fit and after this time, it is convenient to just remove the Seniors from the budget. Health benefits should be promoted at all cost. Don't  
make the Seniors responsible for mismanagement of city funds. It's not their fault, shortages occur.  
Please, do not remove a worthwhile service and condemn Seniors to become coffee, potatoes or have to obtain Medicaid or pay the high fees of medical care themselves out of a very limited budget they need to live on. The clinic takes care of small health problems provided so efficiently or Medicaid would have to pay. These people have faithfully paid their taxes,  
bought houses and contributed to the welfare of the City.  
They have earned this excellent program and should not made  
to feel unworthy of a benefit they so richly deserve.
Perhaps an appropriate fee could be asked for to keep the
program going. To keep people healthy and on their feet
as long as possible must be our first duty. Many Seniors
have no insurance and rely solely on Medicaid or other
County assistance. They have earned this program and
cannot pay the high fees of private fitness clubs. They
like to stay fit and do it in a social setting of their own
definition.
The employees of the Forever Lifetime Health Club are
indeed the finest people to assist Seniors and encourage
them to exercise. Where should Seniors go to work out
from now on if the club is discontinued?
Why are people from Lincoln caucused to Iowa to spend good
money to gamble there? Why not do it here? We could
greatly benefit from the money spent. In no time at all
there would be enough money available to keep this
time program going.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. J. B. Sidiki

Tel # 402-423-4458
July 27, 2007

Jonathan Cook
City Council Office
County City Building
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Proposed Budget Cuts to Lincoln Area Agency on Aging

Dear Mr. Cook:

I am writing this letter in response to Mayor Beutler’s proposed budget cuts of approximately $500,000 to the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. Having been a lifelong Democrat, employee in various human services programs for 30+ years and working on a second master’s degree which will allow me to work in the area of advocacy for the elderly, I was surprised and disappointed when I learned of these proposed cuts. Democratic leaders have historically supported programs for children and the elderly and U.S. citizens have likewise defended these programs under both Democratic and Republican leadership.

Having been a caregiver to my mother, who passed away September 26, 2006 at the age of 94, I was able to access many of the services and facilities which comprise not only the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging but the ancillary services provided under this umbrella while she resided in her original community of Scottsbluff, NE. I know the benefits of the programs and I understand their intent under the Older Americans Act and its amendments. With the aging population of the baby boomers, and statistics indicating the rise in need for services to this population (of which I am a part), it seems incomprehensible that these have now become the target of such a significant cut. I have only lived in Lincoln since 1993 but it was because of my knowledge of the excellent facilities and programs that partner with the LAA and the Life Office that I felt comfortable moving my mother here after she lived 89 years of her life in Scottsbluff. She contracted West Nile at the age of 91 and during her rehabilitation and eventual survival of this deadly virus, we were served by various programs/facilities which partner with the Life Office; all of which were instrumental in her coming through this diagnosis.

It is my understanding that with the funding sources for the LAA programs coming from city, state, federal and various grants that the city funds personnel and local services. Cutting any of these will have a serious impact on the population who accesses these programs now and will have a need for them in the future. With those numbers of individuals increasing dramatically, I have to wonder what the basis is for proposing cuts now when as far as I know LAA has not been targeted in 35 years of mayors. I voted for the mayor and hoped for better things in our community under his leadership. It is with that hope that I am asking for your support, and that of the Council, in reconsidering this proposal.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Charles D. (Name)
Ms. Emery,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposal of closing the Belmore Aging Center. I am very much against this idea, because it is very needed in the Belmore. The article on July 24, 2007 in the Lincoln Journal Star suggests the seniors would be transferred to other places, like the downtown agency. The Senior Center downtown is NOT large enough to hold the overflow from Belmore. I live downtown (1000 O St. Apt. 504) and have been in the downtown one; especially at meal times. Table space is quite limited to those who arrive early. Downtown Aging Center gets all the seniors that are bused in as well as walk-ins. Seniors downtown also hold space for their friends who come in late. A "stranger" would have little chance of finding an open spot.

The staff at Downtown Aging is also pulled in many directions. For example, Richard Westley, the liaison tries to cover Mahoney.
Burke Manor and the one I live in the gym area and the therapeutic pool are also very loud. I have tried for two years to get in and have been unsuccessful.

Please leave Belmont Aging Center open. Our senior brothers and sisters need not want the space for many it means staying active or perhaps retiring to a Nursing Home which are overcrowded too.

The newspaper says by closing Belmont $47,800 would be saved. Not really because the seniors would have to be bussed downtown. Look at the gas price. Additional staff would be needed wherever they would be bussed to. The wear and tear on our fragile citizens would be added on medical costs. Sooner or later the downtown agency would be yelling, "We need more room." The cost of feeding the seniors would go up. Because additional tables, silverware, trays etc. would be needed. So even if you saved a little all the trouble and fuss is unnecessary. Leave Belmont alone.

In Christ's Name

Linda Russell
Dear Ms. Eschliman,

I wanted to respond to you regarding a comment you have made publicly on more than one occasion and continue to make to those who email you with comments about the Lifetime Health program. I have worked for the program for 16 years and am one of the persons on the chopping block with the Mayors proposed budget cuts.

Your continued insistence that the services offered by our program are “duplicate services” has undermined all that we do for the community and is simply not fact. I voted for you in the last election and find myself extremely disappointed that someone in your position would so carelessly make a statement like the one you are making before doing the homework.

Lifetime Health does NOT duplicate what the YMCA does. I wonder what answers you would have received from the director of the YMCA if you had asked the right questions...such as; “Does the Y take people who cannot afford to pay for services, do they offer FREE transportation to and from the facilities, do they have trainers who are trained and certified to work with persons who have Rheumatoid or Osteo Arthritis or those who are wheelchair bound? What about those who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, incontinent, mentally challenged or need someone to stay with them each and every time they come to work out?” Did you ask the director if there was a nurse on staff to check their blood pressure or pulse before and after a workout to make sure they are following a safe regime? Did you ask if someone who has had a knee or hip replacement would get special attention along with a workout that would not complicate the healing process?

MOST IMPORTANTLY, did you ask if they had a health clinic at the YMCA or those churches you made reference to that would trim older adults toenails because they could no longer do it themselves? I wonder if the Y staff would clean out ear wax, check cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure, bone density, talk to doctors and family members regarding their loved one’s test results or future care?

I won’t even go into the Caregiver programs we do to help family members stay healthy so they can continue to care for their parents, spouses or grandchildren. Nor will I go on about the Art Projects, the Foster Grandparents we work with, the Senior Companions we do complete physical evaluations on every year, the health fairs we organize and conduct, the educational programs we do by the scores in the community, the ‘Big Players’ we collaborate with such as hospitals, retirement communities, National organizations, nursing homes, banks and so on in order to bring life enhancing programs to older adults. I wonder if the hundreds of people we have referred to the LIFE office in the last ten years would agree with you.

Something I forgot, when we were out there performing all those “duplicate services” a few organizations thought that what we were doing was ‘Innovative, imaginative and life changing’.

As a matter of fact we have presented many of the programs we have developed and implemented on a national level. This month alone we received two awards, one national and one local for the Caregiver programs we developed and implemented and for the work we do in the community.

Ms. Eschliman, we have invited the council members to come and see our program for themselves. Councilman Emery and Councilman Svoboda came and talked to the people who’s lives they are in a position to change forever, they were the only two.

Last Thursday we had 80 older adults waiting for nursing services at our clinic. Each person was
willing to wait for 2-5 hours to get the services the University of NE nursing students offered. We invited all of you to come. Not one did. Yes, one more thing that Lifetime Health does...we are a training ground for nursing students from many different colleges who need to complete Gerontology or graduate credits.

Our staff is small but mighty and I believe accomplishes more in the community than our $270,000.00 budget allows at times. Misinformed statements like those you so freely make to the public have robbed us of the years of hard work we have put into making this program the only one of its' kind in the United States. And that Ms. Eschliman, IS FACT.

Tracie Foreman Aging Specialist/LAAA/Lifetime Health

cc: Council Members Doug Emery
    Jonathan Cook
    Dan Marvin
    John Spatz
    Ken Svoboda
    Jon Camp
Honorable City Council Members,

This fall the Lincoln Fire Dept. will be conducting testing for the position of Fire Captain. This is a supervisory position that requires honesty, integrity, and most of all trust. That leads me to the reason for this letter.

This testing group will have an individual that has squandered the trust of the public in which he served. He was solely responsible for bringing complete and total distrust to the position for which he held. Gregg Fisher destroyed that trust. As Chief of Southwest Fire and Rescue he stole over 10,000 dollars from the department for his own personal gain. He was subsequently arrested and pled guilty to Felony charges. Not only was he convicted on these charges, he had been arrested in the past for theft and received pretrial diversion. By now you should be wondering why he is still on the job at Lincoln Fire. It seems the former Fire Chief didn’t have the guts to do the correct thing and kept this convicted felon on the job.

Now this comes to you. I ask that you find a way to enact a City Ordinance or policy that prohibits felons from assuming supervisory position with the city of Lincoln. This not only undermines the moral of the good men & women of Lincoln fire department, it lowers the trust level that the public has with the organization. How many of us would want a convicted felon in charge of going through our houses after a fire had victimized us already once.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Citizen.
City Council Member Don Marvin

I oppose eliminating Senior Services to the Lincoln Area Agency LifeTime Health Program

Theresa Hoffman
2325 W. Washington
Lincoln NE 6852
John Spatz
City Council Office

My name is Alice Stilljohn.

I am 84 years old. When I came to Lincoln March 2003, I was told by doctors I wasn't supposed to live. I am a Christian after a while with God's guiding me I reevaluated myself.

After that I started going to Belmont Center of Senior Citizens. Meals sight for lunch and some place for me to go on my by myself any way I was now started to live again.

At Belmont Active Age Service I got my exercise, friends, health check up and a good reason to live. Please don't close Belmont. I have the To keep on going I have my self worth back now. I also know I am some one who wants to keep on living with Belmonts.

Thank you
A Senior Alice Stilljohn.
John Stoj, I encourage you to take a good long look at closing our Active Age Center at Belmont. My husband and I attend not just for lunch which is very good! But we attend to find good friendships and support when we need some comfort because of health issues. We have such a great time playing cards, thinking activities our director gives us & Bingo! The exercise activities. We would miss these and other activities. We would be unable to attend another center.

Arlene & Herman Heidach

A Special Note...
Dear Mr. Julli,

Please keep this open, because it is too hard for me to get to the center. Because I live at Malone Manor.

Donald Julli

937 - 11-22

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2007

CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
MALONE COMMUNITY CENTER,
2032 11th Street, Lincoln, NE 68503

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS,  7-30-2007

RE: SERVICE CITIZEN CENTER

CLOSING FOR LUNCH - CLOSED FOR MACY CENTER

I AM A RETIRED PERSON AND HAVE ENJOYED THIS VERY MUCH. WE NEED THIS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND WE ARE ASKING FOR RE-CONSIDERATION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU.

WALLACE J. CLANT
3841 N. 16th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504-5521
1-402-477-0121

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2007
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
Dear John Spotz,

I hope that you would vote to keep MAXEY Center open. I came here because of the meals it provides for the senior citizens. I also enjoy the fellowship and programs it gives us. It would be a hardship on all of us if you would close this center for the meals it gives us. Without this program I would have been severely hurt. It gave me meals and company I really needed at this time in my life.

Yours truly,

Kent Thompson
1025 N 33rd Apt 24
Lincoln NE 68503
To John & Paty
Northwest District
Dear Sir:

I am concerned about the closing of some Senior Centers.

I live in the Northwest part of Lincoln. I am a senior living alone, but was a foster parent for 40 plus some years. Rather than spending lonely hours in an empty house I come to the Center twice a week.

I enjoy the fellowship of other people. It is a privilege & a joy to have a place to communicate with other people and making new friends.

I do hope the City Council can find a way to continue the services the Senior Centers provide.

Roberta L. Madsen
5112 W. Arnold

P.S. I attend regularly at the Melow Center located in the Melow Community Center and I hope you will continue services and funding.
July 30, 2007

To: City Council Member
   Mr. John Spatz

Dear Mr. Spatz,

I sure want to keep the Mayes Center open because I cannot see to do my cooking at home, and the center provided a meal for me and it is also handy for me to attend the program. It is also important for me to get out of the apartment so I can talk to others and enjoy the companionship of other friends who attend. I hope that you will reconsider and keep the Mayes Center open.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Elaine Horakon
Dear Mr. Spatz

RE: Closing of Maxey Senior Center

I am a participant at the Center. I use a scooter to ambulate and live on a fixed income. The proximity and fellowship I share with Maxey people would be sorely missed and would be an injustice to our community. Your support in keeping Maxey Senior Center open would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Harlan Chamberlain

1934 Griffith

D
Councilman John Spatz:

Dear Sir:

Please consider my thoughts on this issue. Our Family has received about the City Council's decision to place the "Lil" Maple center located at Malone Community Center. We regret the Council's plan on this issue. And we ask that you all members rethink your plans.

If you have notice any of the letters to the editor in the Journal Star newspaper, you probably will agree that there has been misuse of funds in the past. Seniors in London have been very helpful in making the city a place to be appreciated. Please ask the Council and any other organizations to leave the Maple Sr. Center open for future attendance. Many of the seniors need free meals at Malone have the transportation to any other Sr. center.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
City Council Member
John Spatz

I live at Malone Manor and enjoy coming to the Maple Center for lunch and visiting with other people, playing cards and dominos and bingo.
Due to health problems it gives me help in social activities, that I would not be able to do otherwise, and it gets me out of the house. I also enjoy volunteer work, helping where I can.

I hope they keep this center open, as there are others who use it, too.

Thank you
Joy M. Axell
Malone Manor #112
Lincoln Ne 68503
Honorable City Council Members,

This fall the Lincoln Fire Dept. will be conducting testing for the position of Fire Captain. This is a supervisory position that requires honesty, integrity, and most of all trust. That leads me to the reason for this letter.

This testing group will have an individual that has squandered the trust of the public in which he served. He was solely responsible for bringing complete and total distrust to the position for which he held. Gregg Fisher destroyed that trust. As Chief of Southwest Fire and Rescue he stole over 10,000 dollars from the department for his own personal gain. He was subsequently arrested and pled guilty to Felony charges. Not only was he convicted on these charges, he had been arrested in the past for theft and received pretrial diversion. By now you should be wondering why he is still on the job at Lincoln Fire. It seems the former Fire Chief didn’t have the guts to do the correct thing and kept this convicted felon on the job.

Now this comes to you. I ask that you find a way to enact a City Ordinance or policy that prohibits felons from assuming supervisory position with the city of Lincoln. This not only undermines the moral of the good men & women of Lincoln fire department, it lowers the trust level that the public has with the organization. How many of us would want a convicted felon in charge of going through our houses after a fire had victimized us already once.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Citizen.
July 27, 2007

Special Attention: Councilman John Spatz

Hello Councilman Spatz,

I want to voice my concern to the Council and Representative from my district. My Parents are 83 and 78 years of age, and trying their best to enjoy these Senior years. I am very disappointed in the proposed cut which seem to effect the youngest members of our city and the oldest. Please reconsider these changes so we may keep our Youth active in positive activities and appreciate our elderly for what they have given to our City. The Maxey and Belmont Centers provide an positive outlet for our Seniors. My Mother and Father, my Uncle and other members of the community reap many rewards from the centers. We shouldn’t forget those who have done so much and asked so little in return.

I also want to mention how much J.Jacox has helped me and the teams I coach in the Park and Recreation leagues. He really cares about our Youth and deserves to continue as Youth Director.

Thanks for your time and attention,

Teri Bullock
City Council members--

Last year the City Council voted to remove a proposed sewage treatment plant by Wilderness Park from the CIP budget, and to request a comprehensive cost/benefit study first. Although that study has not been done, this year that sewage plant--SW Wastewater Facility--is once again in the CIP budget, at a cost of $5.6 million.

City Council members, please remove that item from the CIP budget and insist that that study be done. Let's find out--Would it be better to expand one or both of the other two sewage treatment facilities we already have in Lincoln, and not build a third facility?

Would it not be better to avoid raw sewage flowing through downtown Lincoln at times of peak rain? Would it not be better to avoid a sewage plant near Wilderness Park, one of Lincoln's treasures?

Stick to your guns, Council members--insist on that study, done by an independent entity and overseen by the Council, without bias, before going ahead with the SW Wastewater Facility.

Robert Boyce
735 South 37th Street
Lincoln NE 68510
770-6865
To the City Council

Thank you for your vote last year to remove the Southwest Sewage Plant from the CIP and to replace it with a comprehensive study. This study has not been completed yet. The study should have oversight by the City Council to insure that it is properly done without bias toward a third plant. It should be done by an independent entity which has not been involved in previous work to establish a SW sewage plant and should include:

* a cost/benefit analysis to include an itemized estimate of expansion, operation, and maintenance costs of expanded current Northeast (near North 70th and I-80) and/or Theresa Facilities over a 30-50 year period, versus costs of building, operation, and maintaining an additional facility.

* an analysis of potential future capacities and service areas of the two current sites.

* piping options. (To have a SW Wastewater Facility in the CIP will affect piping decisions toward building a SW facility)

Remember:

* Sewage discharge should not have to flow through the downtown area. In times of peak rain, raw sewage would be dumped into Salt Creek at Wilderness Park from the Southwest Plant and then flow through the downtown area.

* Creek flows are much higher at the Theresa and Northeast facilities than at the proposed S.W. location, thereby diluting the discharge.

* Resources should be put into state of the art equipment in a regional facility rather than spending financial resources on building an additional site.

It is entirely inappropriate that a Southwest Sewage Plant should be in the CIP budget. Please vote to remove the entire entry #070725000291, SW Wastewater Facility Improvements from the budget.

Thanking you all for the time you give to make Lincoln a better place to live.
Respectfully,

Sara Friedman
1990 Ryons Street
Lincoln, NE, 68502-3863
Russell Miller,

Good morning! I read your letter to the Mayor and City Council regarding the Lancaster Event Center.

LIBA takes each item before elected officials and studies it, then judges the item on its own merit. Yes, we did endorse the scaled-down expansion of the Event Center. We also endorsed the scaled-down version of the Storm Water Bond issue. Let me clarify a few other things from your letter:

The hearing produced LIBA and others claiming the taxpayers could not afford this.....(please see the attachment, your statement is not accurate, LIBA did not say this)

.....and everybody would move out of town......(again, this statement is not accurate, LIBA did not say this)

......grandmothers would have to leave their homes......(again, LIBA did not say this)

LIBA did identify its "issues" with the bond and the City Council made an appropriate decision to lower the bond amount. As for the Event Center being "economic development", we can agree to disagree on that issue.

Regards, Coby
Coby Mach
Executive Director
Lincoln Independent Business Association
620 No. 48th St., Suite 205
Lincoln, NE 68504
402-466-3419 - Office
402-430-5554 - Cell
402-466-7926 - Fax
www.liba.org

- Storm Water Bond 2007.pdf
The Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) would like to thank the City Council for delaying action on the Storm Water Bond issue for one week.

LIBA would like to provide three observations and a solution.

Our first observation is that the proposed spending for preliminary engineering and/or design fees with bond funds is excessive. The reason, in our opinion, is that a significant amount of this spending would be more accurately described as being spent on studies and conceptual plan development rather than engineering fees. The watershed models and studies that have been developed to date do not have a 20 year life span. At best, watershed plans are like the Comprehensive Plan, they have a life cycle of about 5 years. The City’s experience with the two Beal’s Slough watershed studies in less than five years demonstrates this fact. This expenditure pattern is also demonstrated with the 2005 Bond funds as well. In round numbers, the city has spent to date $4.1 Million of the 2005 bond. $1.97 Million of that $4.1 Million has gone to private engineering consultants and $258,000 has gone to city engineers. That is 54% of the “spent” funds going to engineering and more still needs to be done. These “engineering” fees are being spent to do more than just design specific construction projects. We must stop using bond funds to pay for studies and plans that do not have 20 or more years of value. We paid city staff a quarter of a million dollars that will take the taxpayers 20 years to pay-off. This is like paying 6 police officers to work in 2007, but bonding their salary for the next 20 years.

A second observation is that the public assumes these bonds are to fix existing problems, not pay more than a million dollars simply to acquire conservation easements on flood prone/plain land well outside the existing City limits. The taxpayers said no in the last elections to bonds to acquire green space easements along the South beltway. LIBA believes it is hard to distinguish that green space from conservation easements. We do not believe that most citizens are in favor of paying a property tax for 20 years to acquire open areas in the country that by definition are not in the flood plain and are not needed for any flood protection purpose. Watershed Management has said that using bond funds for conservation easements is an opportunity to create a significant green belt for the city of Lincoln. If that is the goal, please state this in the bond language.

Our third observation is that the city has started down the path of using bond proceeds to engineer projects that will not be completed with the same bond funds. While occasionally investing in engineering work on major projects in advance may be prudent, making this a routine practice is not fiscally sound given the fact that future funds are subject to taxpayer approval of future bond issues. LIBA encourages the city to stop engineering projects that will not be constructed with funds available from the same bond
issue. We risk having projects “engineered” that can not be completed if the voters were to vote down future bonds.

To improve upon the current proposal, we would suggest that the Council consider doing the following: First, lower the bond amount to no more than $6 million dollars and impose the following restrictions on the use of the bond funds:

A. No bond funds shall be spent on watershed master plans or concepts.
B. All engineering and design fees shall be spent for work on specific, identifiable projects that have as their primary purpose protecting the public from flood and storm water damage.
C. No bond funds shall be used to acquire more land or conservation easements in either flood prone areas or any flood plain, except as may be necessary to construct improvements to protect the public from actual flood and storm water damage.

LIBA further proposes the following specific line item reductions from the proposed project list and suggests that the City Council scrutinize the list to find and remove additional projects that are “desires” rather than true “needs” to reduce the projects to the requested bond amount. The Council should also determine if any of these projects should fall under the responsibility of the NRD. This is imperative at a time when property tax tolerance appears to be at an all-time low.

Remove all projects outside the Lincoln city limits $1,145,000
Remove all BMP projects $250,000
Remove all proposed project designs with construction in a future bond $1,150,000

In order for LIBA to consider supporting this property tax increase, we feel these changes need to be made.

If you would like more information, LIBA is willing to sit down with Council members and the Storm Water Department to discuss this bond.
July 25, 2007

Lincoln City Council
555 So. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Lincoln City Budget

As the City Council debates the cutbacks of the city budget submitted by Mayor Beutler the following should be considered.

1) NO LONGER should the LINCOLN, taxpayers be forced to educate the children of ILLEGALS at the expense of the education of their own children. (i.e. English, writing abilities, history of our state and nation to accommodate those ILLEGALLY in the United States.)

2) NO LONGER should the LINCOLN taxpayer be forced to absorb the cost of medical care for ILLEGALS and anchor babies.

3) NO LONGER should the LINCOLN tax dollar support organizations that protest against our government or lobby for political advantage at taxpayer expense whether indirectly or by grant. (i.e Mexican/ American Commission, LaRaza, El Center de Las Americans previous known as the Lincoln Hispanic Center, Lincoln Appleseed Center, et al).

The City Council and Mayor Beutler have the opportunity to eliminate special interest spending for non-citizens AND balance our city budget while providing adequate resources to protect Lincoln citizens.

- All ILLEGALS and those with green cards employed at the city, county, state and federal levels should be eliminated prior to any American citizen.

- Contracts should be awarded to companies that do NOT employ ILLEGALS.

Sincerely,

Kathryn L. Westwood
Dear honorable public servants and esteemed leaders:

I am writing to ask you to consider a critical move as a leader of our community.

I join many other Linolnites in opposing the building of anything that would affect the natural beauty and ambience of Wilderness Park. Rather than considering a SW Sewage Treatment plant again, please propose and support immutable protection for this park from development and intrusion by adverse impact of nearby development.

Lincolnites have to go to battle frequently to fight off some new proposal or other, and it has gone on for years. Enough is enough. The time has come to preserve Wilderness Park as a natural heritage sight in Lincoln. So much else is under assault by urban sprawl. Let's preserve this unique place in Lincoln and make it a permanent wildlife sanctuary. It serves as a singular wild oasis to our city.

Years from now you could be appreciated for being a leader with vision. Please put a stop to this persistant annoyance by considering long-term conservation for this precious acreage. Please save Wilderness Park. Again. . . And once and for all.

Pam James

139 North 11th Street

Georgian Place #1004

Lincoln, NE 68508
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: M. Harvey
Address: 3100 Puritan Avenue
City: Lincoln, NE  68502
Phone: 489-8760
Fax: 
Email: prairie13us@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:
Not too long ago, approximately a dozen small street trees were planted along Winthrop Road in the area of Leon's Food Mart and other Rathbone neighborhood businesses. I was pleased to see them and envisioned how, with time, these trees would improve the area. Today I noticed many of them appear to be turning brown and may be dying. Perhaps from a lack of water?? I was wondering who paid to plant these trees and whose responsibility it is to see they are maintained.
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Steve Crouch
Address: 3100 Q Str.
City: Lincoln, NE. 68503
Phone: 402 770 2987
Fax: 
Email: lnskages@winstream.com

Comment or Question:
Save money by getting ride of bad cop's 910 Y St. they came into my house because a bank robber who went back to prison for attempted arm robbery told them I was chasing him with a shot gun. I was at the V.A. because my hand was numb. At that same house a friend left my house was put in jail and held for one year for shooting my neighbor it turned out she shot her self. I was being harassed at a peace rally because I have a Department of defense sticker so I can go on Offutt Air force base (I am retired Medically and the Defence department does monitor those people I had nothing to do with it and I received a disturbing the peace ticket. A man I was going to rent a room to put shit on his ass and sat on my bed they gave me a trespassing ticket and a lot more I was pissed. Sexual harassment in the work place down town at main street the owner and male workers have committed every act there is when asking the police about this they said they did not enforce that. In 1992 I helped the Secret Service with building information toward the safety of Mrs. Dan Quayle I have remand friends with this agent and have recommended no one comes to this place I asked the Chief Federal Judge to look into all those things some time ago like May. I know a lot of agents and they call the Lincoln police a public nuisance and a menace to society. If you need to take money from some were take it from them they don't do anything right any way. I am sick of getting attorney's. Hire cops that can do there jobs. And fire the ones that believe people that should be in prison. Give the firemen the money they need at least the do there job.
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name:     Josh Mehlin
Address:  Near South
City:     Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 
Fax: 
Email:    josh.mehlin@gmail.com

Comment or Question:

Lincoln City Council,

I just wanted to write a quick note to let you know that I've been keeping up on local happenings back home since I left for military service in 2000, and that I can't wait to get back home this September. One of the first things I plan on doing is heading to DaVinci's down on 9th and getting a cheese steak - it was the last thing I ate before I got on the bus and went to boot camp, and I've been thinking about that meal since. Right after that, I'm headed down register back in Nebraska - and then to Mr. Shively's office to file recall paperwork on every single one of you (as many as I'm able any way) - I'm bound to get at least one. As an outsider looking into your fishbowl - you have completely ignored common sense for years, to the point of it becoming comical. I'm not going to go into detailed complaints and individual situations, you'd only disagree with me anyway. A lot of people are of the opinion that we should just vote you out when the time comes - my problem is that most of you aren't up for re-election until 2011 - Lord knows what you'll do between now and then. If you've read the Journal Star lately, especially online, you know that the political lynch mob is gathering in the virtual town square - all they need is someone to lead them... and I just volunteered.
TO: City Council Members, Lincoln, Nebraska

FROM: Theresa de Langis, Ph.D.
Executive Director, New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women
Associate Director, National Association of Women’s Commissions

RE: Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission

DATE: July 31, 2007

I write in response to the current consideration of eliminating the budget of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission (LLWC), headed by Director Bonnie Coffey, and urge you to not only support the $82,000 proposed for LLWC in Mayor Chris Beutler’s budget, but to increase this funding to ensure the agency operates at full capacity.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission is a central part of a national tradition of rectifying long-standing societal gender inequality in the United States. The first Women’s Commission was established by President Kennedy in 1961, with Eleanor Roosevelt serving as Chair. As its first order of business, the Commission released a report recommending that each state establish its own Commission to study at the local level the status of women in all areas of life and to advance changes to help women achieve their basic rights. The Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission, itself founded in 1976, is part of this global historical movement.

In the spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt, and in what has become an international model, it is vitally important for state, county, and city governments to demonstrate a commitment to gender equality by supporting to full capacity the official mechanisms designed to rectify discrimination against women. Women’s Commissions are not analogous to other non-profit organizations and, by definition, cannot and should not be wholly privately funded. Rather, their role as part of government ensures that sustainable institutional change is braided with the political will of elected representatives. As governmental agencies, Women’s Commissions are an indispensable component of a functional democracy, working to actualize equality for all regardless of gender. Taxpayers not only contribute via funding to this democratic commitment, but also benefit greatly from the outcomes and impacts that Women’s Commissions realize. Above all, Women’s Commissions aim to achieve women’s full and productive membership in societal and economic development, enhancing the capacity of communities and strengthening the public good.

Although decades have passed since Ms. Roosevelt’s charge, and although much has been accomplished, the relevance of Women’s Commission’s is as urgent as ever. Women continue to suffer from domestic and sexual violence at epidemic levels. The earning’s gap between men and women currently stands at 75 percent nationally. Sexual harassment in the schools continues to have a negative impact on girls’ educational experiences and outcomes, while the glass ceiling in employment prevents women from fully realizing their professional aspirations. In turn, Women’s Commissions remain as passionate as ever in
raising public awareness of these issues and in educating stakeholders about proactive solutions. Director Coffey—and the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission—is, quite literally, at the head of this effort.

Re-elected as President at the recent annual convention of the National Association of Women’s Commission (NACW), Ms. Coffey heads the only national organization to convene Women’s Commissions in the United States. Under her direction, NACW has experienced tremendous growth, strengthening its membership, financial sustainability, and coordinated approach to providing opportunities to advance women’s status. In 2005, President Coffey hosted the annual NACW convention in Lincoln. In 2006, she assisted in launching an inaugural presentation by NACW at the United Nations. In 2007, under the director of Ms. Coffey, NACW will revitalize an annual gathering at the Capitol to meet with federal delegates of Congress. These achievements have far-reaching impact on the status of women locally, nationally, and globally. They also bring considerable honor and prestige to the State of Nebraska.

I urge you, in considering Mayor Beutler’s budget, to support the proposed $82,000 and to increase these funds to bring the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission to full capacity in order to enable Director Coffey to continue her exemplary and commendable work.

I encourage you to contact me if you have questions or should need any other information.
July 26, 2007

Lincoln City Council
County-City Building
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Resolution No. 490

Enclosed is Lincoln Airport Authority Resolution No. 490 stating that no tax levy should be made for airport purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

Sincerely,

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

John Wood
Executive Director

JW/![
Enc.
RESOLUTION NO. 490

WHEREAS, current airport revenue appears adequate to fund airport operations, including debt service, during the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the Airport Authority has funds sufficient to pay the required payments into the 1999 Bond Fund or Reserve Fund and Airport Bonds, Series 2002 A and B Bond Fund, or Reserve Fund during the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the balance remaining with the Airport Promotion Fund should be reappropriated for authorized expenditure by the Authority without an additional levy of tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of the Airport Authority of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska:

Section 1. That the Chairperson is hereby authorized and directed to certify to the governing body of the City of Lincoln that no levy should be made for airport purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007.

Section 2. That the Chairperson is hereby authorized to inform the Mayor and Council for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, that for the 21st consecutive year no levy is required for the Aviation Promotion Fund for the coming year. The balance in the fund should be reappropriated.

Section 3. The Secretary shall attest the foregoing certificate and request.
Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board held on the 26th

day of July, 2007, at which a quorum was present and voting.

ATTEST:

AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Chairperson

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

William F. Austin
Legal Counsel for the Airport
Authority of the City of Lincoln, NE
TO: City Council Members, City of Lincoln, Nebraska

The Honorable Dan Marvin, Council Chair
The Honorable Robin Eschliman, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Jonathan Cook
The Honorable Ken Svoboda
The Honorable Jon Camp
The Honorable Doug Emery
The Honorable John Spatz

SUBJECT: Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission

The City of Lincoln, Nebraska has prominence in the mind of women leaders across the nation not only as the host of the 2006 National Meeting and Convention of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) but also as the home base of the newly re-elected President of NACW, Bonnie Coffey. The issues and projects of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission have served as a model for commissions for women nationwide. Bonnie Coffey, as the director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission and as president of the National Association of Commissions for Women serves as a visionary and innovative leader with integrity and commitment.

Lincoln, Nebraska- seat for Nebraska's state government, home of the only one-house, non-partisan governing body in the United States, whose capitol building stands tall and has
been recognized as the Fourth Architectural Wonder of the World, has the opportunity now, to stand tall for the thousands of women who benefit from the resources and services of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission.

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Commissions for Women urges the re-funding of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission. To act to the contrary would be detrimental to the women of Lincoln and to our national organization of which Bonnie Coffey is president.

Women leaders and corporate friends and sponsors of NACW are watchful and hopeful that the thoughtful deliberations of the Lincoln City Council will result in the re-funding of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pauley, Board Member
National Association of Commissions for Women

Kathy Pauley, Executive Director
West Virginia Women's Commission
State Capitol Complex
Bldg. 6, Room 850
Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-0070
304--558-0071
Fax 558-5167
July 31, 2007

City Council Members,
City of Lincoln, Nebraska
The Honorable Dan Marvin, Council Chair
The Honorable Robin Eschliman, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Jonathan Cook
The Honorable Ken Svoboda
The Honorable Jon Camp
The Honorable Doug Emery
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Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pauley, Board Member
National Association of Commissions for Women
To Lincoln City Council Members  
City of Lincoln Nebraska  
555 South 10th St. Suite 111  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508  

July 30, 2007  

Dear Sirs:  

I am P.O.A. for a couple in Lincoln who are no longer able to manage their own affairs. They are both in their 70's and in poor health. He is a resident of Holmes Lake Manor, and she still lives at home. She has had both hips and both knees replaced, and walks with a walker with some difficulty. Financially they are in a deficit situation in that their Social Security incomes are less than their monthly cost of existence.  

We have been able to secure some assistance from the State under the DPFS program, and have received help under the handyman program to do some small household repairs. These programs are wonderful, in that without them, I don’t know what we would have done. Now the homestead tax exemption program has been changed, and they had to pay house taxes last year since the program was capped. I have protested that to the assessor, but the standard answer is “its out of my hands”.  

I do not mean to go on about their situation, but another straw or two will in fact break the proverbial Camel’s back. This brings me to the point of this letter. I understand that some cuts to Supportative Service Programs are eminent. I know very well that all budgets are hard to deal with, but please consider the impact this decision could have on many people that have no other means to maintain some lifestyle with dignity.  

If you require more specific or detailed information, I will be happy to provide it.  

Sincerely,  

Robert W. Garrison  
11218 Sahler St.  
Omaha, NE 68164  
402-492-9328
I would just like to ask the council members to please consider the neighborhood and its residents @ 70th and Pioneers when they vote about selling extra park land to T+. If you read the comments on www.journalstar.com in regards to the last 2 news articles about T+ you can see that the majority of those commenting are against the sale. Plus, many of those comments voice a discontent with city government and big business. Again, please think of the residents of Lincoln and deny the sale of the land to Talent Plus. The city has given enough tax payer dollars to this company.

Boardwalk for $500? In 2007? Ha!
Play Monopoly Here and Now (it's updated for today's economy) at Yahoo! Games.

Building a website is a piece of cake.
Yahoo! Small Business gives you all the tools to get online.
To: City Council, Lynn Johnson – Parks Director

I am a member of the Hyde Observatory Board of Directors as well as the Prairie Astronomy Club. Hyde Observatory is located only 3,000 feet northwest of the Talent Plus facility. Furthermore, our prime viewing direction faces south. The proposed Talent Plus expansion is directly in this field of view.

We work hard to be good neighbors and have had excellent success with other area businesses that have located and/or expanded their facilities. Light pollution affects us all and simple solutions exist to minimize it.

I wish to go on record as being supportive of the sale of the triangular piece of land to Talent Plus. But as we learned the last time, verbal promises are not always kept. We would like to see written into the terms of the sale a statement requiring Talent Plus to provide full cutoff lighting on all new fixtures that will be installed and that only the minimum amount of lights needed to provide adequate security, safety and utility be used. Additional attention will need to be given to the type of reflective surface that will be used in the new parking area. There are numerous resources available to help find solutions to these requests as well as very qualified local and national engineering firms that could design the area to these specifications. It will not increase the construction costs to do this. It will help harmonize neighborly relationships.

I will not be in town when the City Council votes on this issue but I urge you to look at the reasonable nature of our requests. And as we approach the peak of the Perseid meteor shower on August 12th I hope you will take a few moments to share this wonder with others around you. Dark skies work best!

Sincerely,

Erik J. Hubl
Hyde Memorial Observatory
July 22, 2007

City Council Members
555 South 10th
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Friends,

I was very disturbed to hear that Lifetime Health has been one of the programs identified to be cut from the city’s budget. My mother is 74 years old and uses a lot of the services that the lifetime office has to offer. She is a Foster Grandparent at the Bryan Community School (LPS). She rocks the babies everyday and serves as a mentor to the young mothers in that program. The students in our schools benefit from having older people in their lives and the Foster Grandparents benefit. They have so much life experience and wisdom to bestow on our youth. The Senior Center is a place where my mother can go exercise and meet new friends. She has a Senior Companion. She is able to get health assessments. The programs that my mother participate in keep her healthy and active. I have a family of my own so I can’t afford to pay for day services for her. I believe there are other families just like mine who are just as grateful for the Lifetime Health Program as the elders who participate in it. Please don’t cut this program from the budget. I believe if you do you will end up spending a lot more money on doctors and hospitals for these individuals. In the long run you will not have saved very much money for the city.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Taylor
-----Original Message-----
From: melley8@aol.com
To: Council@lincoln.ne.gov
Sent: Fri, 27 Jul 2007 3:54 pm
Subject: Lincoln Area Agency on Aging

Good Morning,

I am writing concerning the financial cutbacks requested from the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. I am quite distressed over the amount of money this agency is being asked to do without in the recent budget proposal. The senior citizens of our community are being asked to give up some very important services; services that are needed to help them maintain good health through nutritional meals, exercise programs, foot care, blood pressure checks, and social interactions that many of them do not get elsewhere. These are people who are on limited incomes and cannot always afford to have these services in other places, because they do not have the funds to do so. It would seem inevitable that many of this group would have no option other than to be placed on the welfare roles in order to obtain the type of care they now have available at the senior centers.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider the cuts you are asking for from the LAAA, that our seniors will not be put in a position of sacrificing their health status because the facilities they have had open to them are no longer there. These people, who have given so much over the years to our community, deserve better!

With great concern,

Margaret Elley
1919 So. 50th St.
Lincoln, NE  68506

AOL now offers free email to everyone. Find out more about what's free from AOL at AOL.com.
Good Morning, Mayor and Council,

During the past year I have been a part of the LAAA WPS here in Lincoln. I have been impressed in the variety of services which Lincoln has provided for senior citizens. However, I was dismayed when I read/heard that financial cutbacks have been requested from the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. I would join in the concern expressed by my friend and colleague, Rev. Robert Neben.

I am very distressed over the amount of money this agency is being asked to reduce in the recent budget proposal. The senior citizens of our community are being asked to give up some very important services; services that are needed to help them maintain good health through nutritional meals, exercise programs, foot care, blood pressure checks, and social interactions that many of them do not get elsewhere. These are people who are on limited incomes and cannot always afford to receive these services in other places, because they do not have the funds to do so. It would seem inevitable that many of this group would have no option other than to be placed on the welfare roles in order to obtain the type of care they now have available at the senior centers.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider the cuts you are asking for from the LAAA, that seniors will not be put in a position of sacrificing their health status because the facilities they have had open to them are no longer there. These people, who have given so much over the years to our community, deserve better!

Sincerely,

Rev. Hughes B. Morris, Jr.
1919 So 50th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com.
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Theresa Parker
Address: 1139 Clearview Blvd
City: Lincoln, NE 68512
Phone: 4024213361
Fax:
Email: mtparker81@hotmail.com

Comment or Question:
Dear Councilmember,

I have chosen to send this email to each of you because of the importance of this issue.

I understand that Mayor Beutler has asked LAAA to cut their budget 22% (approximately $750,000). This proposed cut could include the Lifetime Health Program and closure of some Senior Centers, as well as other programs.

I have worked with the elderly since I have been 16 years old and my current age is 44. One of the goals of the Federal Government (CMS) is to keep the elder person in their home as long as possible. The LAAA for many years has worked on this goal long before CMS wrote it into law. This cut would be detrimental to many elderly.

If Senior Centers and other programs are closed, where will the elderly go during the day? The Senior Centers provide at least 1 – 2 good meals for the elderly that they may otherwise not get. Socialization is extremely important to keeping elders active not only physically, but mentally.

I believe that making these cuts that many elders will fall through the cracks and will be forced into Assisted Living or Nursing Facilities sooner. I believe that many elders would be self negligent and will not eat properly which will lead to medically problems sooner.

I am asking for you to vote no against Mayor Beutler proposed budget cut.

Thank you,
Theresa Parker
Concerned Citizen
I hope you can send me a contract.

I got a letter, but I didn't get to do it.

Thank you.

RECEIVED
JUL 3 2007
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

Please keep Maxey Center open.

Thank you.

[Handwritten address and signature]
TO THE CITY COUNCIL,
I AM CONCERNED ABOUT YOU CLOSING THE MEAL CENTER WE HAVE BEEN GETTING IN NUMBERS THE CLOSED.
OF THE CENTER WILL MAKE A HARDSHIP ON SOME OF US SRS. FOR SOME OF US DON'T DRIVE, AND THE CENTER IS A MEAL TO US, AND NOT JUST A MEAL BUT THE FELLOWSHIP THAT WE HAVE THERE. I KNOW SOME OF YOU ARE CHRISTIANS, AND I AM PRAYING THAT YOU WILL SEE THE GOOD THAT THIS CENTER IS DOING FOR THIS PART OF TOWN.
MOST OF US ARE LOW INCOME, AND WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE THIS CENTER. IT'S EASY FOR OUR HANDICAP PERSON TO GET IN, AND WE ALSO ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP THAT WE HAVE. THAT WE HAVE WITH EACH OTHER. WE ENJOY PLAYING CARDS, SINGING, GUEST DINNER AND BINGO. WHEN I LIVED AT THE MANOR, SOME DO MANY OTHERS. IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH FOR US TO WALK TO.
PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE THE CENTER

[Signature]

137 E S E 4 2 1 # 203
July 29, 2007

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is on behalf of the closing of the Maple Center Senior Diner. This center has been a place for seniors in the Melrose neighborhood community to gather for a affordable, nutritious meal and to socialize.

The social time has been an important needed desire as well as a healer for some.

Please consider keeping this center open in some form or shape for the program is needed.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
July 30th, 2007

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the closing of the Maple Center's Senior Diner. The Center has been a good place for seniors to gather, socialize and have a nutritious meal at an affordable price.

This social time has been important for seniors in the Maple Center's area as well as others not living in the area. I am here to participate.

Please allow me time and consideration for the Maple Center's Senior Program.

Sincerely,
Maggie Whire
Dear City Council Member,

Please reconsider Mayor Beutler's decision to eliminate the Lifetime Health Program. This program has helped me in so many ways.

My health has improved immensely since I started taking yoga classes from instructor Terri Swanson.

Programs like Lifetime Health are needed in our community. They offer exercise classes, health screenings, and health education programs for older people & those who care for them.

Please don't eliminate it.

Thank you,
Donna M. Busch
July 26, 2007

To the Mayor and City Council Members:

About nine months ago my husband and I “discovered” a Lifetime Health class at Calvert ActivAge Center. It is designed for older people no longer able to participate in more strenuous aerobic exercises, also offered by Lifetime Health. We belonged to the more active aerobic classes following our retirement 20 years ago. Now, however, in our 80’s we are immensely appreciative of a “Stretch and Tone” class two days a week led by a talented and caring leader.

We can’t understand why it should be included in a budget cut.

Have you considered personally visiting this class? You would be impressed. And when you are 80 or 90+, you would really be thankful that someone cared!!

Jo Wallick, Lincoln

1400 Imperial Drive
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

(402-488-6230)  jbwallick@aol.com
Dan Marvin  
555 South 10th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Marvin;

The Lincoln Area Agency on Aging’s Lifetime Health Program offers so many varied services to benefit senior citizens with the nutrition/nursing assessments and clinic, caregiver support, exercise classes, health screenings and education classes. This Lifetime Health Program has served us well for over 23 years!

How can city official consider eliminating the department and the valuable preventive health services for seniors, at a time when more and more baby boomers are joining the senior community?

Where will Lincoln seniors turn to for such services on a low-cost/no-cost basis? No explanation for eliminating the Lifetime Health Program has been presented, except that elimination will reduce the DOLLARS in the 2007-2008 budget.

IS THIS A COMMUNITY THAT SERVES PEOPLE OF ALL AGES?

Sincerely,

Betty Wilken  
A Senior Citizen of Lincoln, Nebraska
To Honorable Mayor/Council Members,

I volunteer at the Mary Senior Center which is the only center located in North Lincoln. It is used by a majority of low-income and physically impaired senior citizens. Last week, out of twenty attendees, there were three in wheelchairs, four with walkers and some with canes. Thus people would be unable to travel any distance to attend and therefore lose their only means of socializing with others. Many depend on the balanced meals provided. These members certainly deserve a great deal more consideration than is presently being proposed.

[Signature]

RECEIVED
AUG 02 2007
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
To: Mayor Chris Beutler; Lincoln City Council Members
   Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Doug Emery, Robin Eschliman,
   Dan Marvin, John Spatz, Ken Svoboda

We, the Senior Citizens and other Citizens, who have paid taxes
To the city of Lincoln throughout our residency, ask the Mayor
and the City Council to continue the funding for the Maxey
Senior Diner program at the Malone Community Center.

Many of us are on low incomes and need the excellent services
of the Maxey Senior Center. Programs such as: nutritious
meals, companionship, recreation and educational programs.

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Street Address; zip code</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leola Bellah</td>
<td>4210 N, 73, 68507</td>
<td>7-29-07</td>
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<td>Charlotte Jackson</td>
<td>1415 N, 25</td>
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<td>Linda Chung</td>
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<td>T. C. Clerk</td>
<td>611 S. 20th Ave</td>
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<td>Nellie Lanard</td>
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<td>Helen P. Brance</td>
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<td>Patricia A. Shepard</td>
<td>801 S. 49th Ave</td>
<td>7/29/07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean L. Rich</td>
<td>600 N. 23rd Rd. 68503</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Noller</td>
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<td>Kent H. Brackeen</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Colleen Jones</td>
<td>3820 Old DominionCT 68516</td>
<td>July 7, 2007</td>
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<td>Lenore L. Burton</td>
<td>1801 S. Antone</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Elaine Young</td>
<td>2118 Center St.</td>
<td>Aug 1, 2007</td>
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<td>Teddy J. Trice</td>
<td>737 N. 27 #203</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Tricey</td>
<td>1110 Claremont St.</td>
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<td>Guido Tricey</td>
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<td>John Trice</td>
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<td>Kathryn Thomas</td>
<td>2761 Ralston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Shanks</td>
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<td>S. E. King</td>
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<td>Robert McWittem</td>
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<td>Irene Headran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Wallace</td>
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<td>Elaine Joe</td>
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<td>Jan Bullock</td>
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<td>Hugh B. Bullock</td>
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<td>Nita T.</td>
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<td>Christine Grudeman</td>
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<td>Tina Sclitz</td>
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<td>Amanda Heath</td>
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<td>Michelle Holman</td>
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<td>Jim Holman</td>
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<td>Craig Tate</td>
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<td>Susan Neuerve</td>
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<td>120 Maher Dr Boys Town, NE 68010</td>
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ADDENDUM  
TO  
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA  
MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2007

I. MAYOR -

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: “P” and “Q” Streets To Close Briefly Saturday  
   (Forwarded to Council on 08/03/07)

2. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of August 4  
   through 10, 2007-Schedule subject to change.

II. CITY CLERK -

1. Petition signatures of individuals who are against the elimination of the Lincoln  
   Parks & Recreation Youth Sports Director, along with 18 youth sports programs.

III. CORRESPONDENCE -

A. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE -

   JONATHAN COOK

   1. Letter from Harriet Ruebsamen - RE: Please reconsider the decision to eliminate  
      the Lifetime Health Program.

   ROBIN ESCHLIMAN

   1. Letter from Rixte Geitzenauer - RE: Against closing the Lifetime Health program  
      for seniors.

B. DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS - NONE

C. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. E-Mail from Mike Carlin, Member, Friends of Wilderness Park -  
   RE: CIP Public Hearing - Against proposed SW Wastewater Treatment Facility.

2. Letter from Darrell Brown - RE: Continue to fund the Lifetime Health exercise  
   programs at the Forever Strong Health Club.

3. Letter from Mylon Weyers - RE: Keep the Senior Centers open.
4. Letter from Martha Countryman - RE: Keep the Calvert Senior Center open.


8. Letter from Shirley Rinne - RE: The budget cuts to the L.A.A.A. Seniors Program.


13. E-Mail Letter from Tracy Corr, Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance Chairman Pro-temp - RE: City of Lincoln Budget.


15. E-Mail from Linda Schrock - RE: The sewage plant being proposed near Wilderness Park.


17. E-Mail from Justin Jones - RE: The Southwest Sewage Plant.

18. E-Mail from Mary Jane Winquest - RE: The additional land sale to Talent +.


20. Letter from John & Delores Meyerhoff - RE: Opposed cutting the Lifetime Health Programs.

22. Letter from Rudge & Dottie Vifquain - RE: Please support the Lifetime Health Programs.

23. Letter from Jan Gradwohl - RE: The proposed City budget cuts-Senior Centers.


25. E-Mail from Joyce Morgan - RE: In Opposition of closing the Calvert ActivAge Center.

26. E-Mail from Becky Martin - RE: Comp. Plan #07016 - Opposing the mixed-use office/retail development on “O” Street, between 25th & 26th.

27. Petitions signatures - RE: Strongly Against the closing of the Belmont Active Age Center.
“P” AND “Q” STREETS TO CLOSE BRIEFLY SATURDAY

Beginning at 3 a.m. Saturday, August 4, “P” Street from 20th to 22nd Street will close until about 8 a.m. for pavement milling work. Also on Saturday, “Q” Street will close beginning at 6 a.m. until about 1 p.m. for a similar milling project.

Motorists are encouraged to utilize “O” Street during these brief “P” and “Q” Street closures.

These projects are in conjunction with the Antelope Valley Project.

For more information on Public Works construction projects, visit the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: projects).
Date: August 3, 2007
Contact: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

**Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule**
**Week of August 4 through 10, 2007**
*Schedule subject to change*

---

**Sunday, August 5**
- Northeast United Church of Christ groundbreaking - 10:35 a.m., 6200 Adams St.

**Monday, August 6**
- Lincoln Public Schools Leadership Conference, remarks - 8:30 a.m., Nebraska Union Auditorium, 14th and “R” streets

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**Tuesday, August 7**
- Lincoln REALTORS® Association monthly membership meeting, remarks - 11:30 a.m., Hillcrest Country Club, 9401 “O” St.
- Nebraska Housing Developers Association legislative forum and awards reception, remarks - 5:30 p.m., Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 S. 13th St.
- National Night Out Clinton neighborhood party (with “dunk tank” featuring Urban Development Director Dave Landis and City Councilman John Spatz) - 6 p.m., 1335 N. 30th St.

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**Wednesday, August 8**
- New Teacher Orientation Breakfast, remarks - 7:30 a.m., Embassy Suites, 1040 “P” St.
- Kindergarten Kickoff reception - 5:30 p.m., Children’s Museum, 1420 “P” St.

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**Thursday, August 9**
- Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska’s 100-year anniversary tribute luncheon, remarks and proclamation - 11:30 a.m., Hillcrest Country Club, 9401 “O” St.
- Mayor’s Neighborhood Roundtable - 5:30 p.m., Mayor’s Conference Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., second floor

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**Friday, August 10**
- League of Nebraska Municipalities meeting - 8 a.m. breakfast, 9 a.m. budget meeting, noon lunch, Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City
The Mayor’s proposed city budget has eliminated the position of the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Youth Sports Director, along with 18 youth sports programs because these are considered to be duplicate services of other Lincoln organizations.

The Lincoln Parks & Recreation youth sports programs should not be considered a duplication of services offered by other programs. They are an alternative for children who may not fit into other programs or who prefer the philosophy of the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department, which is “Let ‘em Play” and to make an effort to help the children grow in the sports through example, explanation, and suggestion. The programs are an affordable option for children who do not have the money or the talent to participate in club sports. The programs are offered at alternate times that may work better in family schedules. The programs are of the highest quality that follow national standards for youth and offer adult supervision and officiating at all times. Lincoln Parks & Recreation youth sports also offers programs that no other organization provides in Lincoln, such as Lacrosse, Futsal, 3-on-3 volleyball, and Hershey Track and Field.

The direct costs of running the programs are covered by the fees collected and do not require additional tax dollars. The indirect cost of running all 21 youth sports programs (which affects 2100 children) is the Youth Sports Director’s salary and benefits. Running these programs successfully requires a full-time, year-round position.

We, the undersigned, urge the Lincoln City Council to put the Parks & Recreation Youth Sports Director position back in the ’07-’08 city budget, along with the youth sports programs that were eliminated by the Mayor’s proposed budget.
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<tr>
<th>Name (Please Print)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tammy J. Krueger</td>
<td>Krueger</td>
<td>1552 Sw 10th street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camille Alm</td>
<td>Alm</td>
<td>330 Fletcher Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Meister</td>
<td>Meister</td>
<td>P.O. Box 5034, Lincoln, Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Green</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>6400 So. 492nd St.</td>
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<td>Diane M. Watson</td>
<td>Watson</td>
<td>33160 Center, Lincoln</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Terry</td>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>2817 N 1st St. Lincoln</td>
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<td>Colleen Jacobson</td>
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<td>Sharon Eickhoff</td>
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<td>John Campbell</td>
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<td>820 Surfside Circle, Lincoln</td>
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<td>William Morris</td>
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<td>JEFF BURRUS</td>
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<td>1221 SW 24 ST Lincoln 68521</td>
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<td>Janet Haith</td>
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<td>Doug Bogue</td>
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<td>1944 Conner St</td>
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<td>MARK Jicha</td>
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<td>5621 Hanx Drive</td>
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<td>Jessica Marek</td>
<td>Jessica Marek</td>
<td>680 Eagle Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Lempka</td>
<td>Sarah Lempka</td>
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<td>Audra Seaberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Anderson</td>
<td>Daniel Anderson</td>
<td>140 Eastborough</td>
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<td>Ellie Sampson</td>
<td>Ellie Sampson</td>
<td>1024 Isac Dr</td>
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Dear City Council Member,

Please reconsider the decision to eliminate the Lifetime Health Program.

I have been taking yoga classes from Terri Swanson and the health benefits from this class are outstanding. I have reduced some of my aches and pains, have better balance and my blood pressure has stabilized.

To discontinue this program would be a grave disservice to the older members of our society. Many of these older people are still serving the people of Lincoln through volunteering. Thus giving of their time for free, while some of these positions would require a paid employee.

Thank you.

Harriet Ruchansen
424 Lamont Cr
Lincoln NE 68528
July 31, 2007

Robin Eschliman
City Council, Member At-Large
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln NE 68508

Dear Ms. Eschliman,

On July 17, 2007, I wrote ask you to vote AGAINST closing the Lifetime Health program for seniors. Since then I have heard that you do not ‘like Seniors.’

After seeing you recently on television, I am convinced that you are NOT for the old people. You said you have an 8-hour job and you just could not do it all. You want to hire some gofer person to work for you!

That is how you work?? Rob the oldsters to pay Robin? (Rob Peter to pay Paul.)

You need to get out of City Government because you are not for the people. I know it, and so do others that saw that meeting of the City Council.

We may be old, but we still can and do use our brains, and we still vote. You will be old too, unless you are unfortunate enough to take the alternative route.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Rixte Geitzenauer
August 2, 2007

City of Lincoln
City Council
555 S 10th St, Room 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

Members of the City Council,

I am writing in opposition to the inclusion of Public Works Project #070725000291 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The project would allocate $5.6 Million for “SW Wastewater Treatment Facility (SWWTF) Improvements.” The cost/benefit study that the City Council funded with $500,000 and directed Public Works to conduct during last year’s CIP process has yet to be completed and the promised public meeting has yet to be scheduled. To allow Public Works to slip a $5.6 million project into the CIP without first doing what they were told last year would undermine the authority of the City Council while allowing a potentially unnecessary and expensive project to begin its journey down the bureaucratic road to reality.

It would seem that one year would be an adequate amount of time for Public Works to comply with the City Council’s directive, particularly on a project that they were so insistent was already well-researched and justified. This apparent “slow-rolling” of the study is consistent with events to date concerning the proposed SWWTF.

It is important to note that the SWWFTSteering Committee was tasked with making a recommendation on where to build a third sewage treatment plant; they were not tasked with determining if a third sewage treatment plant was necessary. Apparently, the decision to build had been made long before the public or our elected leadership had an opportunity to review our options.
Being a career Military and Federal bureaucrat myself, I recognize the bureaucratic snowball effect when I see it. When I met with members of the steering committee on February 23, 2006, it became quickly apparent that they were so absorbed in producing the best site selection report possible (as they had been tasked) that they had not stepped back (or possibly, been allowed to step back) to look at the big picture and seriously question the need for a third site.

The reality is there is serious disagreement within the City’s Wastewater Treatment staff that a third sewage treatment plant is needed and if the need is justified, where it should be built. Correspondence obtained though the Freedom of Information Act reveals that the Superintendent of Water Pollution Control questioned the need for a third plant and felt that the four preliminary sewage treatment plant sites under consideration are too far upstream in the Salt Creek drainage basin to provide enough natural water flow to accommodate the additional sewage discharge.

Before you approve any additional funding pertaining to the proposed SWWTF, you should insist that Public Works provide you with the results of the study that you funded them to complete. Questions you might ask:

- Who is conducting the study? If it was not contracted out to an impartial consultant, why not?
- When will it be complete?
- How was the $500,000 spent?
- How can a member of the public obtain a copy of the study?
- When is the public hearing/meeting that has been postponed several times since June 2006?

Either through design or through inefficiency, Public Works is again asking you to commit funds without providing adequate data with which to make a decision. Please, hold firm and hold them accountable.

Sincerely,

Mike Carlin
Member, Friends of Wilderness Park  
2700 West Paddock Road  
Lincoln, NE 68523  
(402) 420-9092  
MCarlin@neb.rr.com
August 2, 2007

Dear City Council Representative,

The Lifetime Heathl exercise programs at the Forever Strong Health Club have helped me a lot. I have lost ten pounds and my health is much better. I was on the edge of being diabetic but after I started exercising I was not diabetic. My cholesterol is better too.

Terri the personal trainer taught me how to do the exercises right. I feel better since I started going to Forever Strong Health Club.

Please don’t do away with the Lifetime Health Program. I know all the other participants feel the same way.

Thank you!  

[Signature]

Mahoney Manor
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

DAN MARVIN

Dear Sir,

I understand Lincoln having a $9,000,000 deficit & changes and cuts need to be done.

Taking away senior centers will cause a big hardship on many of our senior citizens. I am 80 years old, and go to the Belmont Senior Center and Recreation. It is a place where we can go and talk, play cards, get acquainted, have lunch. This gives us a lift, and a reason to get up in the morning. We look out for each other when someone is missing, we try to find the reason, if they need help.

At Belmont there is a good number of seniors who walk the track, some all year, others every other year. Losing the center will cause another hardship on a lot of us.

Sincerely,

Myron J. Wayne
5464 Enterprise Dr
Lincoln Ne 68521

RECEIVED
AUG 03 2007
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
Dear Councilman Harris,

While I realize there’s a projected budget shortfall for the coming year, how can you even consider cutting off funds for Calvert Senior Center? It’s the ONLY place east of 11th Street and south of Lake St. for those over 60 to have daily, inexpensive meals, physical fitness and health services — plus daily interaction in a social way, for those no longer able to drive.

Does it really take $50,000 AVERAGE annual salary of our non-paid people to plan and supervise the several hundred persons who utilize the services offered by L.A.A.A. on a daily basis?

Be REASONABLE! Management is extremely top-heavy in the total expenses of L.A.A.A.

Calvert Center was discouraged from being creative with activities for our center (at a much-reduced rate with a VOLUNTEER board of directors.) We were pulled into the mainstream about three years ago, so upper management could decide for US what THEY thought we needed.

Very, very concerned,

Marta R. Bunting
6061 Franklin St.
Lincoln, NE 68506

P.S. I’m not sure of the figures -- I “think” it was 61 or 69 employees at an average salary of over $24,000 (or $55,000?)
Dear Ms. Eschliman:

This letter is to question your proposal to cut the Affirmative Action Office and fold the office into the Personnel Department. Have you ever had to defend your race or gender in order to obtain employment?

I was a member of the Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Committee under the leadership of Mayor Mike Johanns when the office was created. We have seen some progress in the city's employment of minority and women employees since the office was created. However, there is still room for improvements.

For example, a 2006 report showed that 5.7% of the city's employees are minorities, while the Census Bureau reports 10.8% of the community's residents are minorities. 31.8% of the city's employees are women while a little more than 50% of the community are women. Also, minorities and women are under-represented in management, only 6.27% minority...
and 41.6% women are in city management positions.

I consider the need for an affirmative action officer is still important for the city of Lincoln.

I hope that you will reconsider your position in this matter. Employment records are kept so it is easy to obtain information in order to assess the facts of this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lesle J. Bullock

CC Mayor Chris Beutler
Lincoln City Council
To: Mayor Chris Beutler  
and Members of the  
Lincoln City Council  

We are writing to express our concern about the proposed budget cuts which appear to target senior and young people, low income and minority citizens.

Not only is this unfair but we consider it unwise. The programs provided for young people in sports help to prevent juvenile criminal activity. Closing Kuklin Pool will affect low income and minority youth. Why is Kuklin Pool Targeted to be closed?

Cutting Lifetime Health and the senior dinner programs affect the quality of life for many senior citizens. Those of us who have limited incomes are required to pay the same rate of taxes as others. This is a small return as compared to what others receive as returns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra J. Finch
Teena L. Spincock

4210 North 73rd Street  
Lincoln, NE 68507  
July 30, 2007
Mr. Dan Marvin
City Council Office
County-City Bldg.
555 So. 10th St.
Lincoln, 68508

Dear Mr. Marvin:

It now appears that the Lifetime Health funding ball is now in your court. That was a hard serve by Mayor Beutler. I, along with many others, hope you can win this match, not to defeat the mayor, but to do the right thing in regard to providing health-enhancing services to older adults.

I am painfully aware of Lincoln’s financial problems, yet it does seem that dollars often are found for less worthy things than caring for older citizens who can’t afford private health clubs or similar services at venues operated by our hospitals.

My nine years on the Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health were revealing of the great disparities in health care and preventive care activities. And I developed a strong sense of obligation to older adults of modest means when I was president of the Seniors Foundation of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

The Lincoln Journal Star carried my complete Letter to the Editor expressing my views. That text is enclosed. I fully realize the differences between locally generated taxes and those provided by the federal government in support of Medicare and Medicaid.

It is my great hope the City Council will wisely evaluate the importance of Lifetime Health as a key element in the services provided by the Lincoln Area on Aging. I respectfully plead that collectively the Council find a creative way by which this program can be continued.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

gilisavery@aol.com
Letter to the Editor Published in the Lincoln Journal Star July 23, 2007

Gil Savery
3621 So. 35th St.
Lincoln, NE 68506
489-7556

The enormous proposed cuts in the budget of the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging are troubling. It is sad to see the Calvert ActiveAge Center closing. Even more deeply troubling is the threat of eliminating the Lifetime Health program. 

This area of the state and its capital city continue to experience amazing growth, with dollars flowing into expensive new homes, shopping centers, strip malls and posh health enhancing sports centers. The long-range benefits of appropriate exercise and basic health care are well established; and state-of-the-art equipment is available to those who can afford the fees. Question: Lifetime Health for whom?

Forcing a director to eliminate programs like Lifetime Health virtually guarantee that citizens ultimately will pay greater amounts to care for people whose health deteriorates and forces them prematurely into costly tax-supported care facilities.

The same is true of the projected cuts in the budget of the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department. Its services to a growing and diverse population are critically needed. Those services and ones of the Lifetime Health program have elements of preventive care -- keeping participants active and healthy to help avoid major health problems.

In part, the genesis of my concern for services to the elderly stems from my childhood memories of accompanying my minister father on his visits to the “Poor Farm” in Polk County. This virtually hidden warehousing of older, needy citizens was disgraceful. Enlightenment has changed much of that. Surely in these days of relative affluence, we should not diminish services to older citizens, many of whom are a part of the storied “Grand Generation.”

Gil Savery, Lincoln
TO:  City Council Members, City of Lincoln, Nebraska
The Honorable Dan Marvin, Council Chair
The Honorable Robin Eschliman, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Jonathan Cook
The Honorable Ken Svoboda
The Honorable Jon Camp
The Honorable Doug Emery
The Honorable John Spatz

FROM:  Glenda R. Woods, Vice President

DATE:  July 31, 2007

SUBJECT:  Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission

The City of Lincoln, Nebraska has prominence in the mind of women leaders across the nation not only as the host of the 2006 National Meeting and Convention of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) but also as the home base of the newly re-elected President of NACW, Bonnie Coffey. The issues and projects of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission have served as a model for commissions for women nationwide. Bonnie Coffey, as the director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission and as president of the National Association of Commissions for Women serves as a visionary and innovative leader with integrity and commitment.

Lincoln, Nebraska- seat for Nebraska’s state government, home of the only one-house, non-partisan governing body in the United States, whose capital building stands tall and has been recognized as the Fourth Architectural Wonder of the World, has the opportunity now, to stand tall for the thousands of women who benefit from the resources and services of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission.

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Commissions for Women urges the re-funding of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission. To act to the contrary would be detrimental to the women of Lincoln and to our national organization of which Bonnie Coffey is president.

Women leaders and corporate friends and sponsors of NACW are watchful and hopeful that the thoughtful deliberations of the Lincoln City Council will result in the re-funding of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission.

The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) is committed to equality and justice for women by increasing the effectiveness of member commissions and serving as their national voice.
August 21, 2002

Dear Amanda McMill & City Council Members,

I am writing this letter to you in regards to the cuts that are being made in the budget for the H.A.A.R. Services Program. My husband is 83, I am 82, neither of us attend the noon lunches or daily programs, but I do attend the evening shows & the fun things that occur throughout the year & enjoy them very much. Many of those attending on a regular basis are less fortunate than my husband and I, and this is their sole means for healthy meals & companionship throughout the week. There's an old saying (maybe from the Bible, I don't know) that it is, 'Man cannot live by bread alone.' This is so true. Many seniors have no one in whom they can confide in or turn to at times of illness or distress. Imagine being locked up in a room by day, after day, without companionship or places for social activities, it takes away one's desire to live. The Senior Program in the past made it possible for them to enjoy a life that had some meaning to it, now that is being taken away. Isn't there something you can do to alleviate the situation? I can only imagine if a mirror was placed in front of me, looking in it, seeing my reflection in it, that's what my loved ones or myself, then (another quote) 'Let your conscience be your guide.' Maybe that will give you some ideas.

I'm sorry if the words are quite blunt, but someone needs to go to bat for the seniors & the members of the City Council, your thoughts & ideas should carry some weight. As for the increase in our taxes, I think that is feasible. I know that you have to make many tough decisions, this is probably one of the toughest, but maybe you can come up with a probable solution that is fair to all. Good luck & thanks for taking the time to read this somewhat critical letter.

Sincerely,

Shirley M. Reno
1561 N. 78th St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

RECEIVED
AUG 03 2007
CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE
August 1, 2007

Dan Marvin, Chair
Lincoln City Council
City of Lincoln
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Marvin,

I am writing on behalf of the Women’s Fund of Greater Omaha to request that the Lincoln City Council preserve funding for the Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission (LLWC).

For the past two years, it has been our pleasure to collaborate with the LLWC to produce a non-partisan workshop for women interested in public office. This innovative concept was first introduced in Nebraska by the LLWC. To date, over 100 women have participated. Ultimately, we believe this will result in increased numbers of well-qualified, diverse candidates to serve our cities, counties and state. In addition, the partnership between our two organizations has fostered a wonderful spirit of cooperation between our two communities.

On a number of measures regarding the status of women, Nebraska compares unfavorably with other states. With an initiative to improve the economic self-sufficiency of women, the LLWC appears to be well positioned to address these concerns in the greater Lincoln area.

We hope you will vote to continue these and many other successful programs sponsored by the LLWC. You are most fortunate to have a director of the caliber of Bonnie Coffey to represent Lincoln on women’s issues. She has gained a well-deserved reputation as an outstanding leader both locally and nationally. Please allow Bonnie and her colleagues to continue to represent the critical interests of women in your jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Ellie Archer
Executive Director

CC: Mayor Chris Beutler
Bonnie Coffey
July 30, 2007

The Honorable Dan Marvin, Chair
City Council Members
City of Lincoln
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Marvin and Council Members:

I am writing in strong support of full funding of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) by the Lincoln City Council.

The LLWC has promoted the well-being of women in the city of Lincoln and Lancaster county for several decades. Government officials, legislators, local elected officials, the private sector, and the general public look to the LLWC for information on women and issues of concern to women. Under the guidance of Bonnie Coffey, the LLWC has been a model commission for women throughout the nation.

In Iowa, we like to say that the very existence of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) gives evidence to the state’s commitment to equity for women. I believe the same is true for Lincoln. Members of the ICSW join me in hoping for the Lincoln City Council’s continuing support of the LLWC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori M. SchraderBachar
Interim Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Chris Beutler
    Bonnie Coffey

A Division of the Department of Human Rights
Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your vote last year removing the Southwest Sewage Plant from the CIP without first doing a comprehensive study. This has not been completed and yet it has been re-inserted in the CIP. Please remove the entire entry #070725000291 from the budget until it is proven necessary and safe. You should have oversight authority to insure some appearance of neutrality and lack of bias towards a third plant. This certainly needs to be done by an independent third party not previously involved in this issue.

Please include a cost/benefit analysis and include an itemized estimate of expansion, operation and maintenance costs over several decades. Chances of sewage discharge in the downtown area during peak rainfall and discharge into Salt Creek at Wilderness Park are unacceptable risks.

Resources should be put into state of the art equipment in a regional facility rather than spending financial resources on building an additional site. Thank you for carefully considering these needed safeguards for our future safety and enjoyment.

Tim K Johnsom
4333 E
Lincoln, NE  68510
483-0425
John and anyone else who will read this. Do you not think you will ever be old and like to have some place to go to see and talk to other people maybe even have a good hot meal at a reasonable price, because it is no fun to cook and eat alone all the time. What if you need to exercise but to drive out to Life Point is too far and costly. Maybe you would like to go shopping but can't drive a bus would be nice right. How about a fun night with other older folks, Oh wait you did away with that also. Think any of the people you are shutting off pay taxes to the city and where does your paycheck come from the closed programs. Please think before you take every thing away from us who have cared for you over the years thank you for your time. Why not drop up to Belmont and eat and spend some time with us we are faces not just old people Shirley Portis
1001 S. 37th Street  
Lincoln, NE  68510  

August 4, 2007  

Lincoln City Council  
555 South 10th Street  
Lincoln, NE  68508  

RE: City of Lincoln Budget  

Dear City Council Members:  

During this difficult time of negotiating the City of Lincoln’s budget, the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance (LNA) would like to remind our elected city council members of their responses to our candidate questionnaire that was distributed during the recent election process.  

When asked to rank budget priorities, Beutler, Camp, Cook, Emery, Spatz and Svoboda all ranked “public safety and/or public service officers” as the number one budget priority. “Road maintenance and repair” as well as “expanding the road network” received significantly lower priorities (varying between candidates as to rank).  

If there are budget dollars that free up, they should be put towards public safety departments that benefit everyone including, but not limited to, the elderly and neighborhoods.  

LNA respectfully asks that our elected officials honor their campaign promises and fund public safety first and foremost.  

Regards,  

[Signature]  
Tracy J. Corr  
Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance Chairman Pro-temp  

cc: Mayor Chris Beutler  
Deena Winter
I don't see how closing park restrooms will save enough money to warrant the inconvenience and mess it will cause. I have notice in the spring before the restrooms are opened for the season that the doorways are often urinated and defecated in, this will only increase if the restrooms are locked when the parks are in use. I'm sure kids (and adults) will be using bushes and trees to relieve themselves because the bathrooms are locked. If you want the parks to be used and keep people healthy by being outdoors and utilizing our great parks and trails system, bathrooms are a necessity.

Having park personnel going out to parks just for ballgames and shelter rental (probably more than once a day) will in my view keep any real savings at a minimum.

Please reconsider the closing of our park restrooms. As an afterthought, where do you think all the homeless people are suppose to go? Business won't let them use theirs and the city mission and daywatch/soup kitchen can't handle them all.
I am again voicing my concerns regarding the sewage plant being proposed near Wilderness Park. Last year, it was removed from the budget with the understanding that a complete study would be done including a cost-benefit analysis before going forward. I understand the study is not yet complete, but there is currently $5.6 million in the Public Works Budget to build a holding cell preparatory to the construction of the sewage plant.

Wilderness Park is a unique area and there is a growing body of evidence that contact with nature has benefits for children. The children of Lincoln need to have a place where they can experience and enjoy nature. I would again urge you to await a very comprehensive analysis before going forward.

Thank you.

Linda Schrock
To the Council and Mayor Beutler:

We would first like to thank the council for their vote last year to remove the Southwest Sewage Plant from the budget and to conduct a comprehensive study on this plan. However, we now find out that this has been inserted back into the budget as the Southwest Wastewater Facility Improvement. The comprehensive study has not even yet been completed and we do not see how it can be determined that there is a need for a Southwest sewage plant. I would like to ask that this Southwest Wastewater Facility Improvement be removed from the budget. With a Southwest wastewater area, it stands to reason that the sewage would be dumped into Salt Creek which flows near the downtown area. The city has done a great job of creating wonderful trails in the Wilderness Park area and these are used by many, many people and we would hate to see a wastewater treatment area at this location. This needs to be studied further before voting to proceed with this SW facility. It makes more economical sense to look into the expansion and growth of the current facility in Northeast Lincoln near 70th and I-80 or the facility at Theresa street rather than spend the dollars to build a new sewage plant by Wilderness Park. We don't understand how the council can insert this item back into the budget without further study.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Dave and Susan Krenk
1500 Xavier Circle
Council members:

I am writing to ask you to take action again on the proposed southwest sewage treatment plant. Last year, after extensive citizen input, you voted to conduct a study on the issue, but now the study has been removed from the budget. Please vote to reauthorize the study, and prevent any further action on the plant until impartial information is in hand. Thank you.

Justin G. Jones
1321 B St.
Lincoln
Dear Lincoln Council Members,

I imagine that approval of the additional land sale to Talent + is a foregone conclusion, but I would like to encourage you to consider the following:

1) Ask for a building design that is less obtrusive than the current white gaudy design that does not fit in with the natural Holmes Park setting.
2) Insist that lighting be much different for future construction to minimize the extensive light pollution that Talent + has imposed on the neighborhood.
3) Ask that they plan foliage and trees to improve views for the neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration of the above. Although I do not live in that neighborhood, I feel for those homeowners that live directly east of the current Talent + location. I also visit Hyde Observatory regularly and value dark skies. Talent + will be expanding directly south of the planetarium and it would be very unfortunate for the thousands that visit this planetarium to be stuck with more light pollution.

Thanks for your concern and work!

Mary Jane Winquest
6815 Northridge Rd.
Lincoln, NE 68516
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Michelle Kalin
Address: 665 L.A. Bates St.
City: Springfield, NE 68059
Phone: (402) 253-3164
Fax:
Email: kalinmm@aol.com

Comment or Question:

Dear Mayor Beutler and Lincoln City Council,

I have a HUGE concern regarding a news story (Channel 10/11) that I saw last week regarding the proposed budget cuts, specifically regarding the closing of the Belmont Senior Center. I am unable to attend the public hearing this afternoon or I would certainly voice my opinion there.

My father attends the Belmont Senior Center and he NEEDS that Center! I am positive that MANY others need that Center as much as he does but I will only speak to my personal facts. My father has Alzheimer's Disease (not severe enough yet to require total care) and he goes to the Belmont Senior Center almost daily for socialization and a meal. (he also gets his blood pressure checked periodically). My dad depends on that Center and, oftentimes, when I ask him what he did "today", the only thing he remembers is that he was with his friends and played cards "at the Center". He can't tell me what he ate necessarily but he can remember something funny that one of his friends did. He needs routine and this Center provides it for him. Going to an Adult Day Care (such as Madonna) is just not a financial option for my parents. However, my poor mother needs the services of the Center just as much as my father does. It gives her a break from my dad (to run errands, have a mental break, etc.) and, research has proven that Alzheimer's caregivers need the break.

Please reconsider the budget! Ironically, in the same newscast that I saw from my home in Springfield, there was also a story on the rebuilding of the skateboard park in Lincoln and how much that costs. I have nothing against skateboarding but I think there is a little mixed up priorities in your office.

I am sorry that I am unable to attend today's hearing. However, I would welcome further discussion on this issue and invite you to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Michelle Kalin
665 L.A. Bates St.
Springfield, NE 68059
(402) 253-3164
Aug. 2, 2007

Lincoln City Council
Lincoln, NE.

Dear City Council members,

We are opposed to your cutting the Lifetime Health programs from the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging budget.

Sincerely,

John and Deborah Bragdoff
Dear Councilman Marvin:

A senior health care program was instrumental in my avoiding a stroke and possibly death.

The initial "diagnosis" of my atrial fibrillation occurred during a Lifetime Health program at the downtown senior center. The supervising nurse identified my serious, irregular-heart beat, arranged for my immediate trip to Lincoln Family Practice, 4600 Valley Road. The attending physician - my doctor was off that day - after brief tests ordered an ambulance for my transportation to BryanLGH East.

I didn't realize the serious nature of my condition until I saw the attending cardiologist's reaction to the rate of my heart beat, and related conditions. I learned October 26, 2006 that without the initial "diagnosis" and resulting actions taken by medical staff I was a candidate for a stroke. (My father died at age 59 within a few days of "suffering" a stroke.)

With medication I am able to work 40 hours a week, and continue to be an active and involved citizen and tax payer.

Am certain you have seen the volume of services and the frequency of the services provided by a minimal number of staff through Lifetime Health programs.

It is not accurate to describe the student nurse program operated in cooperation with the University Med Center as primarily a source for "foot care" for senior citizens as it seemed to be described in an article about the "senior services" in the Lincoln Journal Star. It was during a routine blood pressure and pulse check during that Lifetime Health service that an alert student nurse informed her supervisor of the difficulty in taking my pulse and during which the above described diagnosis occurred.

Lifetime Health offers numerous free and low cost preventive services in part because of the support of city revenue. No doubt the services provided at the Downtown Senior Center enable numerous citizens to continue living in their own homes. We are all aware of the extreme costs of assisted living and nursing home care. We also know that eventually we as tax payers will be footing the bill for the prohibitive costs of the nursing care for senior citizens.

With the numerous services provided by the city of Lincoln there have to be other solutions and more equitable cuts than subjecting the senior programs to a ¼ of a $ 1,000,000 cut.

Sincerely,

Del Ridder
Dear Sir: and Madam:

Please support the Lifetime Health Program. It is vital to the people that take advantage of the many things available to them—and especially the financial advantages.

Your support is important.

Thank you

Mrs. Rudge Upjohn
4400 So. 80th St. #320
Lincoln, Ne. 68516

Mayor Chris Beutler

You are correct—you work is not done. And— with less tax funds— still need for better streets— etc — Now is not the time to cut taxes and programs. To have what we need takes money—

Certainly— adjustments in work ethics—and other things are needed.

Repeat also— Continue the Lifetime Health Program.
August 3, 2007

Dan Marvin
City Council Member at Large
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

IN RE: City of Lincoln 2007-2008 Budget

Dear Councilman Marvin:

Because of certain cuts proposed in the City’s Budget for FY2007-2008 I feel compelled to express my concerns about these cuts, which I view as being grossly ill-advised and short-sighted. The cuts in the budgets for aging and youth activities substantially impact or terminate programs that have provided “lifelines” for a substantial segment of the population of Lincoln – those who are in the greatest need, and who have the smallest voices in governmental affairs. As a matter of background for the views that I express, at the age of 78, I am definitely a senior citizen, aware of the many problems of the aging population. I am also a former Deputy County Attorney and a former Municipal and County Court Judge, so I am cognizant of many of the issues confronting both youth and the aging population of Lincoln.

First, I will address the cuts in the programs for the aging. As you are surely aware, it is the consensus of physicians throughout the nation that the good health of senior citizens depends on those factors of exercise, contact with others, stimulating mental activities, regular attention to health issues and feeling a part of an active community. The Senior Centers and the Lifetime Health programs fulfill these needs for those many Lincoln citizens who cannot afford membership in commercial fitness and wellness facilities, who may lack proper medical care and who may frequently feel isolated because of their age and physical limitations. It appears that you and the other members of the City Council do not fully appreciate the vital role that the Senior Centers and the Lifetime Health programs play in the lives of the older citizens of our community, and also perhaps do not understand the fact that seniors who live on Social Security or limited pensions have few options for exercise and other activities that are important to their physical and mental health. Census statistics reveal that 10.4% of the residents of Lincoln are over the age of 65, and that 33% of those residents have some disability. It is these people who would be most affected by your closing of three of the Senior Centers and the elimination of the Lifetime Health Program.

I do not know if you are aware that just this week the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging received an award from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging for its Lifetime Health program – the program that would be eliminated – as an outstanding innovative program addressing the needs of senior citizens. It is easy to see why this program receives national recognition, for it has been in existence since 1984 and provides means to combat osteoporosis, enhance strength and flexibility, promote proper nutrition, deal with problems of mental illness and depression, supply health screenings, offer support services for caregivers and air TV exercise sessions for the homebound. The services provided under this program are essential to senior citizens. For example, in FY 2005-2006, 3,903 individuals attended health education programs; 2,000 thirty-minute exercise programs for older adults were aired on 5City TV; there were 5,353 units of participation in group exercise programs; 1,503 caregivers received educational training to help them cope with the problems of caregiving; and 3,700 people participated in preventive health screenings.
Keeping senior citizens healthy not only enhances the quality of life for the aging of Lincoln, but it makes good sense economically. A healthy group of seniors does not require the number of corrective social services, hospitalization, emergency treatment, institutionalization or police calls that an unhealthy group does. For example, for every dollar spent on arthritis self-help programs, $3.42 is saved on physician visits and hospital costs. Maintaining the quality of life for the senior citizens of Lincoln is a preventive measure, both for those who are seniors now and for the future as the baby boomers age. As that group ages, an increased number of services will be required. If proper preventive measures are taken, the future problems can be minimized.

I am also deeply concerned about the closing of the Maxey, Belmont and Calvert Senior Centers. Just as physical health is important to the wellbeing of the aging populace, so is its emotional health. Having the opportunity to engage in activities with other seniors and have meals together is of great importance to seniors, particularly those of limited means who cannot afford the luxuries of meals in restaurants and other commercial social activities. I am bothered especially by the closing of the Maxey and Belmont Centers – the areas with low per capita incomes and a significant percentage of persons of color. It would appear that the seniors living in those areas would be among the most in need of the services of the Senior Centers.

Finally, I believe that the reductions in the budget for the youth recreational programs in Lincoln are ill advised. Having been involved with the criminal justice system for more than 25 years, I have learned that an effective means of preventing juvenile delinquency is to engage young men and women in positive and appropriate youth programs. Not only do youths who succeed in such programs grow into productive citizens, but from an economic standpoint it is far cheaper to fund athletic and educational programs for underprivileged youth than to provide correctional services and incarceration facilities for them. A dollar spent for correctional services does not go very far, but that same dollar spent on well-conceived youth programs can do wonders. And, once a youth becomes involved in a life a crime he or she is more likely to become a burden on the community, either as a recidivist or as one dependent on the state because of the inability to obtain employment. Saving money by cutting youth programs is an empty savings, for hopelessness, increased crime and unemployment can be expected results if youth programs are ended.

Serving as a City Council member is a demanding position, and requires a capacity to ensure that the City exhibits a concern for the wellbeing of its citizens while developing economically. I understand the Council's desire to effect budgetary efficiencies and to cut taxes; however, a budget that cuts taxes to the detriment of its citizens is a false savings. A lean and mean budget is not necessarily a good budget. It is extremely disappointing to see the Council abandon the concern for the senior citizens and the youth of Lincoln by the substantial cuts in services to those groups. It is extremely disappointing to see the Council abandon the concern for the senior citizens and the youth of Lincoln by the substantial cuts in services to those groups.

I know that you are interested in promoting Lincoln as a viable business community to attract industry and new businesses, and this is certainly important to the economic health of the City. However, the health of its citizens is also critical to the image of the community. Businesses like to establish roots in cities that display a community that is happy and safe. Having a senior population that enjoys good health and a variety of activities at the Senior Centers is important to the economic as well as physical health of the community. Youth recreational programs diminish juvenile delinquency and foster a safer community. The Senior Centers that may be cut, the Lifetime Health Program and the youth recreational programs all contribute to the overall stability of the community – making a more attractive place for businesses. Surely economic development can spur growth and provide jobs for the citizens of Lincoln, but that economic growth must not come at the expense of the communities neediest citizens nor at the expense of youth programs that will reduce delinquency and alleviate the feelings of hopelessness that are present in many communities. The present budget allocates a substantial sum for economic development, yet ignores the vital needs of its most vulnerable citizens. I implore you to reconsider the funding cuts that would result in closing the Senior Centers, eliminating the Lifetime Health program and cutting the youth recreational programs. I fear that the
Council's desire for fiscal responsibility may result in an abandonment of programs that are vital to those in the community who are least able to protest. All citizens of Lincoln, regardless of age, political affiliation, economic status or business interests should understand and accept the City's responsibility to provide the services that are crucial to the lives of the City's seniors and youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

With warm regards,

Jan Gradwohl
2925 Jackson Drive
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502
402.423.4674  jgradwohl@aol.com
August 3, 2007

Mr. Dan Marvin, Chairperson
City Council Office
County-City Building
555 S 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Mr. Chairman:

My name is Richard Skerbitz, the Systems Change Coordinator for the League of Human Dignity, Inc. I am writing this letter on behalf of the League in opposition to the proposal of cutting the night services of Handi-Van. This year the League is celebrating 35 years of providing quality, consumer controlled, cross disability services with the mission of enabling persons with disabilities to be fully integrated into our society.

As you know, without access to your transportation options (including your own vehicle, the public bus system, the ability to ride share, or your bicycle), you wouldn’t have access to the goods and services of Lincoln. Unlike people without disabilities able to utilize these other resources for transportation, many people with disabilities are not. Without the night service of Handi-Van, many people with disabilities would not have equal access or opportunities to evening life in Lincoln including needed medical services such as dialysis, work, grocery shopping or other essentials. Unlike people without disabilities using the StarTran fixed-route bus system for transportation during the day, people with disabilities who use scooters or power chairs aren’t able to just jump in a car and ride share with friends or find alternative means of transportation. When city buses aren’t operating, people without disabilities could find other ways around (ie: calling their friends, co-workers, bicycles, etc) but the Handi-Van service is a need for people with disabilities. Since the alternatives to the fixed route system to people without disabilities are either non existent or inaccessible to people with

promoting a more independent living style for persons with disabilities
disabilities, to eliminate the night Handi-Van service is to deny services to people with disabilities and would impose a curfew on adults with disabilities no later than 7:00 p.m. due to lack of transportation alternatives.

In May, according to the Journal Star, the Mayor believed the city could regain control of the budget without cutting needed services. The night service of Handi-Vans is a needed service for people with disabilities living in Lincoln to maintain equal opportunity to a safe, independent lifestyle of quality and health and this service should not be cut.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Skerbitz
Dear City Council Members:

Again, I wish to reiterate, **do not close the Calvert ActivAge Center. It is the only one located on the south side of Lincoln.** Not everyone can ride a bus to one of the other ones. If necessary, close one of those downtown or in north Lincoln, as there are duplicate sites at those centers.

**Some seniors live in south Lincoln and prefer to do so, but want the same privileges given the other sites.**

Joyce Morgan
Lincoln City Council  
Re: Comp Plan Conformance No. 07016

This letter is confirm my earlier letter to the Planning Commission opposing the "mixed-use office/retail development on "O" Street, between 25th and 26th." My opposition is not for the zoning use as it is the fact we as a city encourage and reward people to let older home run down and then we can use this as an excuse to tear them down. When hearing the testimony presented to the Planning Commission I understood that they were in need of foundation repair and generally were just run down. It is run down because owners did not take care of it. Foundation repairs can be expensive but not as much as building new. A new building will not provide the same character and be reflective the of the surrounding neighborhoods. The three older homes would make a lovely retail/business area especially in conjunction with the older homes across the alley on the north side facing "P" Street.

Thank you for considering this when making your decision not only on this particular situation but when making policy in general. Lincoln needs to encourage enforcement of codes, policy and any other strategies to keep our older structures from being demolished.

Becky Martin  
338 South 29th  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-435-0740
We the undersigned strongly oppose and are against the closing of the Belmont Active Age Center. This Center in Northwest Lincoln provides many services to older adults which keep them active, healthy, contributing members (taxpayers) of our community. Meals are served, exercises and exercise equipment used, intergenerational programs, education, safety, socialization, college students get experience, and the list goes on.

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