IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009

I. CITY CLERK

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL

PRESENTATIONS:

MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler presents April Award of Excellence to Officer Steven Wiese.
2. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will announce priorities for federal energy stimulus grant at a new conference on Tuesday, May 12th, 1:45 pm at the International Quilt Study Center and Museum, No. 33rd and Holdrege Streets. (Sent to City Council Members on 05/11/09)
3. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor outlines priorities for energy stimulus funds.
4. Drinking water samples tested for total Coliform and E. Coli bacteria by the Colilert® method of analysis.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Public invited to annual zoo event.
6. NEWS RELEASE. Phoenix Awards to be presented May 19, 2009.
7. NEWS RELEASE. City receives two awards for workplace safety.

DIRECTORS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln and Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards Ceremony to be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009.

CITY LIBRARIES
1. Lincoln events planned at library; Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America.
2. Lincoln City Libraries and the Asian Community and Cultural Center celebrate Asian/Pacific Heritage Month.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Corinne Kolm email supporting the proposed comprehensive plan amendment which supports programs to increase the sustainability of Lincoln and promoting public wellness.

PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING
1. Response to Jay Endicott ( IV - Correspondence to Council, #5 ) from Thomas Shafer, Engineering Services Manager, providing information on condition of Fletcher Avenue.
WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY
1. Combined Weed Program, City of Lincoln, April 2009 monthly report.

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

JON CAMP
1. Correspondence to Mayor Beutler regarding EMS, Inc’s Request for Proposal. (RFP)

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN
*1. Request to Fred Hoke, Building & Safety Director - RE: Assist the neighborhoods with problems such as graffiti, snow removal, etc. (RFI#20 - 04/09/09)
2. Correspondence from Burma Kroger regarding library board terms.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL
1. Letter Derrick Anderson, MD, President, Lancaster County Medical Society Board regarding concerns over decision to consider eliminating EMS, Inc. As the independent organization to provide medical oversight for pre-hospital providers in our community. (City Council Members received individual letters on May 11, 2009)
2. Faxed letter from Dave Scheffler to Council Members. Do not vote to close the library on 27th and South Streets.
3. Kathy McKillip’s email on Library Board terms.
4. Email from Mary Pat Miller, Save the South Branch Library.
5. InterLinc correspondence from Jay Endicott. Concerned with road condition on Fletcher Avenue from 56th to 70th Streets.
6. Pamela Starr email regarding keeping the South Branch Library open.

V. ADJOURNMENT
Mayor Chris Beutler today presented the Mayor's Award of Excellence for April to Officer Steven Wiese, a 10-year veteran of the Lincoln Police Department. The monthly award recognizes City employees who consistently provide exemplary service and work that demonstrates personal commitment to the City. The award was presented at the beginning of today's City Council meeting.

Wiese is currently assigned as an Investigator with the Technical Investigation Unit, specializing in checks and frauds. Sergeant Sandra Myers nominated him in the category of productivity. Myers said Wiese is tenacious and thorough and is highly regarded by businesses that are often victimized by forgers and those passing counterfeit checks.

One recent case, which resulted in three arrests, involved more than $25,000 in losses from counterfeit checks. Wiese recognized the handwriting on the checks and believed they came from suspects he had previously investigated for similar crimes. Through extensive interviews and photo lineups, Steve tied three suspects into the counterfeit ring.

In January, Wiese arrested two women, clearing a total of 24 felony counterfeit cases. Both women provided information on others involved in the ring. In February, Wiese led a team to serve a search warrant at a Lincoln home. The suspects were reported to be using narcotics and carrying guns, and the house was protected by surveillance equipment. The warrant was successfully served and produced evidence of narcotics, stolen property and handguns. Also found were hundreds of documents supporting forgery and manufacturing of counterfeit checks, identifications and credit cards.

The suspects remain in jail, awaiting trial on numerous felony charges. The information on weapons and narcotics also has contributed to another ongoing case. Myers said this is just one example of the many complicated cases Wiese has successfully investigated, and it demonstrates the role of illegal drugs in local crime.

The other categories in which employees can be nominated are customer relations, loss prevention, safety and valor. Consideration also may be given to nominations that demonstrate self-initiated accomplishments or those completed outside of the nominee's job description.
All City employees are eligible for the Mayor's Award of Excellence except for elected and appointed officials. Individuals or teams can be nominated by supervisors, peers, subordinates and the general public. Nomination forms are available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: personnel) or from department heads, employee bulletin boards or the Personnel Department, which oversees the awards program.

All nominations are reviewed by the Mayor's Award of Excellence Committee, which includes a representative with each union and a non-union representative appointed by the Mayor. Award winners receive a $100 U.S. savings bond, a day off with pay and a plaque. Monthly winners are eligible to receive the annual award, which comes with a $500 U.S. savings bond, two days off with pay and a plaque.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

DATE: May 11, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler will announce priorities for the $2.4 million federal energy efficiency stimulus grant and his plans for public input at a news conference at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 in the second floor reception area at the International Quilt Study Center and Museum, N. 33rd and Holdrege streets. The Center was the first new University of Nebraska building to earn a LEED Silver rating for its environmentally sustainable features.

The main entrance is on the north side, and guest parking is available in the University lot north of the building. Do not use the fire station parking just off N. 33rd.
Mayor Chris Beutler today said his priorities for $2.4 million in federal energy stimulus funds coming to the City are to improve energy efficiency and boost the use of renewable and clean energy technologies across the community. He also said he will seek public input on how the City’s “Cleaner Greener Lincoln” initiative should “invest” the funds. Mayor Beutler made his announcements at a news conference at the International Quilt Study Center and Museum, which has earned a LEED Silver rating for its energy efficient features.

“Lincoln is positioned to be a leader in green building practices and in updating existing buildings to lower energy use,” Beutler said. “We already have the people, businesses and organizations actively making this happen. Lincoln is showing how energy efficiency can be realized while fostering innovation and creating jobs. Energy efficiency puts money in the pockets of taxpayers and electricity ratepayers and builds our economy. Saving green by going green makes sense for Lincoln.”

The City’s Cleaner Greener Lincoln initiative was launched in partnership with the Nebraska Attorney General’s office, which provided $50,000 from a lawsuit settlement. The $2.4 million in stimulus funds to support the effort are available through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

The Mayor has five priority areas for the use of the federal energy stimulus funds:

- Upgrading public buildings, parks and streets to be more energy efficient;
- Boosting community efforts to reduce fossil fuel energy use and promote energy efficiency;
- Supporting demonstrations of affordable, energy efficient building design and the greater use of renewable energy;
- Expanding the use of renewable and clean alternative energy use by the City and in the community; and
- Identifying new “green economy” opportunities for the community.
“These priorities will guide the Cleaner Greener Lincoln program in investing these federal dollars to inject stimulus funds into Lincoln's economy, promote energy savings and create jobs,” Beutler said. “These stimulus investments also will leverage City and community programs and efforts that will garner savings and boost economic opportunity for years to come.” He said the City would seek partnerships with the Lincoln Electric System, Lancaster County, the Public Building Commission, the Mayor's Environmental Task Force, the State energy office, nonprofits and private industry and business leaders.

The public has two opportunities to share their ideas:

- The Mayor encourages residents to comment on uses for the funds through May 27 on the City Web site, lincoln.ne.gov (keywords: green or energy).
- The Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission will have a public hearing Wednesday on adopting changes to the “Community Vision” chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, to include sustainability as a focus of future growth. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. at the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.

The Mayor will announce the City's plan in early June. “We will decide how to invest these stimulus dollars, based in large part on what I hear from the community,” Beutler said. “But that's just the first step. Cleaner Greener Lincoln will continue to reach out to the community as we launch these new ways of making Lincoln more sustainable.”
May 8, 2009

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.

RECEIVED  
MAY 12 2009  
MAYORS OFFICE
LINCOLN FIRE AND RESCUE
1801 “Q” Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-8350, fax 441-7098

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dan Ripley, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, 441-8350

PUBLIC INVITED TO ANNUAL ZOO EVENT
The public is invited to the 26th annual Fun Run/Walk - Zoo Day Saturday, May 16th at the Lincoln Children's Zoo, 1222 S. 27th St. The event is sponsored by Lincoln Fire and Rescue (LFR), the Lincoln Children's Zoo, HyVee, Wayne's Body Shop and radio stations 92.9 The Eagle and 96 KX. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the Fun Run/Walk starts at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at the zoo entrance. Participants will circle the zoo for one mile and finish where the race began. The entire family is welcome.

After the Fun Run/Walk, the fun continues with Fire Safety Day at the Zoo until 3 p.m. LFR invites families with young children to visit the Children's Fire Safety House. LFR also will have a fire engine and ambulance on display, and other fire safety activities will be demonstrated inside and outside of the Zoo.

The Fun Run/Walk is free, and those who participate in it will receive a free train ride around the Zoo. Regular admission will be charged for those entering the Zoo.

For more information on this event contact Firefighter Dan Ripley 441-8360.

For more information on this and other LFR programs, visit our City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: fire).
- 30 -
LINCOLN FIRE AND RESCUE
1801 “Q” Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-8350, fax 441-7098

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Rich Furasek, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, 441-8354

PHOENIX AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED MAY 19
Open houses May 23 also part of National EMS Week

Those responsible for saving the lives of 21 people in 2008 will receive Phoenix Awards Tuesday, May 19. The annual awards ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m. at the People's Choice Federal Credit Union, 2500 “N” St. Lincoln Fire & Rescue and the 911 Emergency Communications Centers present the awards as part of the 36th annual National EMS Week May 17 through 23.

Fire Chief Niles Ford will present more than 100 certificates to the 911 dispatchers, firefighters and paramedics who responded to calls that resulted in a cardiac arrest “save” – reviving a patient who is found by EMS without a pulse and not breathing, or “clinically dead.”

Ford said National EMS Week honors those emergency medical service workers who daily devote their efforts to respond to those with medical emergencies. This year's theme is “A Proud Partner in Your Community.” As part of the observance, all fire stations in the City will host open houses from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 23. The public can tour the facilities and equipment and receive free blood pressure and pulse oximeter checks.

Locations of the fire stations are:
- Station 1 -1801 “Q” St.
- Station 2 -1545 N. 33rd St.
- Station 3 -121 S. 2nd St.
- Station 4 - 5600 S. 27th St.
- Station 5 - 3640 Touzalin Ave.
- Station 6 - 5051 So. 48th St.
- Station 7 - 1340 S. Cotner Blvd.
- Station 8 - 2760 S. 17th St.
- Station 9 - 901 N. Cotner Blvd.
- Station 10 - 1440 Adams St.
- Station 11 - 3401 N.W. Luke St.
- Station 12 - 2201 S. 84th St.
- Station 13 - 1700 S. Coddington Ave.
- Station 14 - 5435 N.W. 1st St.
The City of Lincoln recently received two awards in recognition of its outstanding workplace safety program:

- The City received an “Award of Honor with Distinction” from the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter May 13. The award was presented for outstanding occupational health program results and achievement for 11 consecutive years. The presentation was made at the Safety Council's Safety and Health Summit in Omaha.

- The City received a 2008 Star Performance Award at the Nebraska Safety Council Conference and Exposition in Lincoln April 15. The award was presented in recognition of the City's outstanding record in the areas of injury prevention and safety policies and practices.

“For those who work for the City, the entire community is the work area, and maintaining a safe workplace is a challenge,” said Bob Nemecek, City Safety and Training Coordinator. “The City strives to maintain a safe work environment for all its employees and for the entire City. Employee awareness of safety is still the first line of defense, and education and training are essential.”
CONGRESS

Budget matters are front and center this week. The White House sent Congress the details of its FY 2010 budget proposal this week, while the House Appropriations Committee considered a FY 2009 supplemental appropriations bill for military operations.

President Obama had released an outline of his FY 2010 budget request shortly after he was inaugurated, but then took some time to flesh out recommendations for specific programs. The $3.7 trillion budget proposal includes about $1.2 trillion in non-emergency discretionary spending, which is $10 billion more than what is called for in the FY 2010 budget resolution approved by Congress.

The White House highlighted a list of 121 programs that it recommended for “terminations, reductions, and other savings” that would total approximately $17 billion. Many of the suggestions — such as the elimination of earmarks for water and transportation infrastructure — have been included in budget requests from past Presidents, only to be restored by Congress. Reaction on Capitol Hill to the suggestions was predictable – Republicans claimed that it was not enough, while some Democrats indicated support for some of the programs on the chopping block. The entire list can be found on the White House website here: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/TRS/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/TRS/)

The House is expected to consider the supplemental spending bill on the floor next week, as well as a measure to authorize funds for energy efficient school construction (see related story below). In addition, the House Energy and Commerce Committee may consider a controversial climate change bill, bypassing subcommittee consideration and incurring the ire of Republicans.

Meanwhile, the Senate will consider legislation to impose new regulations on credit card companies, while the Environment and Public Works Committee is scheduled to consider the Clean Water Restoration Act, which includes a controversial expansion of the term “navigable waters.”

HOMELAND SECURITY

Overall DHS budget would increase under President’s budget, but some local programs would suffer reductions. The proposed FY 2010 budget for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would be $42.7 billion, an increase of 6.5 percent over the FY 2009 level. However, citing increases provided by the stimulus bill, programs such as the Firefighter Assistance Program would be reduced.
Some selected DHS program funding recommendations, with difference from FY 2009 (not including stimulus funding) in parentheses:

- $950 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (+$60m)
- $887 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative (+$5m)
- $315 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants (same)
- $420 million for SAFER firefighter hiring grants (+$210m)
- $170 million for Assistance to Firefighters Grants (-$395m -- $210 million in stimulus)
- $150 million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants (+$60m)
- $220 million for flood map modernization (same)
- $250 million for Public Transportation Security Grants (-$150m -- $150 million in stimulus)
- $128 million for surface transportation security grants (+$79m)

The President would also eliminate funding for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) program, to be replaced by a new $40 million Medical Surge Grant program that would address “the growing concern over a lack of staged medical commodities in preparation for a catastrophic incident.”

**HUMAN SERVICES**

A slight increase in spending recommended for HHS. The proposed budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would remain virtually flat in FY 2010 under the White House budget proposal (approximately $78.5 billion in discretionary spending and $828 billion in total spending), but the Administration was quick to point out that the stimulus bill provides $22 billion in discretionary funds to the agency in both FY 2009 and FY 2010.

Virtually all programs at HHS were funded either at or near their FY 2009 levels. The following are some selected HHS program funding recommendations, with difference from FY 2009 in parentheses:

- $7.235 billion for Head Start (+$122m)
- $2.27 billion for Ryan White AIDS (+$20m)
- $2.15 billion for Community Health Centers (same)
- $2.12 billion for the Child Care Block Grant (same)
- $1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant (same)
- $746 million for the Community Services Block Grant (same)
- $1.49 billion for the Administration on Aging (same)
- $2.41 billion for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (-$2.1b)

In addition to the LIHEAP funds mentioned above, the Administration recommends a new $450 million set-aside that would respond to spikes in energy prices.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Many DOT spending proposals could change as reauthorization progresses. President Barack Obama’s overall budget proposal for the Department of Transportation (DOT) in fiscal year 2010 does not appear very different from the spending levels in previous years, though the requests for certain programs could be considered departures from the priorities of the previous administration.

The President’s request for federal-aid highway programs is $41 billion for FY 2010, a slight increase over the FY 2009 level (not including stimulus funds). The proposal also allows for the possibility that the Highway Trust Fund will require a cash infusion from the general fund to keep it solvent. Notably absent from the budget request is a proposal to remove the firewall that protects the Highway Trust Fund from being used for other domestic programs. The White House had proposed this in February, but the idea was met with such resistance that the Administration apparently changed its mind.

The request for the Federal Transit Administration would be $10.3 billion, an increase of $104 million over FY 2009 levels; and in recognition that figures may change in a surface transportation reauthorization bill it “conservatively” recommends a one percent increase across-the-board for all agency programs.

The most notable item in the budget proposal for DOT is $6.2 billion for high-speed rail, which has become the President’s signature policy goal for transportation. Of that amount, only $1 billion would be “new” funding, as $5.2 billion of the total was already included in the stimulus.

The budget proposal also includes $5 billion to create a national infrastructure bank, which would invest funds directly into large-scale capital infrastructure projects with national or regional significance. Of the initial $5 billion allocation, $863 million would be used for direct loan subsidies, $1.15 billion for grants, and $1.7 billion for a direct loan financing account. Such a program, which does have support in Congress, would have as its goal leveraged investment by state, local, and private sources, and would receive $5 billion in federal funding each year until FY 2014.

Obama’s budget request for the Federal Aviation Administration also allows for a change in the financing mechanism of the Airport and Airways Trust Fund, the primary source of revenue for the FAA. The President’s budget overview released in February proposes replacing the $7.2 billion generated annually in aviation excise taxes on fuel and ticket sales with “direct user charges,” which are not defined.

The White House has also proposed eliminating two DOT programs that are popular among Members of Congress. The $25 million Rail Line Relocation Grants program, which is used to move rail lines that interfere with economic development activities in cities and the Surface Transportation Priorities account. All of the funds from this program, totaling $161 million in the FY 2009 budget, are directed by Congress to member-requested projects.

**JOB TRAINING**

Employment and training programs receive small boost in FY 2010 budget proposal. Overall, discretionary programs at the Department of Labor would be funded at $13.3 billion under the President’s plan, an increase of $400 million from FY 2009, and $207 million of that increase would go to programs at
the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Most of the major programs at ETA were funded either at or near their FY 2009 levels. The following are selected program funding recommendations, with difference from FY 2009 in parentheses:

- $861.5 million for Adult Training (same)
- $924 million for Youth Job Training (same)
- $1.4 million for Dislocated Workers ($72m)
- $115 million for Reintegration of Ex-Offenders (+$6.5m)
- $114 million for Youthbuild (+44m)
- $575 million for Senior Community Service Employment (+$4m)
- $1.7 billion for Job Corps (+$20m)

The White House budget would also recommend $50 million for the Green Jobs Innovation Fund, which was authorized by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 but never funded. The program would provide competitive grant opportunities to help workers receive job training in green industry sectors and occupations. According to the ETA, the plan is to use the requested funds to award approximately 25-60 grants and expects that 8,300 participants will receive training.

**COMMERCE**

Obama Budget calls for big boost for Commerce Department as 2010 Census nears. The Department of Commerce would receive a 47 percent funding increase over FY 2009 levels in President Obama’s FY 2010 Budget Proposal. The bulk of the increase would go to the Census Bureau for the decennial census.

Among the myriad of Commerce Department agencies, programs of interest to local governments include the Economic Development Administration, which would see a modest increase of $6 million from FY 2009 levels.

**ENVIRONMENT**

President Obama calls for increased funding for environmental programs. The FY 2010 Budget Proposal that President Obama unveiled this week calls for large spending increases at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Interior. Under the proposal, the overall EPA budget would increase 38 percent from FY 2009 to $10.5 billion while the overall Interior Department budget would grow approximately 7 percent to $12.1 billion.

Among the big winners at EPA would be the Clean Water and the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds, which would see their funding grow to $2.4 billion (+348 percent) and $1.5 billion (+80 percent), respectively. The Administration is proposing that 20 percent of these funds go to grants for “green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities.” Like all of the budgets of the previous Administration, the Obama Administration FY 2010 Budget Proposal would eliminate categorical grants for local water and wastewater infrastructure projects, for a savings of $145 million. Congress is expected to restore that funding, all of which Congress usually earmarks for specific projects.

Other highlights at EPA include $100 million for Brownfield Grants, an increase of $3 million from FY 2009, and $60 million for Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants, the same as FY 2009.

At the Interior Department, highlights for local governments include:

- $53 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (+$10m)
- $30 million for state assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund +$10m)
- $78 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (+$8m)

**ENERGY**

No funding for EECBG in Obama Budget. Although President Obama is proposing a two percent increase above FY 2009 for the Department of Energy’s FY 2010 budget, he does not propose any funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), a top local government priority. Congress did not provide any funding for EECBG in the regular FY 2009 appropriations process but did include $3.2 billion for the newly authorized program in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Energy Secretary Steven Chu told reporters that once stimulus funds are spent, the Administration will seek big increases for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, beginning with its FY 2011 Budget Proposal. Chu did not specify whether those long range plans include EECBG. Local government organizations and local elected officials are planning an intense lobbying effort to ensure that EECBG receives FY 2010 funding and will make the point that in authorizing the program over a five year period, Congress envisioned a program that would be funded yearly via the annual appropriations process. EECBG is authorized at $2 billion a year from FY 2009 through FY 2013.

Highlights for local governments in the proposed FY 2010 Energy Department budget include:

- $220 million for Weatherization Assistance, a 51 percent decrease ($5 billion from stimulus);
- $208 million for Smart Grid Grants, a 52 percent or $71 million increase from FY 2009 ($4.5 billion from stimulus), and
- $75 million for the State Energy Grant Program, a 50 percent or $25 million increase ($3.1 billion stimulus)

**HOUSING & CD**

Obama Budget calls for increased CDBG funding and revives controversial formula change proposal. President Obama is proposing a $43.7 billion budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in FY 2010, a 7.4 percent increase from FY 2009. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) would be among the beneficiaries of that increase and would see their funding grow 14.9 percent to $4.185 billion for formula grants.

However, in a move that some CDBG advocates view warily, the Administration says that it will “propose
legislative reforms to adopt a formula that better targets resources to economically distressed areas.” The Administration says that its proposal will include a “hold harmless” provision to “allow communities to adjust to the new formula.” The Administration also says that its proposal for CDBG will “establish more rigorous performance measures and accountability standards for formula grantees.”

Under the Community Development Fund, which includes CDBG, President Obama is proposing $150 million for a new Sustainable Communities Initiative, a collaborative effort with the Department of Transportation (DOT) that would provide competitive funding to help communities coordinate housing and transportation investments that result in more sustainable local and regional development patterns, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and more transit-accessible housing choices. Regional Planning Grants would receive $100 million for metropolitan planning organizations and local governments to foster cross-jurisdictional partnerships in planning, $40 million would go towards Metropolitan Challenge Grants to help local governments and regions implement in zoning and land use policy changes and $10 million would go towards HUD-DOT joint research designed to research the links between housing and transportation.

The Obama Budget Proposal also calls for the elimination of the HOPE VI program, saying it has met its goal of demolishing 100,000 units of severely distressed public housing. Instead, the President is proposing $250 million for a new competitive grant program, dubbed the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, to “transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs.” Most funds would go towards the preservation and rehabilitation of public housing in coordination with other neighborhood investments as part of a comprehensive local planning process.

The Administration is also proposing a FY 2010 appropriation of $1 billion for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund authorized by last year’s housing bill (PL 110-289). That bill envisioned funding the Trust Fund with a share of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac’s profits, which proved an unreliable source of revenue. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund would distribute funds by formula to the states for the construction, rehabilitation and preservation of housing for low- and very low-income households.

Other highlights of the HUD proposed FY 2010 Budget include (with difference form FY 2009 level in parentheses):

- $1.825 billion for HOME (same)
- $310 million for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (same)
- $1.794 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants (+$117m)
- $17.8 billion for tenant-based Section 8 vouchers (+$1b)
- $8.1 billion for project-based Section 8 assistance (+$1b)
- $2.244 billion for Public Housing Capital (-$206m; $4b in stimulus)
- $4.6 billion for Public Housing Operating (+$145m)
- $765 for Section 202 Elderly Housing (same)
- $250 million for Section 811 Disabled Housing (same)

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Obama Budget Proposal would slash state and local law enforcement assistance. Although the overall FY 2010 budget for the Justice Department would increase 3.8 percent to $26.7 billion, funding for state and local law enforcement assistance would be slashed by $706 million from the FY 2009 level (not including the stimulus), including elimination of the COPS Technology, Byrne Discretionary Grant, Juvenile Justice Discretionary Grant and State Criminal Alien Assistance Programs.

The first three programs are almost entirely earmarked by Congress each year and their proposed elimination did not create too much of a stir on Capitol Hill and will almost certainly be restored by Congress. Congress will also likely ignore the Administration’s proposal to eliminate the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

Overall, the Administration’s proposed FY 2010 budget calls for spending $2.6 billion for state and local law enforcement assistance, including:

- $519 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Formula Grants (-$27m; $2 billion in stimulus)
- $25 million for Weed and Seed (same as FY09)
- $761 million for COPS (+$211m: $298 million for hiring grants, $100 million for offender reentry programs and $25 million for armored vests)
- $414 million for Violence Against Women (-$1m)
- $317 million for Juvenile Justice Grants (-$57m)

**FORECLOSURE**

Senate approves measure to expand assistance to homeowners. Prior to passage, Senators approved an amendment to the legislation (S 896) that would reauthorize federal homeless assistance programs at HUD.

The measure would increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) from $30 billion to $100 billion, with the option of raising it to $500 billion in 2010 if necessary. It would also ease requirements of the $300 billion Hope for Homeownership program, which was created last summer to assist homeowners in refinancing FHA-approved mortgages, but has suffered from a lack of participation – by both lenders and homeowners – because of restrictive eligibility requirements.

The House approved similar legislation earlier this year, but it contains a controversial provision that would allow bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of a loan – otherwise known as a “cramdown.” The Senate bill contains no such language, as Senators rejected an attempt on the floor to add it.

There was a successful amendment to add language that would reauthorize homeless assistance programs at HUD and increase authorization levels by $600 million annually, to $2.2 billion. The amendment also includes an expanded definition of homelessness to cover persons who, though not necessarily living on the street or in
shelters, do not have a permanent residence and are moving from one acquaintance’s house to another. It also would cover people who are 14 days away from losing their homes.

Local government organizations are concerned about such a dramatic expansion, given that most communities struggle to reach those who are eligible under current definitions. The House bill does not contain any homeless language, but a similar bill has been introduced separately in that chamber.

Given the stark differences between the House and Senate bill, a House-Senate conference committee may have some difficulty reconciling the two measures.

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**

House panel clears green schools bill. By a vote of 31-14, the House Education and Labor Committee cleared legislation (HR 2187) that would authorize federal funding for “green” school renovation and modernization projects.

As cleared by the Committee, the bill would authorize $6.4 billion in FY 2010 and “such sums as may be necessary” through FY 2015 for formula grants to school districts for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, including:

- Repairing, replacing, or installing roofs, including extensive, intensive or semi-intensive green roofs, electrical wiring, plumbing systems, sewage systems, lighting systems, windows, or doors, including security doors;
- Repairing, replacing, or installing heating, ventilation, air conditioning;
- Bringing schools into compliance with fire, health, and safety codes;
- Modifications necessary to make facilities accessible to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Abatement or removal of asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, mold, mildew, or lead-based paint hazards;
- Measures designed to reduce or eliminate exposure to classroom noise and environmental noise pollution;
- Modernizations, renovations, or repairs necessary to reduce the consumption of coal, electricity, land, natural gas, oil, or water;
- Upgrading or installing educational technology infrastructure;
- Modernization, renovation, or repair of science and engineering laboratory facilities, libraries, and career and technical education facilities,
- Improvements to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian access, and
- Renewable energy generation and heating systems.

Funds could not be used for maintenance costs, stadiums or other athletic and exhibition facilities, improvement or construction of facilities without the purpose of educating of children (including central office administration or operations or logistical support facilities) or purchasing carbon offsets.

Each school district would have to spend 50 percent of its FY 2010 allocation on projects that meet LEED, Energy Star, CHPS or other similar “green” criteria; that percentage would increase incrementally each year to 100 percent in FY 2015. In addition, Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirement and Buy America requirements would apply to all projects using these funds. Funding would be allocated using the same formula as Title I, which directs funds to schools serving low-income students.

Opponents of the bill argue that school construction is a local responsibility and that the federal government would be overstepping its bounds by funding these projects. The bill now heads to the House floor, possibly next week.

**STIMULUS WATCH**

Weekly update on stimulus activities.

**Department of Agriculture**

Announced $224 million for 110 hazardous fuels reduction and ecosystem improvement projects located on forested lands in over 26 states and territories:

[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?ut/p/_s.7_0/A7_0/1OB?contentidonly=true&ccontentid=2009/05/0147.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?ut/p/_s.7_0/A7_0/1OB?contentidonly=true&ccontentid=2009/05/0147.xml)

**HUD/Energy**

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two agencies to coordinate energy retrofit programs in ARRA:


**Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2) NOFA for the $1.93 billion in competitive funding in ARRA. The deadline for applications is July 17:


NSP Technical Assistance (NSP-TA) NOFA for $50 million. This funding is to provide technical assistance for NSP applicants that HUD has identified as higher risk grantees. The deadline for NSP-TA grants is June 8, 2009:


Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-R) Notice of Program Requirements with information on the differences between ARRA and regular CDBG funding. The deadline for submitting substantial amendments to your Program Year 2008 action plan is June 8, 2009:


HUD will be hosting a series of webcasts next week regarding many of its programs funded in ARRA. Registration to participate in these webcasts is required at:


The schedule of webcasts:

**Homeless Prevention Program:**
May 12 from 11:00am-1:00pm

**Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity:**
May 12 from 11:00am-1:00pm

**Public Housing Capital Fund:**
May 12 from 2:00pm-4:00pm

**CDBG Funds:**
May 13 from 11:00am-1:00pm

**Assisted Housing Green Retrofit:**
May 13 from 2:00pm-4:00pm

**Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2:**
May 14 from 2:00pm-4:00pm
Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Cont.: May 14 2:00pm-4:00pm

In conjunction with the Treasury, HUD also announced plans to award $2.25 billion in grants to state housing finance agencies through the Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP). State allocations and other information can be found at: http://www.hud.gov/recovery/tax-credit.cfm

Department of Interior

Department of Transportation

Department of Treasury
In a joint press release with HUD, the Treasury Department announced funds that will provide for state housing financing agencies with cash assistance to developers of qualified affordable housing developments to fill the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LITC) gap: http://www.ustreas.gov/recovery/docs/TG-120.pdf

Environmental Protection Agency
Announced the availability of $111.9 million in Brownfields cleanup grants. The grants include $37.3 million from the Recovery Act and $74.6 million from the EPA Brownfields general program funding: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/eparecovery/index.htm

Office of Management and Budget
Updated implementing guidance for ARRA is expected this month and is supposed to clarify state and local use of stimulus dollars for administrative costs, make changes to the single audit process, and create a standard procedure to calculate jobs created and retained. OMB issued its most current implementing guidance on April 3, 2009: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_fy2009/m09-15.pdf

GRANTS & NOTICES

Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention
FY 2009 Promoting Child and Youth Safety: Community Initiatives and Public Awareness program. The purpose of this program is to help communities develop and implement evidence-based, field-initiated demonstration projects that promote child and youth safety, and to provide resources and expertise to help communities develop effective public awareness strategies about youth safety. The maximum award for this program is $1,650,000. Applications are due June 15, 2009: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2009/PromotingChildandYouthSafety.pdf

FY 2009 Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Initiative. The Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Initiative will assist jurisdictions characterized by large numbers of offenders returning to their communities after release from a residential confinement. Reentry should include a variety of evidence-based services while the offender is still confined and during his or her reentry into the community to ensure that the juvenile’s transition is safe and successful. To be eligible for funding, the applicant must have developed a reentry strategic plan. Applicants also must have established a reentry task force comprised of specific justice system and community representation. Maximum award is $750,000 and applications are due June 15, 2009: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2009/SecondChanceReentry.pdf
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Daniel N. King 441-8084; Gene Hanlon 441-7043

LINCOLN & LANCASTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 4, at the Nebraska Champions Club. The awards ceremony will recognize businesses, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated environmental leadership and dedication to sustaining and improving air, land, and water quality and protecting public health.

To be eligible for an award, winners must have been instrumental in identifying, reducing, or solving an environmental problem and/or promoting public awareness and concern for the enhancement and protection of the environment. Additionally, winners must have demonstrated active stewardship in one or more of the following environmental practices: pollution prevention/risk reduction, waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, soil conservation, energy conservation, and residential and commercial development.

The 2009 Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Award Recipients are:

- **Business and Industry** – A to Z Printing and WRK, LLC
- **Education** – Pioneers Park Nature Center and UNL Partners in Pollution Prevention
- **Community or Non-Profit Organization** – WasteCap Nebraska

- more -
This year’s ceremony will include a keynote address detailing Lincoln’s Sustainability Plan by Lincoln Mayor, Chris Beutler; and welcoming comments by Bernie Heier, Chair of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners. Rod Fowler from Channel 8 KLKN T.V., will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and community leaders will provide a presentation highlighting the accomplishments of each of the award recipients. The presentations may be viewed online following the June 4 luncheon at www.lincoln.ne.gov keyword: awards.

The Thursday, June 4th Environmental Leadership Awards Luncheon will begin at noon and conclude at 1:30 P.M. Reservations are $15 per person and may be made by calling 441-8023. The reservation deadline is Thursday, May 28.
NEWS RELEASE

Lincoln City Libraries - 136 S. 14th Street - Lincoln, NE  68508
402-441-8500; library@lincolnlibraries.org; www.lincolnlibraries.org

FOR RELEASE:  May 8, 2009
CONTACT:  Pat Leach, Library Director
PHONE:  402-441-8510
E-MAIL:  p.leach@lincolnlibraries.org

LINCOLN EVENTS PLANNED AT LIBRARY
Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America

Experinece the Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America free exhibit at the Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska. Self-Made in America was created to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of America’s greatest president by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The exhibit consists of learning stations covering Lincoln’s childhood, his self-education, career as a surveyor and lawyer, his family life, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, the 1860 Presidential election, the Civil War, the 13th Amendment, the Emancipation Proclamation, his assassination, and other important periods and events in his life. Reproduction artifacts on display include Lincoln’s favorite books; his son Tad’s toy cannon; the nameplate from his Springfield home; his stovepipe hat; an axe that Lincoln used to chop wood; the bloody gloves found in Lincoln’s pocket the night of his assassination and many other unique and interesting items.

Events scheduled during the exhibit’s stay in Lincoln from May 1 – May 29 include:

All month – Families are encouraged to build their own log cabin using materials they have – Lincoln Logs, Legos, etc. for display at the Bennett Martin Public Library. Drop your cabin off at Bennett Martin Public Library or call Barbara for details (441-8512).

Sunday, May 17th – 1 p.m. Welcome Reception at Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets.

Sunday, May 17th – 4 p.m. Ron Rockenbach, member of Civil War Roundtable of Nebraska and historical re-enactor, will present a program illustrating the life of Union and Confederate soldiers through dressing audience members up in the Civil War era clothing and gear.

Tuesday, May 19th – 12 p.m. Film and discussion, 4th floor conference room. Great lunch hour opportunity. View a portion of Lincoln related film and participate in discussion guided by library staff.

For information on this or any programs at Lincoln City Libraries, call 441-8500.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2009
CONTACT: Sheila Jacobs, Library Supervisor
PHONE: 402-441-8546
E-MAIL: s.jacobs@lincolnlibraries.org

Lincoln City Libraries and the Asian Community and Cultural Center Celebrate Asian/Pacific Heritage Month

In celebration of Asian/Pacific Heritage month, the Asian Community and Cultural Center and Lincoln City Libraries will host its 3rd annual Asian Read-In. Community members will read excerpts from works by and about individuals of Asian descent or Asian culture. Drop in at the Asian Center, 2615 O Street, on Thursday, May 28th, from Noon-1:30p.m., and enjoy the program.

The event is free of charge. Readings may be of most interest to middle school age and above.

For more information about this or any other library program, contact the Library at 441-8500, www.lincolnlibraries.org.

Barbara Hansen
Administrative Aide
Lincoln City Libraries
402-441-8512

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Self-Made in America - Experience it at Bennett Martin Public Library through May 29th.
Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for programs that increase the sustainability of Lincoln and thereby promote public wellness. I encourage the Council to support the proposed "sustainability" amendment to the comprehensive plan and to keep a focus on sustainability issues when making decisions on behalf of the citizens of Lincoln.

Thank you,

Corinne Kolm
1845 E St. #3
Lincoln, NE 68508
*** ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION ***
Special Public Hearing
May 13, 2009

NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a special public hearing on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the City-Council Hearing Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska, on the following items. For more information call the Planning Department, 441-7491.

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 11:45 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. in the Mayor’s Conference Room of the County/City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska, for a briefing on proposed amendments to the sign ordinance.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION:

1. Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 09001, to amend the 2030 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to adopt text changes to the Community Facilities chapter as related to the Public Safety - Law Enforcement

   Staff recommendation: Approval
   Staff Planner: David Cary, 441-6364, dcary@lincoln.ne.gov

   Had public hearing.
   Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 7-0 (Carroll and Gaylor Baird absent).
   Public Hearing before the City Council and County Board will be scheduled after the Planning Commission takes action on Comp Plan Amendment No. 09003 and Comp Plan Amendment No. 09004.
2. Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 09003, to amend the 2030 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to adopt text changes to the Community Vision chapter to add the general topic of sustainability.

- **Staff recommendation:** Approval
- **Staff Planner:** Brandon Garrett, 441-6373, bgarrett@lincoln.ne.gov
- **Had public hearing.**
- **Applicant’s request for one-week deferral granted, with CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 1:00 p.m.**

3. Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 09004, to amend the 2030 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to adjust the text in the Residential Chapter regarding Rural Area/Acreage Policy.

- **Staff recommendation:** Approval
- **Staff Planner:** Mike DeKalb, 441-6370, mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov
- **Had public hearing.**
- **Applicant’s request for one-week deferral granted, with CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 1:00 p.m.**

4. Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 09005, to amend the 2030 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to adopt text and diagram changes to the Parks, Recreation & Open Space chapter to add Union Plaza as a Regional Park and to allow Community Parks to serve as Neighborhood Parks.

- **Staff recommendation:** Approval
- **Staff Planner:** Brandon Garrett, 441-6373, bgarrett@lincoln.ne.gov
- **Had public hearing.**
- **Planning Commission recommendation:** APPROVAL, 7-0 (Carroll and Gaylor Baird absent).
- **Public Hearing before the City Council and County Board will be scheduled after the Planning Commission takes action on Comp Plan Amendment No. 09003 and Comp Plan Amendment No. 09004.**


- **Staff Planner:** David Cary, 441-6364, dcary@lincoln.ne.gov
- **Had public hearing.**
- **Planning Commission recommendation:** APPROVAL of the staff recommendation for FINDING OF FULL OR GENERAL CONFORMATION WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, with two amendments as recommended by staff, 7-0 (Carroll and Gaylor Baird absent):
1. Parks & Recreation: Add site acquisition, demolition and site clearing for development of new parking area to serve activities in Antelope Park including Lincoln Children’s Zoo, the Rock Island Trail and the Shildneck Bandshell.

2. Public Works & Utilities, Streets & Highways: Add completion of design engineering and beginning right-of-way acquisition to construct four lanes of pavement along Coddington Avenue from south of Van Dorn to north of West “A” Street.

6. The draft FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Lincoln and Lancaster County planning area (Lincoln MPO).

Staff Planner: Mike Brienzo, 441-6369, mbrienzo@lincoln.ne.gov
Had public hearing.
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL of the staff recommendation for FINDING OF CONFORMANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, with one amendment recommended by staff to add completion of design engineering and beginning right-of-way acquisition to construct four lanes of pavement along Coddington Avenue from south of Van Dorn to north of West “A” Street, 7-0 (Carroll and Gaylor Baird absent).

Planning Dept. staff contacts:

Kent Morgan, Assistant Director ................. 441-7491 . . kmorgan@lincoln.ne.gov
Steve Henrichsen, Development Review Manager 441-6374 . . shenrichsen@lincoln.ne.gov
Mike Brienzo, Transportation Planner ............. 441-6369 . . mbrienzo@lincoln.ne.gov
Tom Cajka, Planner .......................... 441-5662 . . tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
David Cary, Long Range Planner ................. 441-6364 . . dcary@lincoln.ne.gov
Mike DeKalb, Planner .......................... 441-6370 . . mdeckalb@lincoln.ne.gov
Christy Eichorn, Planner .................... 441-7603 . . ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov
Brandon Garrett, Planner ...................... 441-6373 . . bgarrett@lincoln.ne.gov
Rashi Jain, Planner ............................ 441-6372 . . rjain@lincoln.ne.gov
Brian Will, Planner ............................ 441-6362 . . bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Ed Zimmer, Historic Preservation Planner ...... 441-6360 . . ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov

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The Planning Commission meeting
which is broadcast live at 1:00 p.m. every other Wednesday
will be rebroadcast on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. on 5 City-TV, Cable Channel 5.

***

The Planning Commission agenda may be accessed on the Internet at
http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/pcagenda/index.htm
Mr. Endicott,

We are aware of the issues you mention with Fletcher Avenue. There are many important road needs in this community that cry out to be addressed as well with the limited funds that we have. The street work you mention will cover a little over 19 miles during the next two to three years however the city has over 1190 miles of streets it must maintain. Many factors go into consider before the roads are selected for rehabilitation and improvement, including such things as:

Existing Traffic Counts, Future Projected Traffic Volumes, the type of traffic using the roadway, Existing Pavement Condition, Curb and Gutter Condition, Coordination with Utility Projects, Traffic Signal Conditions, Existing landuse and roadway needs, Future landuse and roadway needs, Economic Development Opportunities, Crashes, bus routes, The Type of Road - Residential, Arterial, Collector, Is the roadway a standard or non-standard roadway (i.e. does it need the current city standards for width, presence of curb and gutter, etc.)

Certainly as the City tries to prioritize the projects it desires, one would desire to pick locations of high traffic volumes both existing and future, where by doing the improvement one can expect to help improve the economic opportunities of the adjacent properties to the benefit of the community as would the best we can.

Non-Arterial City Streets need to be upgraded before rehabilitation effort begin, otherwise minimum maintenance efforts are continued. This has been a very long standing policy and has been applied across the city. Property owners adjacent to non-arterial street have paid for their streets to be either constructed or upgraded to city standards. New sub-divisions this cost is part of the cost of the lot, in older parts of town, paving districts are created and costs assessed to those adjacent property owners. Fletcher in a not an arterial and is not a standard street therefore the paving district process must be followed in order to work beyond the minimum maintenance be established. If you’d like to work with the adjacent property owners to request a paving district please follow the link below for more information:


For more information of the City's Pavement Management Program please use the following link:

http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/projects/pavement

Thomas Shafer, PE
Engineering Services Manager

-----Original Message-----
From: Greg S. MacLean
Please check this out and coordinate a response back to Mr. Endicott and City Council. Thanks

From: Tammy J. Grammer
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2009 8:21 AM
To: Greg S. MacLean; Karen K. Sieckmeyer
Subject: FW: InterLinc: Council Feedback

Please see email below. Could you please respond to the email below. This email will be listed on the Directors Agenda for 05/18/09. Please send response to Councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks.

Tammy Grammer
City Council Secretary
441-6867

-----Original Message-----
From: WebForm [mailto:none@lincoln.ne.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 7:47 PM
To: General Council
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Jay Endicott
Address: 4641 Old Cheney Rd. #10
City: Lincoln, NE 68516
Phone: 4023690144
Fax: 
Email: J_Birdy@hotmail.com

Comment or Question:
I'm sure this e-mail will get lost under all the other e-mails that are way more important but i thought i'd try.

I have an issue with a street that I drive on while driving to work. The area that I am referring to is, Fletcher Ave. from 56th too 70th. For the past three years the road has been so rough on my car and my co-workers cars that a few of us have had work done. I don't feel like its my responsibility to pay for these problems. I would hope that all the road work that is to be done this summer this street is one of them. If not, I will e-mail everyday till this problem is fixed. and by the way filling the pot holes only makes the road worse. So some sunday afternoon while your with your families driving in the nice city of Lincoln, drive up to Fletcher Ave off HWY77(56thstreet) and make an attempt to see my concerns.

Thanks for reading this e-mail and to those who ignore me, talk to you tomorrow,

Jay Endicott
Blue Collar worker of Lincoln NE
Inspection Activity
260 inspections on 260 sites were made during the month.

Noxious Weeds
- Made 289 inspections on 289 sites on 1,285 acres.
- Found 247 violations on 188 acres.
  - 188 musk thistle
  - 11 leafy spurge
  - 48 phragmites
- Found no violations on 46 sites.
- Sent 9 notices, 104 letters, and made 59 personal contacts.
- Control is pending on 242 sites.

Weed Abatement
Advance work orders have been prepared on 123 properties that have been habitual problems. Foreclosures are expected to be an increasing problem. Foreclosed properties contributed to the number of forced cuttings last year. Inspections will begin May 18.

Posting Option for Notifications
LB495 allows cities of the primary class (Lincoln) the option of posting of the site for weed abatement violations. The bill has passed. When it becomes law it would be desirable to revise the LMC to add posting of weed abatement violation sites as a notification option.

Phragmites
A total of 48 phragmites sites on 31 acres were found in the City of Lincoln. It is very important that these sites be controlled now since they are posed to expand and contribute seeds to other wetland sites and streams. Photos were taken with a GPS equipped camera. You can see map and photos at www.nrdmapmaker.org/loosestrife and clicking on Lancaster 2009.

APRIL Activities
6 NET Grant Seminar
7 NRCS Mtng
16 NAWMA conference planning, Kearney
23 LPWMA Meeting, Wahoo

Planned MAY Activities
6 Meeting w/ FSA
7 Sheldon Power Plant
8 Streambed Ownership Task Force
18 Begin City Weed Abatement inspections
21 LPWMA Mtng
Mayor Beutler:

I had intended to inquire of you at our Directors’ Meeting yesterday about the discussion on issuing an RFP for EMS, Inc. Rick Hoppe presented the concept at last week’s City-County Commons meeting.

At this point, many of the City Council members are confused and it also appears that some or all of the County Board members are also confused.

Would you please schedule a pre-council, or better yet, an item on next month’s City-County Commons, to explain what is desired?

I did meet with Chief Niles Ford last Thursday and he expressed some ideas and concerns.

As I currently understand this situation, it would appear to me that there are “two” entities or issues. The first pertains to the EMS, Inc., which has board members appointed by the City and carries out the oversight mission defined in the charter of EMS, Inc. The second is the entity to which EMS, Inc. contracts to administer its oversight mission.

Rather than ask numerous questions with little guidance, if you, Chief Ford, EMS, Inc. officials and the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners could jointly present the situation to us (Council and Board of Commissioners), then we could decide the best course of action to pursue.

As I “now” understand the RFP, it would have the bidders define the role of EMS, Inc. and medical oversight, which would appear, at first glance, to put the “cart before the horse”.

Thank you,

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council

ec:        Lincoln City Council
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
]        EMS, Inc., Russ Bayer, Chair
Lancaster County Medical Society, Dr. Derrick Anderson

JON A. CAMP
Haymarket Square/CH, Ltd.
200 Haymarket Square
808 P Street
P.O. Box 82307
Lincoln, NE  68501-2307

Office:        402.474.1838
Fax:           402.474.1838
Cell:           402.560.1001

Email:  joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com
Tammy please post this, from one of the applicants, on the website Thursday.

Robin

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Burma Kroger
To: Robin Eschliman
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2009 6:13 PM
Subject: RE: WRONG DATE

I’m not sure either. Based on my experiences as a school board member and a board trainer, I believe that it takes 2-3 years to really become effective in the role. I rather think that 4 years is too short and 7 years is too long; however, given the choices, I do support your proposal. Thanks for making the effort!

Burma Kroger

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Robin Eschliman [mailto:robine@neb.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 10:19 AM
To: Burma Kroger
Subject: Re: WRONG DATE

I think one of the council members is going to make that motion. I suppose it might still enable to the board to "keep new members out", so I am not sure how I feel about that.

Robin Eschliman

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Burma Kroger
To: Robin Eschliman
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 10:14 PM
Subject: RE: WRONG DATE

Thank you so much for your message regarding library board terms. For the most part I agree that a 7-year term is too long and that it certainly doesn’t take 7 years to learn the job. However, I do have a question: if the library board terms are shortened to 4 years, would a library board member be eligible to be reappointed to a second term, or is the intent of the ordinance to limit the term of office to 4 years only with the thought that more people would be able to serve?

Burma Kroger
bkroger@neb.rr.com
May 8, 2009

Chris Beutler, Mayor
555 South 10th Street
Second Floor
Room 208
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mayor Beutler:

I am writing on behalf of the Lancaster County Medical Society (LCMS) board to share our concerns over the decision to consider eliminating EMS, Inc. as the independent organization to provide medical oversight for pre-hospital providers in our community.

As you know, in the early 1990’s when Lincoln had two agencies providing advanced level of pre-hospital care, representatives from the City Council, LCMS, County Commissioners and the three community hospitals met to discuss how independent medical oversight could become an integral part of our community from that point forward.

After a great deal of discussion, the representatives from these various entities all agreed on forming EMS, Inc. as a separate 501(c)3 entity with a governing board that would assure the independence of medical oversight. This model is unique to Lincoln and as physicians, we feel that uniqueness is one of the major reasons we have maintained such a high quality standard of pre-hospital care. We understand your desire to always consider other options and especially if a citizen has inquired about a specific situation. We respectively disagree with the concept of creating a Request For Proposal [RFP] for the entire process. We would, however, support a suggestion to the EMS, Inc. board to consider issuing an RFP for the management contract. Currently LCMS has that contract, but we would welcome others to bid on it and for the board to have the opportunity to consider other management models.

We feel strongly EMS, Inc. is as important to our pre-hospital system as our providers and our community hospitals. We are unclear about why we would drastically change something that has, by all accounts, contributed significantly to insuring the continued high quality of pre-hospital care in our community.

If EMS, Inc. is eliminated, we feel it leaves the city at risk if the individual or the organization awarded the RFP decides at some point not to renew the contract. The EMS, Inc. board has guaranteed a seamless transition in management changes over the past 15 years during which time they have contracted for management services three different times. We sincerely hope you will take our concerns into consideration and keep EMS, Inc. in place as it was determined by our predecessors to be the best option for maintaining institutional memory and assuring continuity of established policies and procedures.
Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. If you wish, I and other members of our board are available to talk with you about this issue at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Derrick Anderson, MD, President
Lancaster County Medical Society Board

Cc: City Council Members
   County Commissioners
   Robert Lanik, Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center
   Kim Russel, BryanLGH Medical Center
   Russ Bayer, EMS, Inc. Board President
   Terry Rounsborg, MD, EMS, Inc. Medical Director
   Ed Mlinek, Nebraska Emergency Medicine, PC
May 12, 2009

Mr. Doug Emery  
County-City Building  
555 S. 10th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Emery:

Please do not vote to close the library on 27th & South. The library is used a lot, and there must be other places to cut. The last thing this city needs if fewer libraries. Our four girls used this a lot when in school, and I see many your people continuing to use it. It is popular place to just go relax and read.

If there is no way to find funding for the two libraries in question, maybe you could use some of the fund money we seem to have a lot of. Another idea would be to cut back on the hours they are open.

The many libraries are a key element in making Lincoln an enjoyable place to live and raise a family.

A Very Concerned Citizen,

Dave Scheffler  
1801 Pepper Ave.  
Lincoln, NE 68502
Dear Council Members,

As the most recently appointed Lincoln Library Board of Trustees Member, I would like to Thank You and also say, that I will not be testifying regarding the change in term limits for Board Members.

I understanding the reasoning behind this movement, and would like to say that, as a participant of many community boards, it does take time to learn and adjust in order to be as an effective member as possible, especially when dealing with city budgets and budgeting cycles.

Many community board member terms are much longer. The potential option of re-appointment after a 4 year team, in my experience does not always produce the most effective or efficient members as they seem to be hesitant to fully commit knowing that they may or may not be reappointed. There seems to also have been several opportunities for individuals to be appointed for less than the 7 year limit, as I for one am filling out a term that for reasons of life, became vacated. So, there is opportunity, for individuals to be appointed to the board before terms expire.

If there are applicants that have applied multiple times, and are disappointed about not being selected, I can understand, and appreciate their dedication to the process. However, there are many other community boards that are seeking qualified and committed members that could use their participation.

I believe that if you are to consider changing the term limits for the library board, then you must also consider doing the same for other city related boards and term limits that are longer than 7 or more years.

Thank you for your time and commitment to the City of Lincoln,

Kathy

Kathy McKillip, MPA,MS
Executive Director
Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission

* Nebraska Department of Economic Development
* 301 Centennial Mall South
* P.O.Box 94666
* Lincoln, NE. 68509-4666 USA
This is my library. It is a big part of feeling that I get that I am a part of a community.

As a senior citizen I watch my driving miles and in today’s world it makes sense to bring services closer to the people and not further away. I feel keeping libraries in the older part of Lincoln is important to keeping the central part of the city vital.

Please give every consideration possible to keeping the library and other services closer to the younger and older citizens.

PLEASE SAVE THE SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY

Thank you,

Mary Pat Miller
Name: Jay Endicott
Address: 4641 Old Cheney Rd. #10
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone: 4023690144
Fax: 
Email: J_Birdy@hotmail.com

Comment or Question:
I'm sure this e-mail will get lost under all the other e-mails that are way more important but i thought i'd try.

I have an issue with a street that I drive on while driving to work. The area that I am referring to is, Fletcher Ave. from 56th too 70th. For the past three years the road has been so rough on my car and my co-workers cars that a few of us have had work done. I don't feel like its my responsibility to pay for these problems. I would hope that all the road work that is to be done this summer this street is one of them. If not, I will e-mail everyday till this problem is fixed. and by the way filling the pot holes only makes the road worse. So some sunday afternoon while your with your families driving in the nice city of Lincoln, drive up to Fletcher Ave off HWY77(56thstreet) and make an attempt to see my concerns.

Thanks for reading this e-mail
and to those who ignore me, talk to you tomorrow,

Jay Endicott
Blue Collar worker of Lincoln NE
Dear Council members:

South Branch is a vital part of our community, and serves a large and diverse clientele that includes residents of many income brackets, and many ethnic groups. The staff is superb, and superbly helpful at all times. Children are especially well served there. Our neighborhood needs and deserves this wonderful asset. Please find a way to re-allocate the (admittedly challenged) budgetary funds so that South Branch can remain open serving the community.

Thanks for your attention to this important matter.

Pamela Starr  
2401 Calvert Street  
--  
Pamela F. Starr  
Professor of Music History  
University of Nebraska  
108 Westbrook  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0100  
402-472-5122 (tel.)  
402-472-8962 (fax)  
Secretary, American Musicological Society
ADDENDUM
TO
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009

I. CITY CLERK - None

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL -

MAYOR -

1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of May 16 through May 22, 2009 - Schedule subject to change (Forward to Council on 05/15/09).

2. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: The Media invited to cover the “Taking Charge” community conversation on the City budget on 05/16/09 at the UNL East Campus Union (Forward to Council on 05/15/09).

3. Letter from Mayor Beutler to Derrick Anderson, M.D., President, Lancaster County Medical Society and Letter from Dr. Anderson - RE: The Request for Proposal process.

DIRECTORS -

PARKS & RECREATION -

1. Special News Conference on 05/21/09 at 10:00 a.m., at Trago Park, 22nd & “U” Street - RE: Announce a new initiative that impacts the future of Lincoln Parks & Recreation and our community.

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS -

1. E-Mail from Jon Camp to Mayor Beutler - RE: South 56th Street - - Hwy 2 to Shadow Pines.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL - None
DATE: May 15, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule
Week of May 16 through May 22, 2009
Schedule subject to change

Saturday, May 16
• “Taking Charge” public discussion, introductory remarks - 9:15 p.m., UNL East Campus Union, Great Plains Room

Monday, May 18
• Reception for outgoing City Council members, present medallions - 11 a.m., outside Mayor's Office, second floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.
• Chair City Council meeting for election of officers - 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, County-City Building

Tuesday, May 19
• St. Monica's luncheon - 11:30 a.m., Chez Hey, 210 N. 14th St.
• The Schemmer Associates 50th anniversary reception, remarks - 5 p.m., Federal Trust building, 134 S. 13th St., Suite 1100
• Insurance Women of Lincoln meeting, remarks and proclamation - 6 p.m., Valentino's, 35th and Holdrege streets

Wednesday, May 20
• Kickoff for Downtown Performance Series and Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run, remarks - 12:50 p.m., Foundation Garden, 1415 “N” St.

Thursday, May 21
• KFOR Morning Show - 7:45 a.m.
• News conference - 10 a.m., topic and location to be announced

Friday, May 22
• Terry Bundy retirement reception, present medallion - 3:15 p.m., Walter A. Canney Service Center, 2620 Fairfield St., multipurpose room
DATE: May 15, 2009  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

The media are invited to cover the “Taking Charge” community conversation on the City budget Saturday, May 16 at the UNL East Campus Union. Those taking the online budget survey had the opportunity to sign up for the discussion, and about 150 people are expected to take part. Mayor Beutler and City Directors also will attend.

The Mayor will make remarks at about 9:15 a.m. Large group sessions are scheduled for the following times:

- 9:20 to 10 a.m.
- 11:40 a.m. to 12:55 p.m.
- 2:35 to 3:25 p.m.

I will be there all day, so can help you coordinate interviews. I will have my cell phone - 525-1520. Parking is available in the lot north of the East Campus Union.
May 12, 2009

Derrick Anderson, M.D.
President
Lancaster County Medical Society
5625 O Street, Suite 3
Lincoln, NE 68510

Dear Dr. Anderson:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Request for Proposal process. I am heartened by the commitment of the medical community toward ensuring that we maintain an outstanding pre-hospital care system. I share your commitment.

As Mayor, it is my responsibility to ensure not only a high level of emergency ambulance care from Lincoln Fire & Rescue, but also to provide a high level of efficiency for both ambulance users and Lincoln taxpayers. Toward that end, it is important that we periodically examine the structure and operations of the contractors we entrust with medical oversight. With the EMS Inc contract with the City set to expire at the end of August, it seemed like a good time to explore our options and determine if EMS Inc remains the most appropriate model for oversight or if other potential models would better serve the public.

I want to assure you and your colleagues with the Lancaster County Medical Society that I am committed to independent, medical oversight of the system. Regardless of what entity is chosen to provide medical oversight, a Board of medical professionals will help guide it’s decisions. In addition, I am fully committed to including the medical community in deciding which model best meets of the community. That model could very well prove to be the one offered by the EMS Inc Board.

However, it would be imprudent to assume EMS Inc would remain as the oversight authority before we have even learned what options exist. I understand that an Emergency Room physician, Dr. Ed Mlinek, is interested in making a proposal. He has indicated that he has a philosophical difference with the EMS Board on how emergency medical oversight and medical direction can be provided. How can Dr. Mlinek’s proposal be fairly judged if the ultimate arbiter of his proposition is the Board that would be potentially impacted? That strikes me as a potential conflict of interest that must be avoided in this process.

I agree that the institutional memory must be preserved. But that concern can easily be remedied by ensuring that medical community leaders who are familiar with the current system’s strengths and weaknesses are included in both the selection process and the subsequent Board that helps guide the oversight provider’s medical decisions.
May 12, 2009
Derrick Anderson, M.D.
Page 2

However, I disagree with your assertion that we must continue to do business the same way simply because we have done so in the past. We should continuously evaluate our City contracts and services to ensure excellence as part of a strong management ethic in City government. As Mayor, it is my job to give it to them. I will be in contact with you and the LCMS Board as the RFP process moves forward to seek your help and guidance.

Again, thank you for your passion and commitment to Lincoln’s medical emergency response system.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chris Beutler
Mayor of Lincoln
May 8, 2009

Chris Beutler, Mayor
555 South 10th Street
Second Floor
Room 208
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mayor Beutler:

I am writing on behalf of the Lancaster County Medical Society (LCMS) board to share our concerns over the decision to consider eliminating EMS, Inc. as the independent organization to provide medical oversight for pre-hospital providers in our community.

As you know, in the early 1990's when Lincoln had two agencies providing advanced level of pre-hospital care, representatives from the City Council, LCMS, County Commissioners and the three community hospitals met to discuss how independent medical oversight could become an integral part of our community from that point forward.

After a great deal of discussion, the representatives from these various entities all agreed on forming EMS, Inc. as a separate 501(c)3 entity with a governing board that would assure the independence of medical oversight. This model is unique to Lincoln and as physicians, we feel that uniqueness is one of the major reasons we have maintained such a high quality standard of pre-hospital care. We understand your desire to always consider other options and especially if a citizen has inquired about a specific situation. We respectfully disagree with the concept of creating a Request For Proposal [RFP] for the entire process. We would, however, support a suggestion to the EMS, Inc. board to consider issuing an RFP for the management contract. Currently LCMS has that contract, but we would welcome others to bid on it and for the board to have the opportunity to consider other management models.

We feel strongly EMS, Inc. is as important to our pre-hospital system as our providers and our community hospitals. We are unclear about why we would drastically change something that has, by all accounts, contributed significantly to insuring the continued high quality of pre-hospital care in our community.

If EMS, Inc. is eliminated, we feel it leaves the city at risk if the individual or the organization awarded the RFP decides at some point not to renew the contract. The EMS, Inc. board has guaranteed a seamless transition in management changes over the past 15 years during which time they have contracted for management services three different times. We sincerely hope you will take our concerns into consideration and keep EMS, Inc. in place as it was determined by our predecessors to be the best option for maintaining institutional memory and assuring continuity of established policies and procedures.
Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. If you wish, I and other members of our board are available to talk with you about this issue at your convenience.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Derrick Anderson, MD, President
Lancaster County Medical Society Board

Cc: City Council Members
   County Commissioners
   Robert Lanik, Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center
   Kim Russel, BryanLGH Medical Center
   Russ Bayer, EMS, Inc. Board President
   Terry Roundsborg, MD, EMS, Inc. Medical Director
   Ed Mlinek, Nebraska Emergency Medicine, PC
"Please join us for a special news conference at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 21 at Trago Park, 22nd and U Streets during which Mayor Chris Beutler and Parks and Recreation Director Lynn Johnson will announce a new initiative that impacts the future of Lincoln Parks and Recreation and our community”

Thank you!!"
Mayor Beutler:

Mr. Bob Black called today, after visiting with Thomas Shafer in Public Works, about the condition and expansion of South 56th south from Highway 2 to approximately Shadow Pines.

You will recall many other citizens have made similar requests, one most recently in conjunction with my request that the federal stimulus funds that Lincoln is receiving, be applied to this vital project.

Please give this further consideration and acceleration in our CIP (Community Improvement Plan).

Since you are personally in the process of moving to Village Gardens at 56th and Pine Lake Road, you will personally experience the frustration of this underdeveloped and ignored section of Lincoln’s arterial network.

I am not suggesting this project be escalated for your benefit, but rather that it is one important segment in Lincoln’s transportation system that truly needs to be completed.

Thank you for your immediate consideration, especially as you prepare the update of our CIP.

Jon

ec: Bob Black
    Thomas Shafer
    Greg MacLean, Director, Public Works
    Lincoln City Council

JON A. CAMP
Haymarket Square/CH, Ltd.
200 Haymarket Square
808 P Street
P.O. Box 82307
Lincoln, NE 68501-2307

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Cell: 402.560.1001

Email: joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com

"If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves."

- Thomas Alva Edison