I. MAYOR
*1. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler’s schedule for Tuesday, December 2, 2008. (Forwarded to Council Members on 12/02/08)
*2. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor names Hoke Building and Safety Director.
*4. NEWS ADVISORY. Visitors from North Pole encourage others to “Be The Kind That Gives”.
*5. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler’s news conference on Thursday, December 4th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Mayor’s conference room. (Emailed to Council Members on 12/04/08)
*6. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler says JPA fund should be saved.
*7. NEWS RELEASE. Stronger Safer Neighborhoods Mapping Property Conditions. Assessment targets needs in older neighborhoods.
*8. NEWS RELEASE. Public invited to Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony.
*9. NEWS RELEASE. Human Rights Commission to present awards.
*10. NEWS RELEASE. Separation of grass and leaves ended.
*11a. Correspondence from Denise Pearce on the organization of public transit in comparable communities.
*11b. Excerpt from Transit Development Plan adopted last year, addressing public transit organization and financing in peer cities.
*12. City of Lincoln snow/traffic condition report.
13. Drinking water samples tested for Total Coliform and E. Coli bacteria by the Colilert® method of analysis.
15. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will hold a news conference on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 10:00 am at 555 South 10th Street, Room 113. (Forwarded via email and hard copy to Council City on December 8, 2008)
16. NEWS RELEASE. City prepared for winter weather.
17. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler’s statement on Synergy Project.
19. NEWS RELEASE. Information on the media having several opportunities to cover the community’s generosity.
20. NEWS ADVISORY. 911 Center receives Calea Re-Accreditation.

II. DIRECTORS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health Meeting minutes, November 4, 2008.
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
1. Steve Hiller’s, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, response to Jeanette Fanmeyer regarding her questions on the youth basketball program.

PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
*1. Use permit No. 08002. Office and residential uses, 3333 A Street and 3345 A Street. Resolution No. PC-01149.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING REHABILITATION & REAL ESTATE DIVISION
1. Street and Alley Vacation No. 08006.

III. CITY CLERK

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN

*1. Request to Steve Hubka, City Budget Officer/ John Hendry, City Attorney - RE: Public notices costs - RFI#17, 12/01/08. SEE REPLY FROM JOHN HENDRY, CITY ATTORNEY.

*2. Request to John Hendry, City Attorney - RE: Legal requirements to provide minutes - RFI#18, 12/01/08. SEE REPLY FROM JOHN HENDRY, CITY ATTORNEY.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

*1. InterLinc correspondence from Jeanette Fangmeyer. Parks and Rec has received basketball program fees with no child contacted, and no coach

*2. InterLinc correspondence from Patricia Witt. Concerns with round about traffic, landscaping and maintenance of roundabouts. Also concerns on landscaping maintenance at the Highlands pool and the upcoming Lincoln Union Plaza. (Council Members received on 12/01/08 before formal meeting)

*3a. Email from John Veit with email address of police handgun training.

*3b. Article from John Veit, “Unsafe at any Distance - The Failure of Police Handgun Training”.

*4a. Email from Eva Sohl, Nebraska League of Conservation Voters, on LES sustainable energy program proposal.

*4b. Letter from Nebraska League of Conservation Voters, Eva Sohl, Program Coordinator, in support of LES’s proposed sustainable energy program in the 2009 budget plan.

*4c. List of 108 individuals stating they can produce 20% of their electricity from Nebraska’s renewable resources by 2020.

*5. Email from Paula Welsch. No sand or salt on icy streets. The applied deicer is an ineffectiveness product.

*6. Letter from Donald and Elaine Ostdiek in opposition to the round-about proposed for north 14th Street, with reasons listed. (Council Members received individual letters on 12/04/08)
7. InterLinc correspondence from Ron Rehtus, Lincoln Citizen and former Building and Safety Employee, in support of retaining Mike Merwick as Director or Building and Safety, not approving Fred Hoke as the new Director.

8. Correspondence through InterLinc from Rob Michael questioning having red light cameras in Lincoln.

9. Letter on Lincoln Housing Authority not paying property tax on a large number of units. Sent in anonymously. (Council Members received individual letters)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

* Held Over from December 8, 2008.
December 3, 2008

The Honorable Mayor and City Council

All of the drinking water samples were tested for Total Coliform and E. coli bacteria by the Colilert® method of analysis.

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Respectfully,

Sandra Irons
Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laboratory
Lab Manager

enc.
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Dear Mr. Stone,

Thank you for your e-mail of last month regarding camera enforcement for speeding/red light violators.

I personally reviewed your concerns, and it is clear to me that you put a considerable amount of time into your e-mail. I appreciate the clear, cogent arguments you presented.

Your e-mail did give me pause as I think about the local policy we would adopt for speeding/red light camera enforcement, if and when the Legislature approves the authorizing legislation. I will certainly keep your thoughts in mind if we are, indeed, successful at the legislative level and move forward with a policy at the local level.

Thank you again for your comments.

Sincerely,

Chris Beutler
Mayor

William or Louise Stone <stone@inebraska.com>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I listened with some interest to the talk on the radio suggesting Mayor Beutler intends to propose or has proposed using cameras for traffic enforcement.

Contending as I have since 1971 with driving on Lincoln's streets, often during heavy traffic hours, and contending as I have since the 1960's with computers, I have some concerns about this proposal. The are also inherently thoughts as to why a number of cities have instituted and then abandoned similar plans following taxpayers revolts.

During heavy traffic hours (and sometimes other times as well) on arterials, O Street for example, I match
my speed to the general traffic flow, not the speed limit. Often this results in going over the posted limit at
times. On O Street going east approaching 70th Street, for example the speed limit is 40 MPH but
increases to 45 MPH not far past 70th. Traffic speed often picks up several blocks in advance of the
signs as the last three lights are synchronized and everyone knows they will not be needing to stop.
Further east, the same thing happens as one approaches the next speed limit increase. I increase my
speed at these points as well because it is safer to match the flow than maintain the speed limit and
impede the flow and create a traffic hazard. Apparently Police Officers agree, as I have on numerous
occasions observed squad cars going with the flow as well.

Also during heavy traffic hours in particular and at some other times as well, one can turn left from a left
turn lane only during a red light. At 48th and A, for example, if one is proceeding north on 48th Street and
is in the left turn lane, the cross traffic is continuous against you well into the yellow light, so you literally
cannot turn left until the light is actually red. Police Officers, unlike computers, have some judgment and
realize this is what must be done to turn left as there is no other choice and will not ticket such left turns.
Lincoln has many similar intersections.

When traveling on arterials where the speed limit is 35 or 40 or 45 MPH there are inevitably times when
the light turns yellow when you are close to the intersection and are faced with the split second decision
of whether to slam on the brakes and test your anti-lock braking system to perhaps stop before the
intersection, or to proceed through and be caught in the intersection when the light turns red. Where this
point is varies on your speed and on the overall road condition. While I usually guess right, I have erred
in both directions (i.e. slamming on the brakes and running the risk of being struck from behind when I
would have made it on the yellow) (proceeding and getting a red while still in the intersection). Police
Officers, unlike computers, are again capable of judgment and I have been observed in these errors but
never ticketed. Less experienced drivers can be observed to make these errors more frequently, of
course. I did get a warning ticket once for having stopped but only after I was into the pedestrian walk
area.

After having traveled for a time on arterial, I have had it happen that I will turn onto a side street and slow
down only to have my speed creep back up unbidden. A good driver only glances at the gauges once in
awhile - they spend most of the time looking at the road, the kids, etc. A good driver judges speed mainly
by feel, and this takes awhile to adjust and staring at the speedometer is not safe, so it happens.
Especially when there are a lot of distractions. The last time I got stopped in this situation was when I
turned west off 48th near Lefler when the kids were just out. I had just reached the school zone and
slowed, but then turned right and my speed coasted back up. I was so busy watching for the guys who
tend to wander in the road while gawking at the girls to keep my eye on the speedometer. The officer
could see what happened, so gave me a warning.

When taxpayers say they want speed limits and red lights enforced, they are assuming some sort of
common sense enforcement.

With a computer, there is the same common sense as the light switch upon which they are based - none.
Whenever I deal with computers I remember my programming efforts in the sixties and seventies. I recall
the many times I would tell the computer to go to a certain file cabinet, open the file cabinet and look up a
file and then get an error message. Why? Because the file was already open. Sometimes it would take
me hours to find the program had gone through some earlier loop where I opened the file for some other
purpose and then neglected to close it.

Suppose you tell the dumbest clerical worker to go to a file cabinet, open the file cabinet, look up a
record, etc. If the worker goes to the cabinet and finds the file cabinet already open they will go ahead
and start looking for the file. With a computer, however, if you tell the computer to go to the file cabinet
and open the file cabinet and the file cabinet is already open, the computer will either just stop with no
notice at all, or at best tell you it cannot open the file cabinet. It will never proceed further unless
specifically told to do so, and how to do so. So for a computer, you must tell it to go to the file cabinet,
check to see if the file cabinet is open, to open the file cabinet if it is not open and then look (in excruciating detail of course). You must, of course, also tell the computer specifically what to do if it finds the cabinet open. You must, to make a long story short, anticipate every contingency. If you write a note to your secretary to look up the Beutler file but write in your note Buetler, the secretary will look probably go ahead and look up Beutler when Buetler is not found, or at least ask about it. The computer will just tell you there is no Buetler and quit.

So. If you tell a computer 40 as a cut-off, then it uses 40 as a cut off, whether it makes any sense or not. Even if the vehicle is only going 41 and the rest of the cars are going 43. If you tell a computer to penalize when the light turns red, the poor sap sitting through the green light to turn left will still get a ticket when he turns in the red. If the light turns yellow and I decide that because the road is a little slick and would be better off to go, then my decision will by further complicated by the fact I know if I go and don't quite make it I will get a ticket and will have to add that factor into the equation, slowing my reaction time even further. Or if the road crews have the ice off most of the street and I hit a patch of ice at an intersection and slide into the intersection (as I have had happen at times when the city works on an intersection and decides in its wisdom to save money by not salting the new concrete) then the computer gives me a ticket.

And after a few of these things happen to me, as seems probable given computers are involved, I can assure you the only thing on my mind when I vote is will be whether the candidate will support getting rid of the computer tickets. I won't care what their stand is on a new event center, raising taxes, or anything else.

So, if you go this way and want to avoid a taxpayer revolt, I suggest you get your IT Department to spend a couple of years programming something like common sense into the system - keeping track of where you salt, keeping track of where the car is when the light turns yellow, keeping track of whether the street has a left turn light, keeping track of what the general flow of the traffic is, and a few hundred other variables that do not immediately come to my mind that real drivers and real cops take into account all the time.

Myself, I have to confess I would just skip it and accept the fact that some jobs just require intelligence and judgment and can't be done by a machine which has neither intelligence or judgment. Computers were originally designed to do math, where there is no judgment, just precision, and this is still what they do best.

William Stone
4315 A Street
Mayor Chris Beutler will have a news conference at 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 9 in Room 113 of the County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street. The Mayor will discuss three topics:

- City snow operations. Representatives of the Public Works and Utilities Department will attend.
- The status of the Synergy project in downtown Lincoln.
- A new retail incentive program for downtown.
CITY PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER

Mayor Chris Beutler said today that the City is prepared to handle snowy and icy conditions this winter with about $3.87 million remaining in the City’s snow operations fund. The City started the winter season with about $4.23 million in the fund, and has used about $360,000 so far.

“To keep traffic moving safely takes a coordinated effort between the City and its residents,” said Mayor Beutler. “Snow and ice removal is a challenging job for a growing City, and the first priority is to clear emergency routes and major arterials. It’s up to the citizen to use off-street parking if possible and to drive very carefully if they do need to be out in dangerous conditions.”

The City can issue two types of snow removal parking bans:

- **A snow emergency** means that parking is banned on emergency snow routes, arterial streets and City bus routes.
- **A residential parking ban** will begin on the even-numbered (north and east) sides of the street in ALL residential areas. Once the ban on the even-numbered sides has ended, parking will then be banned on the odd-numbered (south and west) sides of the street in ALL residential areas. Parking is again allowed on the even sides.

Although most cul-de-sacs have both even- and odd-numbered addresses, the City is asking those living in cul-de-sacs to move vehicles off the street when the even residential parking ban begins and to keep cars off the street until the area has been plowed. Specialized equipment is used in cul-de-sacs because regular plows are too large to maneuver well.

Public Works will continue to be proactive in keeping streets cleared. Crews began spreading anti-icing materials on all arterial streets this week. Motorists may notice the dark streaks of the material on the streets. The mixture of salt and water helps minimize frost build-up and the development of “black ice” on streets and bridges. The material application also makes removal of snow and ice build-up easier. One day of full snow removal operations costs about $125,000.

During storms, information on snow operations will be available from local media, City cable channels 5 and 10, the City Web site (lincoln.ne.gov) and the Windstream phone directory.
The City has the following reminders for residents:

- Property owners are required to clear snow and ice from sidewalks by 9 a.m. the day following the end of the snow storm. Adjoining wheelchair ramps and curb cuts must also be cleared.
- It is illegal to push or blow snow into or on any street, alley or sidewalk.
- Residents are encouraged to clear snow from fire hydrants.
MAYOR BEUTLER’S STATEMENT ON SYNERGY PROJECT

In January 2007, the City announced a plan to redevelop the block bound by “P,” “Q,” 13th and 14th streets. A vision for a new civic plaza, parking garage and a high-rise building was put forward to the people of the community. The Lincoln Synergy Group was chosen as the developer of record to make the vision a reality. The proposed mixed-use project – hotel, office, retail and University-linked retirement housing – became known as Synergy.

Unfortunately, financial and other market circumstances have dramatically changed, and I am jointly announcing with the developer the decision to end our negotiations on the Synergy project until the economy improves. Visionary projects are critical to Lincoln’s future. They create the opportunities that attract people and investment. However, our commitment to visionary projects must be based upon sound economic and market conditions so that the taxpayers’ interests are protected and wise public investments are made.

To date, the developer and the City have diligently worked together to formulate a viable public-private project that would be a win for the developer and a win for the City. Even as we tried to harmonize our respective visions into a single course of action, credit market conditions simply deteriorated around us. The original vision for three towers on two parking garages located on two adjoining blocks was scaled back, the City’s and the developer’s parking needs were analyzed and reconfigured.

Finding available capital and credit based on a critical level of market interest has proved elusive, and the short-term prospects do not seem to be pointing in the right direction. Finding charitable dollars to fund the plaza area was also proving difficult in light of other ongoing and worthwhile community fund-raising efforts. We will continue to seek funding for the plaza area. The plaza is an important component to the central downtown and will serve as a catalyst to these investors or other investors who may be attracted to a potential Synergy project in the future.

Together, the City and the developer have made tremendous efforts to make the project work, but we are unable to do so at this juncture. Furthermore, the City’s limited and finite resources need to be carefully managed in light of an economy faced with many uncertainties and the City’s other pressing priorities.

- more -
The City’s focus will now be on preserving our ability to develop the site in the future after credit markets have stabilized and the economy is on the road to recovery. I am moving to protect the site and the City’s investment to date. We will have to expend approximately $350,000 from parking funds to maintain our ability to build a new parking garage on the site as part of a future project. A request for new proposals will be issued at the appropriate time.

I am confident that in better economic times, the prior administration’s vision for the area could have been achieved. However, the City can not commit scarce public funds to projects where market conditions are so unsettled and the national credit markets are so tight. Meanwhile, road construction and a potential new arena will continue to be prioritized for our limited capital dollars. Roads are an immediate pressing need and the arena offers a long-term opportunity for community-wide benefits.

The Mayor’s job is to prioritize need and carefully assess the City’s capacity for new commitments. Lincoln’s taxpayers can be assured that I take that responsibility extremely seriously and will not let our dreams surpass our ability to responsibly finance them in light of such a challenging economy. That’s why the Synergy project will have to wait until more favorable times.
CITY OF LINCOLN AND 2015 VISION TO AGGRESSIVELY PROMOTE RETAIL DEVELOPMENT ALONG P AND Q STREETS CORRIDOR

GOAL TO RAISE $600,000 AND ATTRACT 15 NEW BUSINESSES WITHIN FIVE YEARS

Dec. 9, 2008 – Lincoln, Neb. – Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler, 2015 Vision and Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) officials today announced they will raise money to aggressively promote new retail business growth along P and Q streets in downtown Lincoln. A half million dollars in private support and a $100,000 City contribution would be available to attract 15 new businesses to the corridor over the next five years. Downtown Ventures, a 501(c)(3) organization formed several years ago to promote downtown business development, will serve as the financing entity to receive and distribute the funds.

Mayor Chris Beutler said the private support will give City officials a tremendous advantage in attracting businesses to the downtown Lincoln area.

“During challenging economic times, having access to capital will give our community an edge in helping entrepreneurs get their businesses up and running in downtown Lincoln,” Mayor Beutler said. “I commend 2015 Vision business leaders for kicking off the program with the initial financial contributions and for their ongoing commitment to helping us raise additional private funds to support development of this corridor.”

Under the program, the Mayor will recommend to the Lincoln City Council that $100,000 be made available to support development along P and Q streets. With Council approval, 2015 Vision will immediately match the $100,000 and pledge to raise another $150,000. Downtown Ventures has pledged to raise an additional $250,000 of private money, bringing the total to $600,000 dedicated to support business growth along the corridor.

Tom Smith, a 2015 Vision member and downtown business owner, said Lincoln's downtown has a built-in clientele of those who work in government, education, and business as well as an excellent mix of students, local residents and visitors. Many, he said, are looking for new shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities.
"We believe this program will benefit a wide range of developers and will be especially attractive to recent UNL graduates, who can take advantage of this fund to start a business career and remain in our city," Smith said. "The private sector is providing a five-to-one match of funds through Downtown Ventures, which could be used for equity positions, lease subsidies, low-interest construction loans and other capital needs. All of these options are critical to growing our downtown business base."

Terry Uland, Downtown Lincoln Association president, said a consultant study released earlier this year provides the blueprint for the types of quality businesses to attract to the downtown Lincoln area.

"The consultant study made it clear that Lincoln has the population base required for entrepreneurs on a local or national basis to succeed," Uland said. "The study also indicated that a retail support program was needed to help developers find available equity and low-interest financing required for retail, restaurant, entertainment or other business ventures to get up and running. The $600,000 that will be available through Downtown Ventures is just what is needed to attract quality businesses to Lincoln’s downtown."

Mayor Beutler and 2015 Vision representatives said they anticipate putting the first $200,000 to use as soon as possible.

-end-
DATE: December 11, 2008  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

The media have several opportunities over the next few days to cover the community’s generosity:

- Two events are connected to the Mayor’s SPAM Challenge, which ends Monday, December 15. Mayor Chris Beutler has pledged to match every can of SPAM donated to the Food Bank of Lincoln, up to 200 cans.

  At **9:45 a.m. Friday, December 12**, Wayne Anderson will dress as SPAM Man when he and several other IT department associates from Assurity deliver more than 100 cans they have collected to the **Mayor’s Office, 555 South 10th**. At the same time, Holdrege resident Linda Black will present the Mayor with a book written by her son Dustin Black called “SPAM.com.”

  A campaign wrap-up event is being planned for **Monday, December 15**, and details will be announced later.

- City and County employees will deliver more than 100 gifts to the residents of Lancaster Manor at **2 p.m. Friday, December 12**. Lancaster Manor is at **1001 South Street**. “Santa for Seniors” is a project of Leadership Link, the local City-County government chapter of the National Management Association, and donations came from members of that group and other City-County employees. Representatives from the Public Works and Utilities, Building and Safety and Health departments as well as the County Clerk’s office will dress as reindeers and elves to make the presentation.

  Brenda Nepper (Leadership Link’s Community Services Chair) and Michelle Schindler (Leadership Link’s President) will present the gifts to Lancaster Manor’s Resident Council. Gwen Thorpe (acting Lancaster Manor Director) and Jolene Zochol (Lancaster Manor Director of Resident Services) will represent the Manor. A member of the County Board may also attend.
The Lincoln Emergency Communications/911 Center received re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) on December 6. The accreditation process includes self-evaluation as well as an extensive review of policies, procedures, management and operations by a team of independent assessors.

CALEA recognized the Lincoln 911 Center’s “ongoing acceptance of the obligation to continue the quest for professional excellence.”

“Accreditation from CALEA is the ultimate seal of approval in our field and an important recognition of excellence in public safety communications,” said 911 Communications Manager Julie Righter. “It rewards the dedication and tireless efforts of our 911 professionals, who work extremely hard 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help those in emergency situations.”

In 2002, Lincoln’s 911 Center became the 14th center in the nation to be accredited by CALEA. Accreditation is for a three-year period. The Center was re-accredited in 2005 and was named a Flagship Agency at that time as well. A Flagship Agency signifies that an agency has continually demonstrated excellence in commitment to the CALEA accreditation process and a willingness to share its accreditation success with others. The 911 Center was again named a Flagship Agency on December 6.

More information on Lincoln’s 911 Center is available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: 911). More information on CALEA is available at calea.org.
I. ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 5:03 PM by Tony Messineo at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. Members present were: Rodrigo Cantarero, Karla Lester, Ed Schneider, Heidi Stark, Ken Svoboda, and Tony Messineo.

Members Absent: Lisa Peterson, Hena Roy, Deb Schorr, Tom Fox (ex-officio), Rick Hoppe (ex-officio) and Tonya Skinner (ex-officio).

Staff Present: Bruce Dart, Steve Beal, Steve Frederick, Kathy Cook, Andrea Mason, Geri Rorabaugh, Mark Hosking, Mary Christensen, Bernice Afuh, David Humm, Charlotte Burke, Gwendy Meginnis, Bob Westfall, Shirley Terry, and Elaine Severe.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Messineo asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Agenda.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Svoboda that the Agenda be approved as mailed. Second by Dr. Schneider. Motion carried by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Peterson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Schneider that the October 14, 2008 Minutes be approved as mailed. Second by Mr. Svoboda. Motion carried by acclamation.

II. PUBLIC SESSION

III. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Health Director Update

Dr. Dart stated the monthly highlights were mailed to the Board members. He provided an update on Pertussis cases in the community. Lancaster County now has eight confirmed cases.

Dr. Dart stated the Nebraska Medical Association’s Health Care Reform Task Force will provide an update on their efforts at the December 9, 2008 Board of Health meeting. Dr. Dart is also scheduled to meet with the Lincoln Ambassadors, a new animal group, on November 5, 2008. They are concerned about the Capital Humane Society’s euthanasia policies.
Dr. Schneider asked for additional information on the HIV/AIDS cases in Lancaster County versus the State of Nebraska.

Mr. Messineo expressed congratulations to the November Employee of the Month - Kathy King - Environmental Public Health Food Program. Mr. Messineo asked about the Annual Report and the distribution of the report. Mr. Beal responded preparations will begin on the Annual Report. The Report has been distributed via the Department’s website for the past several years. Mr. Messineo stated we need to market the website to assure people are aware of the Report and have access to it.

Mr. Messineo requested recognition letters be sent to the three local high schools who finished in the top 50 schools in the country for the amount of recycled products per student.

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Health Services Division Report

Ms Mason introduced Ms. Rorabaugh, Customer Services Supervisor, Ms. Terry, Maternal - Child Health Supervisor, Ms. Afuh, Public Health Clinic Supervisor, and Ms. Christensen, Program Evaluation and Quality Improvement staff person. Each provided information on their particular area. Community Health Services Division priorities are 1) to assure access to health care, 2) to focus on vulnerable populations, and 3) excellence in service delivery. Customer Service involves administrative support, direct customer service, records management and data entry.

Maternal-Child Health services includes the home visitation program, Presumptive Eligibility Program, community outreach and partnerships. The Public Health Clinic section includes the Walk-In Clinic, General Assistance Medical Clinic, Information and Referral Center, STI/HIV, Youth Services Center and the Laboratory. Program Evaluation and Quality Improvement includes data collection, program improvements and review of performance measures.

B. Pandemic Flu Update

Mr. Hosking provided an update on the Department’s efforts and activities regarding Pandemic Flu. Staff continue planning and providing presentations in the community. They have also conducted table top exercises and mass clinic operation exercises. The exercises are conducted with our community partners. He stated the Department’s public version of the Pandemic Flu Plan is available on the Department’s website.

C. Preparing the County for LB 395

Mr. Humm provided an update on the Department’s efforts to assist businesses in Lancaster County with implementation of LB 395 (smoking ban). The ban goes into
effect in June, 2009. Beginning in January, 2009 staff will provide educational packets, signage and assist with policy development for the business owners. The State law was modeled after Lincoln’s ordinance. Staff will continue to provide updates to the Board of Health.

VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is December 9, 2008 at 5:00 PM.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Elaine Severe
Recording Secretary

Tony Messineo
Vice-President
HEALTH DIRECTOR

- The Health Director met with the Lincoln Ambassadors, a new animal group in the community, regarding their concerns with the Capital Humane Society’s euthanasia policies. He also met with the Mayor’s Office to inform them of the meeting results.

- The Health Director continues to meet with the Mayor regarding the People’s Health Center to discuss future input and direction from the Department and other community leaders.

- The Health Department hosted the Homeless Coalition’s Annual Recognition Meeting. Janette Johnson, Health Promotion staff member, was honored for her efforts with the Coalition.

- The Department participated in the City’s Combined Community Campaign during the month of October & November. Mayor Beutler challenged each Department to increase their percentage of employees who participate in the program.

- Employee of the Month - Magdalena Krynsky - Information & Fiscal Management Division.

ASSISTANT HEALTH DIRECTOR

- The first Community Forum on the Department’s operational plan will be conducted with the Food Advisory Committee (FAC) on November 19, 2008. The focus will be on the food program and what the FAC sees as unmet needs currently and into the future. Staff completed their own assessment and created a chart that will be provided to the FAC members. The community forums will continue through November and December covering the three topics of Prevention, Access Regulation/Environmental Health.

- Work continues on the Department’s Annual Report. The operational plan and the health indicators will be incorporated into the report in an effort to highlight our work on measurable health outcomes. The report will also contain program statistics and program highlights from each division.

- Deputy Fire Chief, Dean Staberg attended the November 6th accreditation meeting. LFR is an accredited fire department and many of the processes they follow for accreditation are similar to what we are doing to become an accredited local health department.

- Our Department was highlighted in the November issue of accreditNATION, a publication of NACCHO.
- County Commissioners Schorr and Stevens toured the Boys and Girls Club (BGC) location at Park Middle School on November 18th. The Assistant Health Director represents LLCHD on the BGC board.

ANIMAL CONTROL

November Service Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pet Licenses Sold</td>
<td>54,942</td>
<td>55,477</td>
<td>8,873</td>
<td>5,190</td>
<td>4,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases Dispatched</td>
<td>17,443</td>
<td>15,670</td>
<td>3,711</td>
<td>1,629</td>
<td>2,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations</td>
<td>20,327</td>
<td>18,891</td>
<td>3,999</td>
<td>1,835</td>
<td>2,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals Impounded</td>
<td>3,623</td>
<td>3,893</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>1,954</td>
<td>2,074</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats</td>
<td>1,559</td>
<td>1,713</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Citations Issued</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warnings/Defects Issued</td>
<td>6,969</td>
<td>4,126</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bite Cases Reported</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attack Cases Reported</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs Declared (PPD, DD, V)</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Neglect Investigations</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injured Animal Rescue</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Removal</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead Animal Pickup</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>1,391</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost and Found Reports</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Calls</td>
<td>41,887</td>
<td>40,818</td>
<td>8,259</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>3,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Response Time (in mins)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Animal Control Officers working with Nebraska Game and Parks Officers and Stetson Wildlife Management, captured a Sika Deer that was running through Lincoln. A Sika Deer is a Japanese deer and is not native to this area. Numerous tests were completed on the animal by vets from the Nebraska State Department of Agriculture to ensure it was healthy. Research done by the Animal Control Office, Game and Parks, and the State Agriculture Department yielded no success in determining where the animal came from.
or why it ended up in Lincoln. The deer is currently being held at the Capital Humane Society until it can be placed in a new home.

- Animal Control Officers and Nebraska State Troopers responded to an Emu running along I-80 near the Waverly exit. Officers were able to prevent the large bird from causing any traffic accidents but the animal escaped capture as it jumped a fence and ran out of view across a field.

- Animal Control Officers were asked by the Lincoln Police Department to investigate a canine skull that was found at a crime scene. The skull was examined by vets and was determined to be a domestic animal that had died of natural causes.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

CHS Performance Measures

- Within the last year, CHS staff developed performance measures for CHS programs meant to reflect the major goals and responsibilities of the division. Within the last several months, CHS Supervisors, CHS Program Evaluation & Quality Assurance staff, and IFM staff identified ways to abstract the data needed to evaluate performance goals. CHS staff made a positive impact on our high-risk, hard-to-reach populations as they exceeded five (5) performance goals and partially met two (2) additional goals in FY 2007-2008.

  • Goal: Maternal-Child Health (MCH) Nurse Case Managers assure that at least 150 “new” racial/ethnic minority adults are screened at community sites for cardiovascular disease (hypertension and elevated total cholesterol). Results: This goal was exceeded as staff screened 301 “new” racial/ethnic minority adults for cardiovascular disease at community sites.

  • Goal: General Assistance (GA) Nurse Case Managers assure that at least 50% of GA clients report appropriate nutrition after 4 visits to the GA Medical Clinic. Results: This goal was partially met as 59% of GA clients reported that they currently have, or are making progress toward, appropriate nutrition after 4 visits to the GA Medical Clinic.

  • Goal: GA Nurse Case Managers assure that at least 50% of GA clients report appropriate physical activity after 4 visits to the GA Medical Clinic. Results: This goal was partially met as 55% of GA clients reported that they currently engaged in, or are making progress toward, appropriate physical activity after 4 visits to the GA Medical Clinic.

  • Goal: GA Nurse Case Managers assure that at least 50% of GA clients accurately describe their medication regimen after 4 visits to the GA Medical Clinic. Results: This goal was exceeded as 65% of GA clients could accurately describe their medication regimen after 4 visits to the GA Medical Clinic.
- Goal: MCH Nurse Case Managers assure that at least 85% of women, receiving home visits, obtained prenatal care from their primary care provider in the first trimester. Results: This goal was exceeded as 86% of women, receiving home visits, obtained prenatal care from their primary care provider in the first trimester.

- Goal: MCH Nurse Case Managers assure that at least 93% of infants, receiving home visits, weigh at least 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. Results: This goal was exceeded as 94% of infants, receiving home visits, weighed at least 2500 grams.

- Goal: MCH Nurse Case Managers assure that at least 74% of women, receiving home visits, initiate breastfeeding in the hospital. Results: This goal was exceeded as 83% of women, receiving home visits, initiated breastfeeding in the hospital.

- As a part of the CHS performance measures effort we developed an algorithm for making referrals for needed services within high-risk populations. Standardizing referral processes will be critical to evaluating population outcomes via our new client information system in the upcoming year.
DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

- An area that is rarely discussed, but extremely important to any organization is staff retention. In the past retention for WIC staff had been low. Losing staff created a multitude of issues including delays in client services, the loss of program information and expertise and an increase in the time and expense needed for training. By selecting the candidate which best fits clinic needs we have been able to keep staff turnover uncommonly low. This means as part of the selection process applicants are assessed not only for professional qualifications, but in relationship to the current make up of the clinic, the staff needs and the client needs in order to find the best person for the team. Once hired, we have found that cross-training, flexible staff scheduling and a management philosophy which empowers the staff to work as a self-managed team has been good in providing staff what they need both on a personal and a professional level. Currently the LLCHD WIC staff has 89 years of combined experience, which is an average of 8 years per staff member.

Dental Health

- During the month of October, the dental staff targeted 1,143 children and adults with oral health presentations and information. Sites for the educational activities included, Hartley Elementary School, Clinton and Hartey Community Learning Center Programs (CLC) at Clinton School, Mickle Middle School, Cedars CLC program at the Arnold Recreation Center, Touchstone, and Carol Yokum Family Resource Center’s Halloween Party at the Arnold Recreation Center. In addition, dental staff provided school-based dental screenings for 76 students at Hamlow Elementary School in Waverly.

- During the month of October, 14 students rotated through the dental clinic as a clinical rotation site for hands on experience. The students included 8 dental students and 4 hygiene students from the UNMC College of Dentistry and 2 dental assisting students from Southeast Community College.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Child Care Connection - Resource and Referral
Parents needing child care turn to LLCHD’s Child Care Connection, a database of licensed child care providers in Lincoln-Lancaster County available via the Internet or telephone. Those that use the Internet also have access to LLCHD’s web site, which has information on disease prevention, immunizations, proper illness exclusion in child care, swimming pool safety information and west nile virus prevention. Parents also have the opportunity to call in and request a child care list based on specific criteria, such as if the provider accepts families using child care assistance, offers care during the nontraditional work day, or transports children to and from school. The phone-in requests are especially vital to the non-english speaking parents in our community, allowing them access to this service through interpreters and step by step instructions from our staff. Police record reviews are completed on state licensed Family Child Care Home I's and Small Family

Child Care Connection Referrals

Number of Webhits by Parents Needing Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Webhits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 05-06</td>
<td>18,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 06-07</td>
<td>19,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 07-08</td>
<td>15,713</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: LLCHD (11.08)

Child Care Providers. If an operator is under corrective action or investigation by Department of Health and Human Services or LLCHD, they are removed from the referral system.

Business Hazardous Waste Collections - Saving Businesses Money & Protecting our Health and Environment

- Many businesses in our community generate small amounts of hazardous waste (toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive) which cannot be disposed of in the landfill and must be managed by a licensed contractor. EPH staff facilitate two hazardous waste collections each year to serve the needs of such businesses. By setting up a single location and
coordinating the contractor, each business saves between $500 and $1000. In the past six years, 250 businesses have brought 98,511 pounds of hazardous waste to these collections. Savings to these small businesses is estimated to be between $125,000 and $250,000. Businesses that accessed this service this year include: Precision Machine Company (Manufacturing), Bob and Don's Plumbing, Brester Construction, Alter Metal Recycling, Lape-Lee Painting, Holmes Lake Apartments, J & D Diesel Service, Progressive Electric, Pechous Upholstering Company, Brett R Cascini DDS, and Wesleyan University.

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Collection

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- Now that it’s November, it’s likely that we have seen the last case of West Nile Virus (WNV) for the year. So far, there have been no 2008 WNV deaths in the state. Through October 21, 2008, Nebraska had recorded 45 cases; two in Lancaster County. We believe there will be another two cases (a total of four) in the county for the year. WNV may now be endemic in Nebraska and other states, but the 2008 cases represent a significant decline from the 163 cases in 2007. Even if there might be additional cases added to the count before the end of the year, 2008’s total will end up as the second lowest number of cases in the last six years. In 2004, there were only 40 WNV cases statewide; in 2007, the next lowest, 163. In 2003, we recorded 2,022 cases in Nebraska. That year, there were 129 cases of WNV, and two WNV deaths, in Lancaster County.

- Flu season has begun, but so far the rates of influenza-like cases locally (imperceptible on the graph below) and in the state are low. Nationwide, only Hawaii has reported even local flu activity. Nevertheless, flu activity will pick up as we move into the holiday
season and beyond. Last year, as you may recall the number of flu cases didn’t become noticeable until January, and didn’t peak until late February; so despite little early season flu activity the best preventive measure is for people to get a flu shot. Remember, this year the ACIP (Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices) has for the first time recommended that all children 5 through 18 get a flu shot. To meet the hoped-for demand, this year the nation’s pharmaceutical companies have produced 146 million doses of flu vaccine. The vaccine has been matched to the three types of flu (2 types of A, 1 type B) that led to last year’s late season epidemic. There’s an adequate supply of vaccine for everyone who seeks a flu shot, and hopefully this year’s vaccine will provide more protection than last year’s poorly-matched vaccine.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

- The featured program from HPO this month is WATCH D.O.G.S. This program is part of the Fatherhood Coalition that is chaired by David Humm. WATCH D.O.G.S. is a K-12 program that invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or other father figures to volunteer at least one day at their child’s/student’s school during the school year. Individuals sign up at a kick-off event such as a “Dads and Kids Pizza Night” or “Donuts with Dad” or in the office at any time throughout the year. The program is overseen by a “Top Dog” volunteer who partners with the school administrator to coordinate scheduling and identify opportunities for WatchDOGS to provide assistance at the school. WatchDOG
volunteers perform a variety of tasks during their volunteer day including monitoring the school entrance, assisting with unloading and loading of buses and cars, monitoring the lunch room, helping at recess or P.E. or helping in the classroom with a teacher’s guidance by working with small groups of students on homework, flashcards, or spelling.

Funding is provided by the Nebraska Fatherhood Initiative to start the program and provides program supplies. A few staff participate in a 45 minute conference call after registering to be a WatchDOGS site. A little planning and oversight...then very easy to implement and sustain for schools. To date, David has presented the WATCH D.O.G.S. program to six schools in the medically underserved areas of Lincoln and has had excellent response. He will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this program and the impact on the students, the schools, and the fathers/father figures.

Nationally:
* 79% of principals surveyed strongly agreed or agreed that “The WATCH D.O.G.S. program has made a significant contribution to the safety of our school.”
* 96% of dads who completed our End-of-Day Survey strongly agreed or agreed that their “experience as a WatchDOGS volunteer was rewarding” and they would “want to do something like this again.”

Locally:
“This is my first year associated with the Watch Dog program, but I have been impressed so far. We had a good turnout for the kick-off meeting. It is a great thing to see dads with their kids at any school event. Our students’ excitement who attended the event with their fathers was very noticeable. We have one father in particular who wears his Watch Dog shirt just about every time he comes into the building, even when he is not volunteering as a Watch Dog. It seems to have made a valuable connection between us.”
Scott Nelson – Principal, McPhee Elementary

“WatchDOGS is an opportunity for father figures to be seen by other parents, students, and staff of the school as providers and parent role-models. I especially think its important in promoting the importance of male role models in the upbringing of today’s youth. There is a certain feeling of “safety” that youth receive from just spending time with their father figures.” Ryan Mohling – CLC Site Supervisor, Everett and McPhee Elementary

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT
- The Annual Fiscal Report was completed for all funds and reconciled to the City of Lincoln financial system. It will be included in the Department’s Annual Report. Staff are currently modifying the FY 2009 internal reports created for the Health Director and
Division Managers based on lessons learned in FY 2008.

- The Division Manager attended the Annual Meeting of the Public Health Data Standards Consortium. The three day meeting included a planning session to improve the involvement and input from state and local health department’s in the setting of national health information technology requirements. If there is no effective representation from state and local health departments, the standards and requirements are likely to continue the current disjointed and unconnected sets of requirements that local departments and communities must meet. Kathy serves as the NACCHO (National Association of County & City Health Officers) representative to the Consortium and is the Consortium’s Vice President for State and Local Health Departments. Our involvement with the NACCHO Informatics Workgroup and the Public Health Data Standards Consortium has increased our knowledge of the marketplace and future requirements from CDC and other federal agencies. We have used this to create requirements for software development and acquisition which will increase the life span and usability of our investments in these areas.
Jeanette Fanmeyer,

I'm responding to your email from 11/27/08 regarding the youth basketball league sponsored by the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Dept. There was a delay on the part of the volunteer coach in picking up the roster information for the team in question. The coach has picked up the information and I believe has contacted the boys on this team and has had a practice on two. It's not unusual to have kids from different schools on the same team. We try to organize teams by geographical area as much as possible, when we have too few kids sign up from one school we then have to combine those kids with a near by group until we have enough for a team. Not always the best situation but it usually works out.

I apologize for the delay in getting notified, hopefully all the boys have been contacted and the team is getting prepared to start the season.

Steve Hiller
Asst. Director
Lincoln Parks and Recreation Dept.
402-441-8266
402-441-8706 fax
shiller@lincoln.ne.gov
A request has been made to vacate portions of 9th Street, X Street, and the north/south alley 50 feet either side of X Street between 8th and 9th Streets. The area was viewed and appeared as a rural section of roadway with gravel and crushed rock surfacing and drainage ditches along either side. Numerous utilities were also observed in the area. There is a large transmission line on either side of X Street plus electric, cable, and telephone distribution lines in the alley as well as along 9th Street. A gas main valve was observed along the west side of 9th Street indicating the existence of a gas main and a fire hydrant would indicate a water main was also present in the street. Public Works has also indicated the existence of a sanitary sewer in the area and has requested Easements be retained over the entire area for all these utilities. Since the area lies within a Flood Plain, a request has also been made for a Conservation Easement to be retained over the entire area.

Given the myriad of utilities which are located within this area and the likelihood of frequent intrusions for maintenance on one or the other of them, the area is considered to have only a nominal value. This is especially true given the fact the drainage ditches on either side of the street will have to be maintained as well as the imposition of the Conservation Easement which severely limits what can be done within the area. It is therefore the opinion of this writer that a nominal value of $0.15 per square foot be placed on the area. By this writer’s calculations, the total area requested for vacation is 82,750 square feet. Based on that, the calculations are as follows:

\[ 82,750 \text{ sq. ft.} \times 0.15/\text{sq. ft.} = 12,412.50 \text{ Called } \$12,400.00 \]

Therefore, if the area is to be vacated, it is recommended it be sold to the abutting property owner for $12,400.

Planning and Urban Development have indicated they do not support vacation of X Street west of the alley. Should a portion of this vacation not be approved, the estimated value of the area being vacated should be adjusted accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Clinton W. Thomas
Certified General Appraiser #990023
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Rob Michael
Address: 1120 S. 31st St.
City: Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: (402)601-5720
Fax:
Email: rkm777@live.com

Comment or Question:
Council Members,

A few days ago I heard Lincoln Police Chief Tom Cassidy announce that Lincoln will be getting "red light cameras". I find this more than a little unsettling. I would like to strongly urge you to defer to the people of Lincoln on this matter. These cameras are not cheap and Lincoln tax payers should get a say in whether or not we spend the money for these cameras. There is also the issue of privacy. It should be up to the citizens whether or not we allow ourselves to be surveilled in this way. Mr. Cassidy is a fine Chief of Police but he is not a dictator and he should be required to bring this before the citizens of this city before he makes any announcements.

I would appreciate your feedback on this.

Rob Michael
December 9, 2008

Michael Nelson, Editor
Lincoln Journal/Star
PO Box 81689
Lincoln, NE 68501

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The enclosed ad recently ran in Lincoln 55+ Senior Paper. It reminded me of my long standing irritation. Perhaps the following issue might justify investigative reporting by the Journal/Star.

The Lincoln Housing Authority has 1400 rental units it manages. Of these, more than half are on the open market and compete with the many landlords in our city. More than half are available with no subsidies from LHA. Most importantly, LHA does not pay a dime of property tax on this large number of units.

For more than two years LIBA AND REOMA have been attempting to secure the actual data but have been stonewalled by LHA. At this stage, LHA officials will not talk to the organizations except through its legal council. In the early stages LIBA and REOMA urged LHA to pay at least an in leu of tax as does Lincoln Electric System.

LIBA and REOMA contacted the county assessor but he does not have the fortitude and inclination to make a challenge. The State Auditor contacted LHA and at first was told that the Auditor had no jurisdiction. Later LHA recanted and some minor discussion was held but Foley too has made no public disclosure.

Lincoln Mayor Beutler and the City Council ought to be screaming bloody murder as they face budget short falls and new property tax revenue would be most helpful to easing the pain.

Transparency. I hope you might consider some investigative reporting and public disclosure as a way in which to jar loose all these gutless city officials so that a coordinated campaign might be mounted to change the rules to require LHA to pay its fair share of property taxes. The current situation is simply not fair.

I apologize for sending this letter anonymously but I would fall in the category of “whistle blower” and wish not to fight that battle.

Sincerely,

A Lincoln resident of twenty-five years, who loves this city and admires the leadership that has made it such a great place to live.

cc: Chris Beutler, Mayor
    Members of the City Council
    Gordon Winters, Opinion Page editor
Lincoln Housing Authority
5700 "R" Street • (402) 434-5500
TDD (800) 545-1833 ext 875 • www.L-housing.com

Burke Plaza
• 6721 "L" St.
• Ages 62 & Older
• Smoke-Free Facility

Crossroads House
• 1000 "O" St.
• Ages 55 & Older

Mahoney Manor
• 4241 N. 61st St.
• Ages 50 & Older
• Smoke-Free Facility

Features Include:
• Secured Entry Systems
• Handicap Accessible Units
• Elevators
• Group Transportation
• Coin-Operated Laundry
• Small Pet Allowed
• Community Room
• Organized Special Activities

All Utilities Paid
*Must meet eligibility requirements.
ADDENDUM
TO
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008

I. MAYOR -

1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of December 13 through December 19, 2008-Schedule subject to change.

II. CITY CLERK - None

III. CORRESPONDENCE -

A. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE -

JON CAMP -

1. Response Letter from Thomas Shafer, Public Works & Utilities Department to Jon Camp - RE: Request to review the situation described by Mr. Dirk Brom in an email text.

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN -

1. E-Mail from Joani Moore - RE: A claim she filed with the City of Lincoln pertaining to the accident I had on city bus #654, College View route on 12/03/08.

B. DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS -

HEALTH -

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department is seeking individuals interested in the local Food Safety Program to apply for the Lincoln/Lancaster County Food Advisory Committee.

C. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. E-Mail from Cathy Pischel - RE: Read an article in the newspaper about the possibility of making dumpster diving illegal.
DATE: December 12, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule
Week of December 13 through December 19, 2008
Schedule subject to change

Monday, December 15
  • Mayor’s Award of Excellence presentations – 1:30 p.m., Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.
  • Mayor’s SPAM Challenge finale – 2 p.m., Room 113, County-City Building

Tuesday, December 16
  • LIBA luncheon, remarks - noon, Holiday Inn Downtown, 141 N. 9th St.

Thursday, December 18
  • KFOR Morning Show - 7:45 a.m.
  • Southeast Community College (SCC) graduation speaker - 7:30 p.m., SCC, 84th and “O” street campus

Friday, December 19
  • Sowers Club, remarks - Holiday Inn Downtown
December 15, 2008

City Council Office
Attn: Jon Camp
555 South 10th Street, Suite 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Councilman Camp:

I have been asked to look into and respond to your request to review the situation described by Mr. Dirk Brom in the email text below.

Jon,

I'm delighted to see progress on the installation of the city water for the Thorn Court neighborhood.

However, I hope you are aware that there have been numerous unplanned interruptions in our utilities (gas twice, electric four times, cable/internet several times) as a result of the construction. In addition to the inconvenience this causes, it gives the impression that the work being done is sloppy and inept. If there is anything you can do as a city councilman to help improve the situation, please do. And I wouldn't recommend that the city contract with this vendor again anytime soon.

Sincerely,

Dirk H. Brom
4031 Thorn Ct.
Lincoln, NE 68520
515-210-0031

I have discussed this compliant with the contractor, and he was quite upset with the reflection this individual has placed on his company and workmanship.

First of all, I’d like to help improve the impression of this contractor by stating that in the past, Ray Lipsey has proven to be reliable and has provided a good product to the City of Lincoln including helping the Lincoln Water System on other issues. For the most part, this project has gone quite well and has been one of the better finished-grade and clean-up efforts.
With respect to this particular project, the contractor admitted to hitting the electrical lines once when digging about 2.5 feet from where they were marked by One-Call. This is within the three-foot locate range allowed by law and therefore, the cost is the responsibility of the contractor. In other places, the electrical lines were not anywhere close to the locations where they were marked. Some were seven and twelve feet away from the marks provided by One-Call. As a result, the contractor spent two to three days hand digging to locate the lines to avoid any further interruptions. The only other time the electricity was interrupted was the result of a different contractor working for the County in the 98th Street area. At one point, the LES line did need to be de-energized because it ended up too close to the water line. Since Thorn Court is at the edge of the service area when LES needed to turn off the line, power was lost because the line is not looped.

The Contractor also admitted to hitting Black Hills (gas company) lines twice, but again their lines were not adequately located. The contractor will not be charged by Black Hills for these repairs because Black Hills has taken responsibility for the issue.

In this case, like many others from experience, it appears that if any process needs to be improved, it is the process of managing and protecting the public right-of-way from improper design, construction activities, and locating of private utilities. For a number of years, the use of the right-of-way has been increasing with more and more utilities trying to occupy the limited space available. This is due to the increasing demand for services the community desires. At the same time, the community desires to lower taxes and asks government to limit their involvement in order to hold the line on any increases. This is extremely difficult to do in a growing community like ours. However “policing” the right-of-way has been one of those areas that has received less and less attention as a result. In the end, we may save a little money up front, but it usually ends up costing us much more in the future.

In the past, there have been efforts to change (improve/enhance) some of the excavation code and requirements for locating utilities. These efforts have been met with great opposition since they would likely increase the initial costs for those locales. Please note that these costs are eventually passed on to the customers (taxpayers). In addition, efforts to require more design review and inspection by the City in the construction of those utilities has been opposed and is difficult to accomplish given the necessary corresponding fees.

Public Works and Utilities continues to look into ways to invest the limited funds available to improve process of private utility design review, construction inspection, minimize interruptions and the inconveniences they cause.

Sincerely,

Thomas Shafer, P.E.
Design/Construction Section Manager

cc: Dirk H. Brom
    Kim Russell
    Greg MacLean
    Mike Lang
    Roger Figard
Brom Response Ltr to Camp TSS tdq.wpd
To: Robin Eischliman

In regards to the claim I filed with the City of Lincoln pertaining to the accident I had on city bus #654, College View route on October 3, 2008, the bus driver (Bill) was very much at fault due to the fact that he always drives too fast, especially when he is running late. I am not the only one that has noticed this. Other Star Tran passengers told me that this particular driver always drives too fast and that in itself could have saved me from being "pitched" from my seat, as Connor L. Reuter states it. It's all on film and I was wondering if you have seen it. It was described to me via the phone. Also, it is not my fault that the camera did not display the license plate number of the car that pulled out in front of us. Perhaps, better equipment would be in order for our bus service. I believe that my request is in order, the bus driver should be notified and set belts would also be in order, especially for the seats that have nothing to grab on to in case something like this ever happens again.

Respectfully yours,

Joani Moore
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Joyce Jensen, REHS, CP-FS
Environmental Health Supervisor
(402) 441-8033

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) is seeking individuals interested in the local Food Safety Program to apply for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Food Advisory Committee. These individuals will represent the public’s interest and must have no financial interest in a food establishment.

The Committee is composed of a minimum of eight industry and four public representatives. Members are appointed by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health. Meetings are usually held four times a year.

The Food Safety Program is responsible for Foodborne illness investigation, food establishment inspections, establishment permits, and technical assistance to food establishments in Lincoln and Lancaster County. The Food Advisory Committee reviews activities, legislation, policies, and procedures related to the LLCHD’s Food Safety Program for recommendations to the Board of Health.

The Committee has been instrumental in developing the Lincoln Food Code and the Food Handler Training Program. Currently, the Committee is working on revisions to the Food Handler Training and Permitting Program. There are over 16,500 food handlers and managers permitted by LLCHD to work in Lincoln Food Establishments.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Environmental Health Supervisor Joyce Jensen at 441-8033 by December 29, 2008, for an application.

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InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Cathy Pischel
Address: 4621 S 54
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Comment or Question:
I read an article in the newspaper about the possibility of making dumpster diving illegal. "Councilman Camp cautioned that some dumpster divers fish aluminum cans out of dumpsters for recycling."

He is absolutely right. There is no need for all those aluminum cans to go into the landfill.

I am against making dumpster diving illegal at this time.

I would like to see the City Council make recycling mandatory!! That would keep a lot of recyclables out of the landfill. I see so many businesses filling their dumpsters with cardboard, paper, plastic, aluminum and glass that could just as well be recycled!!

At the very least, it would be good to put a refundable deposit on cans and plastic & glass bottles. Perhaps that would keep a lot of those things out of the landfill.

I am curious about why the Lincoln Policy Network (NeighborWorks) is against dumpster diving?

Please consider ways to increase recycling, not decrease it.
Thanks,
Cathy Pischel