IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011

I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR
1. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler and a FirstCall representative will discuss a malfunction in the notification system at a news conference at 2:30 p.m., Monday, January 10, 2011 in the Mayor’s Conference Room, 555 S. 10th Street.
2. NEWS RELEASE. FirstCall takes responsibility for overnight phone calls.
3. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler presents December Award of Excellence to James Newman of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Crash disables wayside horn at 35th and Adams. Trains will sound horns in quiet zone until repairs are made.

CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTER
1. City of Lincoln Parking Ban/Snow Removal Update. Monday, January 10, 2011, 4:00 p.m.
2. City of Lincoln Parking Ban Update. Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 2:30 p.m.
3. City of Lincoln Parking Ban Update. Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

III. DIRECTORS:

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. NEWS RELEASE. Flu activity reported in Lincoln. Two cases confirmed with the number of individuals testing positive for flu increasing.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln completes the year with over 90% tobacco compliance rate!

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Administrative Amendment No. 11001 to Special Permit No. 1311, approved by the Planning Director on January 4, 2011.

PLANNING COMMISSION

IV. COUNCIL RFI’S/CITIZEN CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

DOUG EMERY
1. Reply to InterLinc correspondence from Bradley Moss regarding sale of fireworks.
JOHN SPATZ
1. Letter from John Spence regarding the snow ban calls to citizens.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS
1. Email from Gene Hanlon urging Council to vote against resolution to support legislation to reform the CIR.
2. Email from Joel Wilson regarding the snow parking ban fines. (Sent to Police Department for response)
   a) Tom Casady, Chief of Police, reply to Mr. Wilson.
   b) Reply to Chief Casady’s from Joel Wilson.

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

DATE: January 10, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler and a representative of FirstCall will discuss a malfunction in the notification system for parking bans at a news conference at 2:30 p.m TODAY, Monday, January 10 in the Mayor’s Conference Room, third floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.

The FirstCall representative will participate via phone. The news conference will be carried live on 5 CITY-TV, Time Warner Cable channel 5.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, Fax 441-7120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 10, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831  
Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management, 441-7441  
Rusty Jabour, FirstCall, 225-505-3104

FIRSTCALL TAKES RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR OVERNIGHT PHONE CALLS

A private company today took full responsibility for phone calls that were made overnight to many Lincoln area residents. The City contracted with FirstCall, an emergency notification system based in Louisiana, to notify residents by phone in the case of parking bans and emergencies. The FirstCall system was activated about 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon to notify residents that Mayor Chris Beutler had declared a snow emergency effective at 4 p.m.

“We understand that receiving a call in the middle of the night can be alarming, and we sincerely apologize to all those affected,” said Matt Teague, President of FirstCall Networks. “About 90 percent of the calls were successfully completed in 90 minutes. Our staff is trained to stop all non-emergency calls at 10 p.m., and in this case, that did not occur. We take full responsibility for this and will make sure this does not happen again.”

Teague said residents can call FirstCall at 800-653-9232 for an explanation. He said it was the first time the company had experienced a problem like this in its 13 years of operation.

It was the first time the City used the system to notify residents of parking bans. When the system is activated, about 53,000 calls are to be made to all land line phones in the Lincoln area and to the cell phones of those who have pre-registered. The FirstCall system can make 3,000 calls per minute.

“This service is intended to be a tool to help residents stay informed on parking bans and avoid the cost of tickets and towing,” Mayor Beutler said. “We also plan to use the system for severe weather and other types of emergencies.”

Lancaster County Emergency Director Doug Ahlberg said FirstCall was used successfully in July to notify about 2,400 residents in the area of the Lincoln Regional Center about an escapee. FirstCall was selected through an bidding process, and the City is paying the firm $28,000 for 157,000 minutes of service. The City will not be charged for yesterday’s snow emergency notification.

- more -
Ahlberg said many residents may not have answered their phones because their caller ID systems displayed an unfamiliar area code (225 for Baton Rouge). In the future, the caller ID will be changed to indicate it is a call from the City of Lincoln.

The City remains in a snow emergency, and parking is banned on both sides of emergency snow routes, arterial streets and City bus routes. The City can issue two other types of parking bans:

- In eight snow removal districts, parking may be prohibited on both sides of the street. These districts include streets in Downtown; University Place; Havelock; Bethany; College View; 11th and “G”; 17th and Washington; and 25th and Sumner. Maps can be found at lincoln.ne.gov.

- During a residential parking ban, parking is first banned on the even-numbered (north and east) side of the street. Once the Mayor has terminated that ban, parking will be banned on the odd-numbered (south and west) side of the street, and parking is again permitted on the even side.

In addition to the FirstCall system, the City also sends information to the new media and posts notices on the City website (lincoln.ne.gov) and government access cable channels 5 and 10. Some residents also have signed up to be notified of snow operations through Twitter (twitter.com/lincolnsnow).

Vehicles parked illegally during snow emergency, snow removal district or residential parking bans are subject to fines, towing and storage costs at the owners’ expense. Vehicles parked in a way that does not allow emergency vehicles to pass may be ticked for obstructing a public street.
MAYOR PRESENTS DECEMBER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Mayor Chris Beutler today presented the Mayor’s Award of Excellence for December to James Newman of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD). 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.

Newman has worked as an Environmental Health Specialist for the City since 2005. Supervisor John Chess nominated him in the categories of customer relations, productivity, and safety for his work inspecting and testing private water wells in the City. During the past year, Newman inspected 514 water wells, collected 708 water samples and worked with more than 150 newly annexed homeowners.

Chess cited several examples of Newman’s dedication to helping people:
• A family whose well tested positive for coliform bacteria and E. Coli already had taken a child to the doctor for lower gastro-intestinal distress, and the parents planned to begin using the well water in their baby’s formula. Newman asked the State Health Department for help to videotape the well, which revealed a breach in the casing. Repairs were made, and further sampling showed the well water was safe to drink. Chess said Newman’s quick actions and follow through prevented further illness in the family.

• Newman helped another family replace a contaminated and improperly placed well that was causing health issues. The homeowner wrote, “We don’t know what we would have done through this period if it weren’t for Jim.”

• Newman ‘s quick action in another case prevented dozens of children from becoming ill at a childcare center served by a contaminated well.

In addition to his regular job duties, Newman is a member of LLCHD’s Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team and is taking graduate courses in GIS/GPS to enhance the Water Quality Section’s implementation of this technology.

- more -
The other categories in which employees can be nominated are loss prevention 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 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.
CITY OF LINCOLN ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION #4

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<tr>
<th>SUBJECT: MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES</th>
<th>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2011</th>
<th>A.R. NUMBER: 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>APPLIES TO: ALL DEPARTMENTS</td>
<td>REPLACES: AR #4 Issued 01-01-2010</td>
<td>PAGE 1 of 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PURPOSE: To establish mileage reimbursement rate paid to city employees when using personally owned vehicles for official city business.

SCOPE: Applies to all employees.

POLICY: Effective January 1, 2011, city employees, who are authorized by their Department Director to use a personal vehicle for official city business, shall be reimbursed at a rate of fifty-one cents (51) per mile for each mile traveled pursuant to Administrative Regulation #9.

Each employee shall be required to submit a signed claim documenting the mileage to the Director or Department Head on the last working day of each month. A copy of the mileage record shall be attached to the claim requesting reimbursement.

Directors and/or Department Heads must approve the mileage claim and forward it to the City Controller. In most cases, reimbursement will be made in approximately ten (10) days after the employee submits the mileage claim.

[Signatures]
Administrative Assistant

Mayor
CRASH DISABLES WAYSIDE HORN AT 35TH AND ADAMS

Trains will sound horns in quiet zone until repairs made

Train horns will be sounded in the railroad quiet zone in the area of 35th and Adams until the wayside horns at that location can be replaced. A railroad equipment shed at the intersection was hit by a car Monday, damaging the connection to the wayside horns. The intersection was closed Monday while gates and lights were tested and determined to be fully functional. The intersection was reopened Tuesday.

When Burlington Northern Santa Fe receives a replacement shed, Adams Street will be temporarily closed for installation. The connection to the wayside horns will be repaired as soon as the new shed is in place.

In a separate incident, a railroad crossing gate arm was hit by a truck early this morning on 33rd Street just south of Cornhusker Highway, and a lane closure is possible in that area today.
CONGRESS

112th Congress opens as Republicans take control of the House. Newly-elected House Members and Senators were sworn-in this week with two distinct atmospheres. On one end of the Capitol, Republicans were brimming with confidence as they elected Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) the new Speaker of the House and will now enjoy the trappings of the majority. Things were more subdued on the Senate side, where Democrats pleaded with their GOP counterparts to tone down the obstructionism that has plagued the chamber in recent years.

Much of the week was reserved for the pomp and circumstance of a new Congress, and the only minor surprise was the refusal of 19 House Democrats to vote for Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) for Speaker. Pelosi will serve as Minority Leader but must work to convince the dwindling moderates in her caucus that she is the right person for the job. House Members also voted to approve a series of new House rules presented by new GOP leadership, some of them controversial.

The House also voted this week to lower their own office and committee budgets by five percent, and GOP leadership touted the move as proof that they were serious about reducing spending. The move is expected to generate about $33 million in savings (the current deficit is approximately $1 trillion), and has already resulted in layoffs on Capitol Hill.

House Republican leadership also announced that there would be a vote next Wednesday on a repeal of the health care law that was enacted last year. A great majority of the new GOP members campaigned on the promise of health care repeal, and GOP leadership decided to get to it right out of the gate. The vote is expected to be largely symbolic, however, as the Democratically-controlled Senate is not expected to take it up and the President has vowed to veto any repeal measure.

In news from the Senate, Majority Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) indicated this week that he doubts that the chamber will have the 60 votes necessary to end expected Republican filibusters to appropriations bills that contain earmarks. Durbin, who is also a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, pointed to the inability to approve an FY 2011 omnibus appropriations bill containing earmarks late last year - when Democrats held 59 seats in the chamber -- as a signal that efforts this year would also be thwarted. Democrats now hold 53 seats in the Senate.

The Senate will not reconvene for legislative business until January 25.

BUDGET

New House rules focused on budget and transparency. On a party line vote of 240-191, the House adopted the rules this week that will govern the body in the 112th Congress. The rules package includes a number of changes that reflect the Republican majority’s focus on cutting spending, cutting taxes, and increasing the transparency of House proceedings.

On the budget front, the rules package eliminates the “pay-as-you-go” mechanism, which required that all new mandatory spending and tax cuts be offset. In its place, it institutes a “cut-as-you-go” mechanism, which exempts tax cuts from the offset requirement. The rules package also makes an exception to the “cut-as-you-go” rule for a number of Republican priorities, most notably repeal of the health care law. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that
repealing the law would add $230 billion to the deficit through 2021.

Another notable change to the House Budget process includes a provision that will allow the House Budget Committee Chairman to unilaterally set the cap for FY 2011 discretionary spending. The absence of a FY 2011 Budget Resolution has left that cap undefined. Though FY 2011 is over three months old, Congress has yet to finalize discretionary spending for the fiscal year. Currently, the federal government is operating under a temporary Continuing Resolution (CR) that expires on March 4 and one of the first orders of business for the 112th Congress will be to finalize FY 2011 discretionary spending. House Republicans campaigned on a promise of cutting FY 2011 spending by $100 billion in an effort to start taking immediate action on the deficit.

However, when Ryan issues his cap on FY 2011 spending, the cuts may be more in the range of $60 billion. Whatever the final number, the House will exempt the Defense Department and the Department of Homeland Security from any cuts, meaning that domestic programs will bear the brunt of any FY 2011 discretionary spending cuts. Senate appropriators do not share the budget cutting zeal of their House counterparts, which will complicate efforts to finalize the FY 2011 budget.

Further complicating matters, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner announced this week that the federal government will reach the statutory debt ceiling as soon as March 31 and House Republicans are hoping to use the debt ceiling to extract major spending cuts. Based on the rhetoric this week, it would appear that both sides prefer to “play chicken” on the debt ceiling issue. However, given the potentially catastrophic fallout that would come from a federal government default, one side will likely “blink” at some point in the next 12 weeks.

Most of the rest of the changes to the House rules are designed to increase the transparency of the House proceedings, including requirements that:

- Bills be posted online for three days before the House considers them,
- Committees webcast all hearings and markups.

for hearings and three days of notice for markups and
- Committees webcast all hearings and markups.

The new rules also reinstate the six-year term limit for committee chairmen, require that all bills cite the constitutional authority that allows Congress to address the underlying issue and repeal the voting authority of the delegates from the District of Columbia and the territories.

The new rules could considerably slow the pace of action in the House, especially when combined with the recently released House calendar (http://bit.ly/hw7rnj), which features at least one “constituent work week” every month save April.

However, the looming expiration of the CR on March 4 combined with the need to increase the debt ceiling as soon as three weeks later means that the House will be addressing major issues in the first months of the 112th Congress.

**TRANSPORTATION**

New House rules could have serious effects on transportation funding. One of the first orders of business for the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives was to adopt new rules for the 112th Congress. H.Res 5, the rules package, included a provision that may put future transportation funding in jeopardy.

This rule, adopted by the House along party lines, alters rules that essentially guarantee that spending for highway and transit programs cannot be set below authorized levels. This rule, in place since 1998, was designed to prevent transportation funds from being tapped for other purposes and to guarantee a consistent revenue stream for long-term planning.

While the new rule guarantees that Highway Trust Fund (HTF) dollars must be spent on transportation programs, Congress could now choose to fund those programs at lower levels and use the difference to mask the deficit. The rule would also bar spending on non-authorized programs such as the Obama Administration’s livable communities initiative or the popular TIGER grant program.

Supporters of the rule highlight their desire to reduce the government’s obligation to spend money on surface transportation projects that cannot be financed through the HTF, which has happened several times in recent years. Additionally, some recognize the opportunity for appropriators to regain more control over the transportation spending process. Appropriators have clashed with transportation authorizers because authorizing legislation actually appropriates some funds for transportation projects and reduces the amount appropriators have to allocate during their legislative process.

Opponents of the rule, including incoming Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) Chairman John Mica (R-FL), raised concerns about the loss of a guaranteed funding source for important but costly transportation projects. Additional concern arises from the new limits on influence the T&I Committee has over its own authorizing legislation. Mica and Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-OH) attempted to soften the transportation rule changes but the proposals were rejected by House Republicans.

Democrats in both the House and Senate have been very critical of this particular rule change, as have organizations as varied as the Chamber of Commerce and labor unions.

**HOUSING**

Congress authorizes key affordable housing programs for the Elderly and People with Disabilities. In the last hours of the 111th Congress, the House and Senate cleared legislation to reauthorize the Section 811 disability housing program and the Section 202 elderly housing program. With the House leadership promising to review funding for a wide array of programs, reauthorization of these two programs may help protect them from elimination. The President signed both bills into law on January 4, 2011.
The disabled housing measure authorizes $300 million a year from FY 2011 to FY 2015 in the Section 811 program and adds a demonstration program on community integration for people with disabilities. The demonstration program allows developers to combine rental assistance from Section 811 and other capital subsidy programs. By combining rental assistance, developers will be able to provide supportive housing within mainstream developments and increase the number of units provided through Section 811. The FY 2010 HUD Budget funded the program at $300 million.

The elderly housing legislation updates the Section 202 program by encouraging increased participation from nonprofit developers, private lenders, investors and state and local funding agencies and streamlining the process to promote new construction of housing for seniors, preserving existing developments, and improving the condition of existing housing through Project Rental Assistance Contracts. The bill also includes provisions to help with the development of assisted living facilities for the elderly. Authorized funding for the program will remain at the FY 2010 level of $825 million.

**GRANTS & NOTICES**

**Federal Transit Administration**
FTA is accepting proposals for the Innovative Transit Workforce Development Program. Proposals should support products and approaches that improve workforce development practices and programs occurring in public transportation. FTA anticipates entering into cooperative agreements with public transportation operators. Eligible applicants include urban and rural transit agencies, state departments of transportation providing public transportation services, and Indian Tribes. Approximately $1,000,000 is available for the program. Future funding will depend on appropriations. Applications are due on March 15, 2011: [http://bit.ly/hulPjX](http://bit.ly/hulPjX).

**Office of Justice Programs**
OJP is accepting Second Chance Act Technology Careers Training Demonstration Projects for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles Program. Grant funds can be used for occupational training activities and the purchase of equipment or supplies necessary for a training program. The maximum grant size is $750,000 and there is no match requirement. Pending the outcome for the FY 2011 appropriations process anticipated in March 2011, BJA may make as few as no awards or as many as five awards in this fiscal year under this program. Applications must be submitted by March 3, 2011: [http://bit.ly/hrrI74](http://bit.ly/hrrI74).

**Federal Emergency Management Association**
FEMA is now accepting applications for the FY 2010 Fire Prevention & Safety Grants (FP&S). The primary goal of FP&S grants is to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of deaths and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards. This year applicants in the General Education/Awareness Category will receive further consideration if their comprehensive smoke alarm installation and education program addresses the needs of the disabled in their community. Applicants will also be asked to provide information about their organization’s current Fire Prevention and Safety capabilities for the FY 2010 program. These questions are not scored and will not have an impact on the outcome of an application. The application deadline is February 4, 2011: [http://bit.ly/eSPn76](http://bit.ly/eSPn76).
CITY OF LINCOLN
PARKING BAN/SNOW REMOVAL UPDATE

A COMPLETE VOICE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT 441-7783. THIS NUMBER IS FOR NEWS MEDIA USE ONLY.

For more information:
Public Works Snow Center -- 441-7644
Citizen Information Center -- 441-7547

Date: Monday, January 10, 2011
Time: 4 p.m.

MAYOR ANNOUNCES RESIDENTIAL PARKING BAN

Mayor Chris Beutler has announced that a residential parking ban will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, January 11. At that time, parking will be banned on the even-numbered sides of the street in all residential areas.

Mayor Beutler also announced that the snow emergency parking ban for Lincoln will be lifted at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, January 11. Where allowed, parking will again be available on major streets and bus routes after this time.

City street crews continue a full-scale plowing effort with 80 units addressing the City’s snow emergency routes, major arterials and bus routes.

Lincoln Police Department reports 30 accidents between the hours of midnight and 3 p.m. today. StarTran buses are currently running on time.

Please stay informed on the status of snow operations in Lincoln. Additional information is available on the City website at lincoln.ne.gov and in your Windstream phone directory. If you have questions, you may call the Public Works Snow Center at 441-7644.

-30-
Mayor Chris Beutler has announced that the residential parking ban will change at midnight tonight. At that time, parking will be banned on the odd numbered sides of the street in all residential areas. Parking will again be permitted on the even side.

A parking ban for the new snow removal districts also will be in effect the next three nights.
In these districts, parking will be banned on both sides of the street from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In these areas, snow is plowed into windrows, loaded into trucks and hauled out of the area. A map of the eight snow removal districts is available on the City website at lincoln.ne.gov. The districts include streets in the following areas: Downtown, University Place, Havelock, Bethany, College View, 11th and G, 17th and Washington and 25th and Sumner.

About 70 crews have been clearing the even sides of residential streets since midnight last night. School and event cancellations have decreased traffic in the City, and the Lincoln Police Department reports only six accidents since midnight. StarTran buses are running on schedule.

Residents are asked to clear snow from fire hydrants and make sure sidewalks are clear, particularly at crosswalks and curb lines. It is illegal to push or blow snow into or on any street alley or sidewalk.

Please stay informed on the status of snow operations in Lincoln. Additional information is available on the City website at lincoln.ne.gov and in your Windstream phone directory. If you have question, you may call the Public Works Snow Center at 441-7644.
Mayor Chris Beutler has announced that the residential parking ban will be lifted at 4 p.m. today, Wednesday, January 12. At that time, parking will again be permitted on both sides of the streets in residential areas.

The parking ban in the snow removal districts will remain in effect the next two nights. In these districts, parking will be banned on both sides of the street from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. Thursday and Friday mornings. A map of the eight snow removal districts is available on the City website at lincoln.ne.gov. The districts include streets in the following areas: Downtown, University Place, Havelock, Bethany, College View, 11th and G, 17th and Washington and 25th and Sumner.

Remember that it is illegal to push or blow snow into or on any street alley or sidewalk. Violators are subject to a fine.

Please stay informed on the status of snow operations in Lincoln. Additional information is available on the City website at lincoln.ne.gov and in your Windstream phone directory. If you have question, you may call the Public Works Snow Center at 441-7644.
FLU ACTIVITY REPORTED IN LINCOLN

Two cases of flu have been confirmed in Lincoln and the number of individuals testing positive for flu is increasing. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department reports that within the last week, local flu activity has begun to increase. Health Director, Judith Halstead is strongly recommending that all individuals 6 months and older who have not yet obtained a 2010-2011 flu immunization, do so as soon as possible. According the Health Director, this is especially true for those at greatest risk for complications due to flu.

The current strains of flu viruses that are being seen are all covered by the 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine. Flu vaccination is the primary method for preventing influenza. Influenza is a highly infectious disease of the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and at times can lead to death. About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies develop that protect against influenza virus infection.

While everyone should get a flu vaccine each flu season, it’s especially important that certain people get vaccinated either because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications or because they live with or care for people at high risk for developing flu-related complications. Those at high risk include:

- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Pregnant women
- People who have certain conditions including, asthma, neurological and neuro-developmental conditions, chronic lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders, diabetes, kidney disorders, liver disorders, metabolic disorders, weakened immune system, people younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy, people who are obese.

Other people for whom vaccination is especially important are:

- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
  - Health care workers
  - Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
  - Household contacts and caregivers of children younger than 5 years of age with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children younger than 6 months of age (children younger than 6 months are at highest risk of flu-related complications but are too young to get vaccinated)

There is plenty of flu vaccine available and easily accessible in the community. Individuals needing a flu immunization should contact their health care provider or locate a community flu immunization location. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department provides flu immunizations by appointment to children and low-income uninsured adults. All children between the ages of 6 months through 18 years of age will be provided a flu vaccine as part of the Department’s childhood immunization program. The Department will also provide flu vaccine to adults who are low-income and not covered by insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or other third-party payers. Appointments to obtain flu vaccine through the Lincoln-Lancaster
County Health Department can be made by calling 441-8065. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department is located at 3140 N Street. Vaccine appointments are available Monday through Friday.

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Lincoln Completes the Year With Over 90% Tobacco Compliance Rate!

In 2010, the Lincoln Police Department and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department conducted 414 tobacco compliance checks of businesses that sell tobacco products. During the 414 tobacco retailer checks, 34 illegal sales of tobacco to minors (8.2%) were made resulting in a 91.8% compliance rate of businesses refusing to sell tobacco to minors. “Research shows that youth are less likely to use tobacco products when more than 90% of businesses consistently do not sell tobacco to minors,” says Pam Rowe, Public Health Educator at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. “While we met this significant benchmark in 2010, our goal remains to achieve 100% compliance. This will only be accomplished as all retailers commit to checking all youth IDs and refuse to sell to minors.”

Nebraska State law says that no tobacco products can be sold to youth under the age of 18. During compliance checks, cooperating minors use their own identification and make no attempt to look older than their age. The minors travel with Lincoln Police Department officers and attempt to purchase tobacco products from randomly selected retailers in the community.

If a retailer refuses to make the sale, a congratulatory letter is sent to the business saying that an employee successfully refused selling tobacco to a minor. If an illegal sale is made, the law enforcement officer immediately issues a citation to the employee for selling tobacco to a minor, and a letter detailing the infraction is sent to the store’s manager.

To support all tobacco retailers and help employees avoid selling tobacco to minors, a free Tobacco Retailer ID Training is offered on a quarterly basis by the Lincoln Police Department. The training provides information about State and local tobacco laws, Nebraska State IDs, how to refuse a tobacco sale, and why compliance checks are conducted. Many people who have been ticketed for selling tobacco to a minor attend the class to help them prevent future sales. Retailers may also require all newly hired and existing employees to attend to ensure the law is followed.

A tobacco compliance check is one strategy in Tobacco Free Lancaster County’s (TFLC) comprehensive plan to keep youth from starting to use tobacco products. TFLC is a coalition of over 50 local agencies and individuals dedicated to preventing youth tobacco use in our community. For more information, go to http://tobaccofreelancastercounty.org or call 441-6225.

-30-

Enclosure: List of Retailers that Sold Tobacco Products to Minors in 2010
Lincoln Completes the Year With Over 90% Tobacco Compliance Rate!
January 11, 2011
Enclosure

**Lincoln Retailers that Sold Tobacco Products to Minors in 2010**

* indicates more than one sale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Al Noor</em></td>
<td>1307 S 11th Street</td>
<td>Kwik Shop</td>
<td>2040 S 56th Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>BP Amoco</td>
<td>2200 N 48th Street</td>
<td>*Kwik Shop</td>
<td>2330 N 1st Street</td>
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<td>C Station</td>
<td>1120 S Coddington</td>
<td>Kwik Shop</td>
<td>4750 Calvert</td>
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<td>Casey's</td>
<td>1001 S 13th Street</td>
<td>Russ's</td>
<td>2840 S 70th Street</td>
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<td>Casey's</td>
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<td>Castle's Liquor</td>
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<td>Save Mart</td>
<td>2727 N 11th Street</td>
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<td>City Mex Market</td>
<td>338 N 27th Street</td>
<td>Shell Food Mart</td>
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<td>Tobacco Shack</td>
<td>4741 Holdrege</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HyVee Gas</td>
<td>1515 N 84th Street</td>
<td>U-Stop</td>
<td>8231 O Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabredlos</td>
<td>3291 Holdrege</td>
<td>Wagner’s IGA</td>
<td>3008 A Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabredlos</td>
<td>3560 N 48th Street</td>
<td>Walgreens</td>
<td>2600 S 48th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabredlos</td>
<td>4002 Adams</td>
<td>Walmart</td>
<td>3400 N 85th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabredlos</td>
<td>600 West A Street</td>
<td>Yankee Hill Amoco</td>
<td>640 W Prospector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kong Liquor</td>
<td>1401 N 56th Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Tobacco Free Lancaster County is a joint effort that focuses on keeping youth from starting to use tobacco, reducing access to tobacco products, and eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke. It’s funded by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the tobacco master settlement agreement._
Memorandum

Date:  January 11, 2011
To:      City Clerk
From:    Teresa McKinstry, Planning Dept.
Re:      Administrative Approvals
cc:      Jean Preister

This is a list of the Administrative Approvals that were approved by the Planning Director from January 4, 2011 thru January 10, 2011:

**Administrative Amendment No. 11001** to Special Permit No. 1311, Sunrise Estates Community Unit Plan, approved by the Planning Director on January 4, 2011, requested by Gary Floyd, to enlarge building envelope “C” on Lot 3, Block 2, on property generally located at N. 88th St. and Avon Lane.
A Technical Committee meeting is scheduled as follows:

DATE: January 20, 2011  
TIME: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 113, County/ City Building

AGENDA

- Roll Call and Acknowledge the "Nebraska Open Meeting Act"

1. Review and action on the draft minutes of the November 4, 2010 Technical Committee meetings.
2. Review and action on the Center for People in Need (CFPIN) application for Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) grant funding based upon the Project Selection Task Force recommendation. This includes an amendment to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program.
3. Review and action on revisions to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program.
   a) State of Nebraska program revisions and amendments.
   b) City of Lincoln: Streets and Highways program revisions and amendments.
   c) City of Lincoln: StarTran program revisions and amendments.
4. Review and action of the draft Lincoln MPO Environmental Justice Action Strategy to be used in the current Long Range Transportation Planning process. This sets forth a strategic approach to be employed by the Lincoln MPO in fulfilling its EJ agenda and implementing Federal Title VI requirements in formulating a new Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in coordination with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.
5. Briefing on the draft Goals and Objectives as the Evaluation Criteria to be used in the current Long Range Transportation Planning update process.
6. Review and action of acceptance on the 2010 Lincoln MPO Travel Demand Model Update and Enhancement. The model update and the Travel Demand Model Validation Report was completed by LSA Associates, Inc. (Executive Summary enclosed) The Lincoln MPO contracted the development of a travel demand model based upon TransCAD software that is intended to simulate current 2009-10 travel conditions. The Technical Committee is asked to review the travel model data in the validation report. If model validation is found acceptable, the travel model will be used as the base network in developing traffic projections for the Lincoln MPO Long Range Transportation Plan and other transportation planning activities in the Metropolitan Area. The full Travel Demand Model Validation Report is located on the Lincoln MPO web page.
7. Other topics for discussion
NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 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 LPlan Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., in Room 113 of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, immediately following the regular meeting in the City Council Hearing Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska, for a briefing on "Wind Farm Legislation".

**PLEASE NOTE: The Planning Commission action is final action on any item with a notation of “FINAL ACTION”. Any aggrieved person may appeal Final Action of the Planning Commission to the City Council by filing a Notice of Appeal with the city Clerk within 14 days following the action of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission action on all other items is a recommendation to the City Council or County Board.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011

[All members present]

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held December 15, 2010. **APPROVED 8-0 (Gaylor Baird abstained)**
1. **CONSENT AGENDA**  
   (Public Hearing and Administrative Action):

**CHANGE OF ZONE:**

1.1 Change of Zone No. 10027, from AG Agricultural District to H-4 General Commercial District, on property generally located at N. 54th Street and Alvo Road.  
   **Staff recommendation:** Approval, subject to a revised Annexation Agreement  
   **Staff Planner:** Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov  
   **Planning Commission recommendation:** APPROVAL, subject to a revised Annexation Agreement, 9-0.  
   Public Hearing before City Council will be scheduled when the associated amendment to annexation agreement is completed.

**PERMITS:**

1.2 Special Permit No. 10035, for a health care facility, on property generally located at S. 48th Street and Old Cheney Road.  
   ***FINAL ACTION***  
   **Staff recommendation:** Conditional Approval  
   **Staff Planner:** Christy Eichorn, 441-7603, ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov  
   **Planning Commission ‘final action’: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated December 30, 2010, 9-0.  
   Resolution No. PC-01219.

1.3 Special Permit No. 10036, to operate an enclosed vehicle disassembly operation, on property generally located at N. 44th Street and Cornhusker Highway.  
   ***FINAL ACTION***  
   **Staff recommendation:** Conditional Approval  
   **Staff Planner:** Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov  
   **Planning Commission ‘final action’: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated December 29, 2010, 9-0.  
   Resolution No. PC-01220.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1.4 Street & Alley Vacation No. 10018, to vacate the north 15 feet of “L” Street from the east right-of-way line of S. 7th Street to a point 215 feet east of such right-of-way line and to vacate the east 15 feet of S. 7th Street from a point 15 feet south of the north right-of-way line of “L” Street to a point 10 feet north of the south right-of-way line of “M” Street, generally located at S. 7th Street and “L” Street.  
   **Staff recommendation:** Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan  
   **Staff Planner:** Christy Eichorn, 441-7603, ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov  
   **Planning Commission recommendation:** A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 9-0.  
   Public Hearing before the City Council will be scheduled when the provisions of Chapter 14.20 have been satisfied.
2. **REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL:** None.

3. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None.

* * * * * * * * * *

AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO

* * * * * * * * * *

* Briefing by Planning staff on “Wind Farm Legislation”.

**PENDING LIST:** None

Planning Dept. staff contacts:

Steve Henrichsen, *Development Review Manager* . . . 441-6473 . . shenrichsen@lincoln.ne.gov
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, *Long Range Planning Manager* . 441-6373 . . ntooze@lincoln.ne.gov
Mike Brienzo, *Transportation Planner* . . . . 441-6369 . . mbrienzo@lincoln.ne.gov
Tom Cajka, *Planner* . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 441-5662 . . tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
David Cary, *Planner* . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 441-6364 . . dcary@lincoln.ne.gov
Mike DeKalb, *Planner* . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 441-6370 . . mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov
Christy Eichorn, *Planner* . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 441-7603 . . ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov
Brandon Garrett, *Planner* . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 441-6373 . . bgarrett@lincoln.ne.gov
Sara Hartzell, *Planner* . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 441-6371 . . shartzell@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* . . . . . . . . 441-6370 . . ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov

* * * * *

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
TO : Mayor Chris Beutler  
    Lincoln City Council  
FROM : Jean Preister, Planning  
DATE : January 13, 2011  
RE : Notice of final action by Planning Commission: January 12, 2011

Please be advised that on January 12, 2011, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted the following resolutions:

1. **Resolution No. PC-01219**, approving **Special Permit No. 10035**, requested by Hoppe Hall, Inc., for authority to develop a health care facility for a public clinic, on property generally located at South 48th Street and Old Cheney Road.

2. **Resolution No. PC-01220**, approving **Special Permit No. 10036**, requested by Charles Devries, for authority to operate an enclosed disassembly operation within an existing building addressed as 3500 North 44th Street, on property generally located at North 44th Street and Cornhusker Highway.

This is final action unless appealed to the City Council within 14 days of the action by the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission Resolutions may be accessed on the internet at [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov) (Keyword = PATS). Use the “Search Selection” screen and search by application number (i.e. SP10035 and SP10036). The Resolution and Planning Department staff report are in the “Related Documents” under the application number.
TO : Mayor Chris Beutler
   Lincoln City Council

FROM : Jean Preister, Planning

DATE : January 13, 2011

RE : Notice of final action by Planning Commission: January 12, 2011

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PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
NOTIFICATION

TO : Mayor Chris Beutler
    Lincoln City Council

FROM : Jean Preister, Planning

DATE : January 13, 2011

RE : Notice of final action by Planning Commission: January 12, 2011

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Mr Moss,

I will share this with my fellow council members. I do know there was a lot of feedback when we lengthened the selling period last year and much of it was anti-extending and were adamant about not allowing it on New Years. We will see if there is interest.

Thanks

Doug Emery

---

From: WebForm [none@lincoln.ne.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2011 1:45 PM
To: Doug Emery
Subject: InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
Doug Emery

Name: Bradley Moss
Address: 421 Cottonwood Drive
City: Lincoln, NE, 68510
Phone: 402-325-9028
Fax:
Email: mmoss2@neb.rr.com

Comment or Question:
Please can you try to open a two day selling period of fireworks before New Year's Eve. I ask on the account of the bill passed by the state allowing fireworks to be sold for two days before New Year's Eve if the City Council agrees on it. Also because the constitution states that everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness which makes me and many others happy and doesn't endanger the well being of others if used correctly. If the city of Lincoln passes this it will prevent the police from responding to so many firework related calls so they can deal with the drunk drivers instead. So with this said I ask as a United State citizen that you many bring this topic to the attention of the City Council.

-Bradley Moss
3141 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

January 11, 2011

Mr. John Spatz
City Council
City of Lincoln
County-City Building
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Spatz,

Monday morning at 3:00 am I received a robocall concerning the Mayor's declaration of an snow emergency.

I think it is absolutely imperative that the City of Lincoln cancel it's contract with FirstCall Network. There is no excuse for the citizens of Lincoln to be awakened in the middle of the night by errant emergency robocalls. FirstCall had been entrusted with private telephone numbers of Lincoln citizens to be used appropriately in a time of real emergency – they violated that trust. The parable of the shepard boy crying “wolf” when he was lonely certainly comes to mind. I will be opting out of this call list regardless of what good it might provide in the future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Spence
From: genehanlon@windstream.net
Sent: Sunday, January 09, 2011 12:54 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Resolution to support legislation to reform the CIR

I am writing regarding item 27 on the Council agenda for Monday January 10th. The resolution supports legislation to "improve and reform" the Commission on Industrial Relations. I am not able to attend the public hearing but would like to comment on this.

I am a 23-year employee with the City and currently serve on the board of the Lincoln City Employee Association. I assume that the Council representative that is introducing this resolution has been working with a state senator on draft legislation. It would be nice to know the specifics of the legislation you are endorsing and what kind of "reforms and improvements" you are asking the City council to support.

Lacking this information, I did some research on the CIR and learned that it was formed in 1947 and signed into law by Governor Val Peterson. The CIR focused on employees in public utilities. In 1969, the legislature and Governor Norbert Tiemann expanded the CIR to cover all public employees. Governors Charles Thone, Mike Johanns and Dave Heineman appointed the current 5 commissioners on the CIR. The Legislatures and governors playing key roles in the establishment and evolution of the CIR have been Republicans not some wide-eyed socialists.

So that leads me to the question, why is there a need to "reform and improve" the CIR? An organization that ensures that public employees in Nebraska receive comparable wages and benefits.

With no draft legislation I must rely on what I’ve read in the newspaper regarding concerns expressed by elected officials about the CIR. One complaint I’ve heard is that wage rates should be compared to the private sector in the community not with similar government entities. My concern with this approach is to ensure that you comparing apples to apples. For example, an accountant in public works and utilities with over to a $90 million budget should not be compared to an accountant for a small retail business with $1 million in annual sales. Although they both follow the same accounting principles and scope and complexity of the city accountant are much greater.

What concerns me more is that my sense is that the goal of some advocates for changes in the CIR do not wish public employees to have any checks and balances of abuses by their employers that the CIR provides. I believe these individuals wish to have the same control over employees as do the private sector employers that have no union representation. What is the private sector model the City Council wants to follow? Is it the Circuit City example in which they laid-off all of their long-term and experienced workers and hired entry-level persons to reduce their personnel costs? I dearly hope not!

Elected officials have also commented that the City’s “ability to pay” should also be considered in determining local wages for government workers. How does one determine “ability to pay”? The City of Lincoln’s current mill levy is .28 per $100 of assessed valuation while its statutory limit is .45. The City is also going into the FY11-12 with close to an $11.3 million unused tax lid authority. Based on this, the City Council and Mayor of Lincoln has the “ability to pay” comparable wages and benefits.

My sense of the motivation for this resolution is that it is based on a vocal group of conservatives that believe every tax dollar is a wasted dollar. They advocate for a more limited government and no increase in taxes. They wish to reduce the checks and balances the CIR provides for public employees in limiting employer abuses.
The "reforms" in the CIR sought by these individuals not only affect city workers but all the other government workers in our great City. According to the Nebraska Department of Labor there were 39,207 government workers in Lincoln. In addition, there were another 13,992 people working in education. These people are focused on providing valuable public services to Lincoln residents not on the CIR. However, they will be, if changes are made that adversely affects their right to a fair, comparable wage and benefits.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.
Dear City Council:

I just became aware that there is a parking ban in affect because I received a steep (in my opinion) fine of $35 for being parked in MY car’s usual spot. As you might guess this is a bit irritating, as this should have been a warning ticket not a fine. I didn’t even realize there was a parking ban in affect, though I am NOW, NOW THAT YOU WANT TO STEAL MORE OF MY MONEY! I have no issue with moving my vehicle; my issue is that just because the city makes an attempt to alert people to the ban it can assume they succeeded.

Also I have heard about the calling program, which while a nice effort; apparently needs some tweaking. I just asked one of my co-working about it and apparently they were called during the middle of the night (3AM). That is completely inappropriate and inexcusable; I wouldn’t be surprised if it violates Federal law either. My feeling at least, and I’m sure I’m not alone; is that proactive contact like this is a good idea and once the kinks are worked out it will help with issues like I have right now; but it doesn’t give you the RIGHT to immediately issues fines for violating an unrealized ban.Warnings should still be issued first.

So, now that I have gotten my rant of my chest and I’m calm enough to not break my keyboard while continuing this (though you should know the kinds of emotions you elicit from your voters). Is there a form I can fill out to have my fine nullified or do I just have to be mugged by my government AGAIN?

Sincerely,

Joel Wilson
Mr. Wilson,

The City Council has asked me to respond to your email. I am sorry you got a ticket for violating the snow emergency parking ban, but that’s our job. Hopefully next time we get a significant snowfall in Lincoln, you will watch TV, listen to radio, or otherwise check to see if there is a ban. Generally, when there is a snowfall of around 4" or more, you can expect that there is a good likelihood that a snow emergency may be declared. Sometimes snow emergencies are declared early in the storm, when a large snowfall is forecast. This is always widely publicized on all of the local news media outlets. This year, for the first time, the City attempted to use an outbound calling service, just to add one more form of notification. It is my understanding that the vendor had some kinks that resulted in a failure to stop the calls late at night, but that they have rectified whatever the problem was with their system.

Regards,

Tom Casady, Chief of Police

On Thu, 13 Jan 2011 08:14:32 -0600 Council Packet <CouncilPacket@Lincoln.ne.gov> wrote:
> Please see below. Please send a response to this office also.
> Thank you,
> Mary
> From: Wilson, Joel [mailto:Joel.Wilson@VerizonWireless.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2011 4:19 PM
> To: Council Packet
> Subject: Snow Parking Ban Fines - Inappropriate to NOT issues warnings
> 
> Dear City Council:
> 
> I just became aware that there is a parking ban in affect because I
> received a steep (in my opinion) fine of $35 for being parked in MY
> car's usual spot. As you might guess this is a bit irritating, as this
> should have been a warning ticket not a fine. I didn't even realize
> there was a parking ban in affect, though I am NOW, NOW THAT YOU WANT
> TO STEAL MORE OF MY MONEY! I have no issue with moving my vehicle; my
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idea and once the kinks are worked out it will help with issues like I have right now; but it doesn't give you the RIGHT to immediately issues fines for violating an unrealized ban.

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Sincerely,

Joel Wilson
I'm glad to hear that the phone issue has been corrected. And I appreciate receiving an actual response rather than just a standard form response.

Despite my disagreement with the current policy on this, I do feel that overall you all have been doing a good job for the city. That statement being for both Tom and the council members.

Joel Wilson
Cell & Office: (402) 500-0549

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Thomas K. Casady [mailto:tcasady@lincoln.ne.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2011 10:30 AM
To: Wilson, Joel 
Cc: CouncilPacket@Lincoln.ne.gov
Subject: RE: FW: Snow Parking Ban Fines - Inappropriate to NOT issues warnings first

Mr. Wilson,

The City Council has asked me to respond to your email. I am sorry you got a ticket for violating the snow emergency parking ban, but that's our job. Hopefully next time we get a significant snowfall in Lincoln, you will watch TV, listen to radio, or otherwise check to see if there is a ban. Generally, when there is a snowfall of around 4" or more, you can expect that there is a good likelihood that a snow emergency may be declared. Sometimes snow emergencies are declared early in the storm, when a large snowfall is forecast. This is always widely publicized on all of the local news media outlets. This year, for the first time, the City attempted to use an outbound calling service, just to add one more form of notification. It is my understanding that the vendor had some kinks that resulted in a failure to stop the calls late at night, but that they have rectified whatever the problem was with their system.

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