IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011

I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler’s public schedule for the week of February 19, 2011 through February 25, 2011.
2. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will hold a news conference on Tuesday, February 22nd, at 555 S. 10th Street, Room 303, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the salaries of City Department Directors and Mayoral Aides.
3. NEWS RELEASE. Directors and mayoral aides to take pay cut.
4. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will hold a news conference, Thursday, February 24, 2011, 10:00 a.m., at 555 S. 10th Street, Mayor’s conference room to discuss the July 4th celebration and the Polar Plunge scheduled for Saturday.
5. NEWS RELEASE. City employees to take Polar Plunge Saturday.
6. NEWS RELEASE. City’s Independence Day celebration to be July 2.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

III. DIRECTORS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Meeting Agenda for February 24, 2011.

PLANNING COMMISSION

WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS
1. InterLinc correspondence from R. Lee Lamson questioning the arena tax after being assured there would be no increased taxes.
   a) Reply from Dan Marvin, West Haymarket Project Administrator, with attached links to articles which were discussed on arena financing prior to the vote.
2. Phone message from Alan More, asking Council to look into the City budget, specifically the amount spent on city employees benefits.
3. Kathy Benecke’s comments, and thank you, on the lights at Sunken Gardens.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Date: February 18, 2011
Contact: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule
Week of February 19 through 25, 2011
Schedule subject to change

Monday, February 21 - City offices closed for Presidents’ Day

Tuesday, February 22
- Corrections Joint Public Agency meeting - 9 a.m., Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.
- KFOR - 12:30 p.m. (pre-recorded)
- Living Proof Live conference organizational meeting, remarks - 7:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 4400 N. 1st St.

Wednesday, February 23
- “Mayors Ask What Youth Can Do” visit with students, remarks - 10:43 a.m., Lincoln High School, 2229 “J” St.
  Caroline Kennedy has asked the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Mayors across the country to join her in commemorating the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s inauguration. Mayors have been asked to speak to students about the importance of civic engagement and ways they can become involved in their communities.

Thursday, February 24
- KLIN - 8:10 a.m., 4343 “O” St.
Mayor Chris Beutler will discuss the salaries of City Department Directors and Mayoral Aides at a news conference at **10 a.m. Tuesday, February 22 in Room 303, third floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.**
DIRECTORS AND MAYORAL AIDES TO TAKE PAY CUT  
Mayor again urges Legislature to slow down State aid cuts and reform CIR

Mayor Chris Beutler announced today that he is ordering a one-half percent reduction in the salaries of City Department Directors and Mayoral Aides for the 2011-2012 budget year. With tough budget choices ahead, Beutler said they offered to make the cut to send the right message to their fellow employees and the community.

“I am proud of my staff and their willingness to stand up for the City,” Beutler said. “They have taken to heart the message I have given for all four years of my administration – we are all in this together, and City Hall must share the realities faced by Lincoln families, many of whom are only now starting to recover from the long national economic crisis.”

The past two years, salaries for Directors and Mayoral Aides were frozen for one year and nearly flat the next. With 1.5 percent inflation, the pay cut will leave them with a 2 percent reduction in real purchasing power. The salary decrease will save the City about $10,825 in the next fiscal year. Just as important as the savings, Beutler said, is the example his staff is setting that sacrifices must be shared by all. And he renewed his call for the State Legislature to reconsider proposed cuts in revenues for cities and to reform the Commission of Industrial Relations (CIR).

“The State is on track to take Lincoln’s $1.8 million dollars in local aid, even though State aid to local governments was designed specifically to keep down local property taxes,” Beutler said. “At the same time, State laws on public employee pay and the CIR leave us little negotiating room to address the State aid cut by seeking concessions from City employees.”

Beutler said more than 50 percent of the City tax-funded budget goes to police, fire and 911 services. His budgets have eliminated 120 positions, about 8 percent of the civilian workforce. He said State aid cuts and State-mandated labor increases could force cuts in public safety and higher property taxes.

“The Legislature has a real choice to make,” Beutler said. “Does it force its budget problems onto the backs of property tax payers or does it give us some options to deal with the cuts? We have been a willing player in trying to find solutions such as CIR reform to slow the growth of labor costs. We are willing to work together on other solutions. But I am not willing to quietly sit back and allow the State to force its budget problems on the City without giving us the tools to deal with it.”
DATE: February 23, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler will discuss the City’s annual 4th of July celebration at a news conference at 10 a.m. Thursday, February 24 in the Mayor’s Conference Room, 555 S. 10th St. The Mayor also will discuss his participation in this Saturday’s “Polar Plunge” fund-raiser for Special Olympics Nebraska.
CITY EMPLOYEES TO TAKE POLAR PLUNGE SATURDAY

Mayor Chris Beutler and Urban Development Director Dave Landis will join a team from the Parks and Recreation Department to participate in Saturday’s Polar Plunge, an annual fund-raiser for Special Olympics Nebraska. Teams will jump into Holmes Lake starting at 11 a.m. to support the 4,000 athletes who compete in Special Olympics across the State.

“Hosting the Special Olympics USA National Games last summer was a great honor and a great experience for Lincoln,” Mayor Beutler said. “The Polar Plunge is one of the ways we can keep that spirit alive in Lincoln and throughout the State.”

The Mayor encouraged the public to attend the event and cheer on the teams. Donations will be accepted at the event and can be made online at www.sone.org.

The Parks and Recreation Department sponsors the Lincoln Shooting Stars Special Olympics team. It’s the largest Special Olympics team in the City with about 160 athletes. Several team members have graduated from the Special Olympics Nebraska/Gallup University Athlete Leadership Program and serve as Athlete Ambassadors. Parks and Recreation also sponsors a Youth Athletes Program for children between the ages of two and seven.

This will be the fourth year, the Parks and Recreation team is participating in the Polar Plunge. Its theme this year is “Grease Greece is the Word” in honor of the Special Olympics World Games in Athens this summer. A member of the Shooting Stars team, Anne Youngscap, will participate in aquatics in the World Games. For the Polar Plunge, team members will be dressed in togas and 1950s attire. The team has won the award for the Most Original Team Theme the past two years.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 24, 2011  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

CITY’S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION TO BE JULY 2

Mayor Chris Beutler today announced that the City’s annual Independence Day Celebration will take place on Saturday, July 2 instead of July 4 to cut down on expenses. The event at Oak Lake Park will include fireworks, family games and activities and refreshments.

“I was disappointed that our City budget challenges forced us to cut funding for our annual Fourth of July celebration, the Uncle Sam Jam,” Mayor Beutler said. “In celebrating our pride as Americans during the birthday of our nation, the event creates community bonds, and once those are broken, they are difficult to restore. So I ordered my staff to come up with possible solutions to hold our annual 4th of July activities and still meet our budget challenges.”

The Mayor said the City budgeted about $50,000 for the 2010 event, and about 80 percent of that cost is personnel. When the event is on July 4, the City must pay staff regular overtime and holiday overtime. Police Officers provide security and traffic control for the celebration, and Police Chief Tom Casady said the date change will cut his department’s expenses by 40 percent. Money also will be saved because other City staff will be able to set up for the event on Friday, a regular work day. Oak Lake Park also will be opened mid-afternoon on July 2 instead of 1 p.m.

“While some things will change, some will remain the same,” Mayor Beutler said. “Families will still be able to count on the same great fireworks display as in years past, again sponsored by Pepsi. Parks and Recreation Department staff will provide traditional family activities and games in Oak Lake Park prior to the fireworks display.” Activities in prior years have included canoeing, horseshoes, volleyball, bocce and carnival games.

More details on the event will be released in June, and information will be posted on the City website, lincoln.ne.gov. Food vendors interested in securing permits to sell food and beverages during the celebration are encouraged to contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 441-8262. More det
CONGRESS

White House and House GOP present dueling budget proposals. President Obama presented his FY 2012 budget proposal to Congress this week, and the $3.7 trillion plan includes a mix of program cuts and terminations, as well as increased investments in some priority areas.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives this week approved a bill (HR 1) that would fund government programs for the remainder of FY 2011. Government agencies have been operating at or near their FY 2010 levels since the current fiscal year began on October 1, 2010, but HR 1 would impose reductions of almost $60 billion to a variety of programs, cuts hailed by Republican leaders as the largest in history.

Both the White House and congressional Republicans viewed their respective proposals as presenting a serious path to reducing the deficit, but in reality, neither would make a noticeable dent in what is expected to be a $1.6 trillion deficit at the close of FY 2011. Both the President and the GOP have chosen to focus their proposed cuts on non-defense domestic discretionary spending, which accounts for only 15 percent of all federal spending. Mandatory spending and a generous tax code account for the great majority of the deficit, but they have been largely untouched by both sides. However, serious conversations among a small bipartisan group of Senators who recognize the need for a comprehensive approach to deficit reduction may be able to develop a path forward through this contentious situation.

While it is likely that Congress will make significant changes to the FY 2012 budget proposed by the President, the more pressing matter involves FY 2011 spending. Senate Democratic leadership has indicated its willingness to continue to approve simple extensions to the current Continuing Resolution (CR) that funds programs at FY 2010 levels, but conservative House Republicans are now demanding that even these CRs contain cuts, setting up a possible scenario in which the government shuts down. The President has indicated that he would veto the House FY 2011 budget proposal in its current form.

Articles below will provide an overview of specific areas with regard to the budget proposals, and our chart comparing funding levels for programs of interest to local governments under the President’s proposed FY 2012 budget and the House proposed FY 2011 budget can be found here: http://www.capitaledge.com/budget.pdf

While the House debated amendments to HR 1 all week long under an unusual “open rule” that placed no limits on the floor amendments that could be introduced, the Senate finally wrapped up legislation (S 223) to reauthorize programs at the Federal Aviation Administration.

Next week, both the House and Senate will be in recess, so there will be no Washington Report.

HOUSING & CD

Obama Budget would cut CDBG and HOME, while House proposal would decimate CDBG. As the House began debate on an FY 2011 funding bill (HR 1) that would slash funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs by 62 percent and 9 percent respectively from the FY 2010 level, President Obama submitted a FY 2012 Budget that calls for cutting CDBG by 7.5 percent and HOME by 9 percent from the FY 2010 level.
Specifically, President Obama’s budget would provide:

- $3.691 billion for CDBG formula grants, a cut of $300 million from FY 2010 and
- $1.65 billion for HOME, a cut of $175 million from FY 2010.

Homeless Assistance Programs would be the big winner in the Administration’s Budget. Funding for those grants would increase by 27 percent to $2.372 billion. Other highlights of the Administration’s FY 2012 housing and community development budget proposal include (with comparison to FY 2010 in parentheses):

- Public Housing Capital: $2.405 billion (-$95 million or 3.8%)
- Public Housing Operating: $3.962 billion (-$813 million or 17%)
- Tenant-Based Section 8: $19.233 billion (+$1.049 billion or 5.7%)
- Project-Based Section 8: $9.035 billion (+$483 million or 5.6%)
- Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS: $335 million (same)
- Section 202 Elderly Housing: $757 million (-$68 million or 8.2%)
- Section 811 Disabled Housing: $196 million (-$104 million or 34.6%)
- Sustainable Communities (same)

The President is proposing $250 million for Choice Neighborhoods, another Administration initiative that faces an uncertain future on Capitol Hill. Envisioned as a successor to the HOPE VI Program, Choice Neighborhoods would provide grants for multi-pronged neighborhood revitalization strategies. The FY 2011 appropriations bill pending in the House would zero out both Choice Neighborhoods and HOPE VI and would also rescind $98 million in previously appropriated HOPE VI funds.

JOBS
House budget plan threatens federal job training, economic development programs spared. The FY 2011 budget plan approved by the House this week would eliminate funding entirely for adult and youth job training programs at the Department of Labor, while an attempt to slash programs at the Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the Department of Commerce by 31 percent (from $228 million to $175 million) was reversed on the House floor by a vote of 305-127.

In addition to adult and youth job training, the House FY 2011 budget proposal would eliminate funding for the Dislocated Workers Block Grant program and the Youthbuild program at Labor. In contrast, the President’s proposed FY 2012 budget for the Department of Labor would keep most job training programs at or near their FY 2010 levels, including $1.4 billion for dislocated workers, $924 million for youth job training, and $861 million for adult job training.

The White House FY 2012 budget proposal would also trim the $1.7 billion Job Corps program by about $8 million, and increase funds for the Green Jobs innovation Fund to $60 million, a $20 million increase from FY 2010. Additional information for the Department of Labor on its FY 2012 budget request can be found here: [http://bit.ly/h3CqO4](http://bit.ly/h3CqO4)

The President’s FY 2012 budget would also recommend a reduction for EDA programs, down from $228 million in FY 2010 to $201 million, a 12 percent decrease.

The President’s FY 2012 request for EDA also includes a proposal to establish 20 new “economic growth zones” through a $40 million Regional Innovation Program. The program is described by EDA as a “multi-agency initiative that will support a nationwide competition encouraging communities across the nation to develop and implement regional strategies that build on assets and link to drivers of regional economic growth to stimulate job creation, business expansion and entrepreneurship, and regional prosperity.”

In a related item, the President’s budget once again recommends a permanent extension of the Build America Bonds (BABs) program. BABs were created in the 2009 Recovery Act and allowed state and local entities to issue taxable bonds and receive a 35 percent rebate on the interest costs of the issuances. Although the BABs had widespread support, Congress failed to extend the program and it expired at the end of 2010. The White House proposal would extend the program on a permanent basis, but at a less generous rebate rate of 28 percent.

ENVIRONMENT
Energy block grant once again ignored in White House budget. Although the Department of Energy would receive an overall funding increase of 12 percent in the President’s proposed FY 2012 budget, it does not include a recommendation of funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (ECEBG) program.

The ECEBG was authorized in 2007 at a level of $2 billion annually, but with the exception of the 2009 Recovery Act, Congress has not provided funds for the program since its inception. However, the President did recommend an increase in the Weatherization Assistance Grants program at the Energy Department, from $210 million in FY 2010 to $320 million in FY 2012. An overview of the Energy Department FY 2012 budget proposal can be found here: [http://bit.ly/fpMU7T](http://bit.ly/fpMU7T)

Meanwhile, the President would reduce the overall budget at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10% in FY 2012. Proposed reductions to the clean water state revolving loan fund (-$950 million) and drinking water state revolving loan fund (-$397 million) from FY 2010 levels would comprise most of that agency reduction. The FY 2011 budget proposal approved by the House this week go even further, slashing the clean water fund by $1.27 billion and the drinking water fund by $697 million from their FY 2010 levels. The clean water SRF was funded at $2.1 billion in FY 2010, while the drinking water SRF received $1.387 billion.

Also at EPA, the President would keep the Brownfields program at its FY 2010 level of $100 million in FY 2012, while the House measure would reduce funding for the program by $70 million in the FY 2011 budget, down to $30 million. Additional detail from EPA on its FY 2012 budget proposal can be.
The House FY 2011 budget plan also includes provisions that would prevent EPA from expending any funds to implement a number of agency regulatory plans, such as a proposal to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Both the White House and Senate Democrats are likely to oppose these provisions.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Differing priorities exposed in competing transportation budget proposals. This week, both the House Republican FY 2011 budget proposal and the President’s FY 2012 budget proposal were released, and they highlighted stark differences in policy approaches.

The FY 2011 budget plan approved by the House this week would eliminate several of the Obama Administration’s pet projects in the transportation area such as the high-speed rail program, the Livable Communities Initiative, and the popular TIGER and TIGGER grant programs. However, highway and transit formula programs were not included in the list of House proposed reductions.

Meanwhile, the President’s DOT budget proposal is unique among FY 2012 agency budgets because it would see an increase in funding levels when every other domestic budget is facing overall cuts. The $129 billion budget proposal also lays some of the ground work for the Administration’s six-year, $556 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal that DOT hopes to release in the next few months. However, the proposal does not include any details on how to pay for the proposal, a key omission given that the current Highway Trust Fund could not sustain that level of spending.

The budget also includes blueprints for a $5 billion National Infrastructure Bank, which would make loans and grants to transportation projects “of national significance,” and revamp the Highway Trust Fund, broadening its mission and renaming it the “Transportation Trust Fund.” The new Transportation Trust Fund would fund four accounts: highways, transit, high-speed rail, and the National Infrastructure Bank.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would receive a significant boost in FY 2012 funds over enacted FY 2010 levels, from $41.3 billion to $70.5 billion. This would include:

- $2.5 billion for a revamped Highway Safety Improvements Program
- $16.8 billion for a new Highway Infrastructure Performance Program, a formula-based program to improve the National Highway System
- $15.6 billion for a new Flexible Investments Program – a formula-based program to provide flexible funds for states to spend on federal-aid highway projects such as congestion mitigation and performance improvement
- $4.1 billion for an expanded Livable Communities program

The Federal Transit Administration is the other recipient of significant funding increases in the FY 2012 Transportation budget, receiving $22.4 billion for FY 2012, an increase of $10.3 billion over FY 2010 level. This significant increase would fund the consolidation of over 50 FTA programs into five:

- $146 million for the National Endowment for the Arts
- $61 million for the Historic Preservation Fund
- $146 million for the National Endowment for the Arts
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- $146 million for the National Endowment for the Arts

On one hand, the President’s FY 2012 budget proposal requests full funding of $900 million for the LWCF, which funds a variety of conservation programs at four different federal agencies: National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. The LWCF is funded with royalties derived from offshore oil and natural gas drilling, but has only received its fully authorized level of $900 million twice since its inception in 1965. Currently, the U.S. Treasury holds approximately $17 billion in unspent LWCF funding that is used to offset the deficit.

The White House is also recommending that $200 million of the $900 million LWCF pot be used for the LWCF “stateside” program at the National Park Service. This would represent a $160 million increase over FY 2010 for this program, which provides formula grants to states to fund local conservation and recreation initiatives.

The President’s FY 2012 proposal for LWCF stands in stark contrast to the FY 2011 budget proposal approved this week by the House of Representatives. That measure would slash the overall LWCF from $266 million in FY 2010 to just $59 million – the lowest level in the history of the program -- and eliminate the stateside program altogether.

Other items of interest in the President’s budget include proposed reductions to the following programs from FY 2010 levels:

- $61 million for the Historic Preservation Fund
- $146 million for the National Endowment for the Arts
- $146 million for the National Endowment for the Arts
- $146 million for the National Endowment for the Arts
Endowment for the Humanities (-$22m)
• $243 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (-$23m)

PUBLIC SAFETY
President proposes increases to COPS hiring grants while House proposal to eliminate the program is reversed. Although the Department of Justice (DOJ) FY 2012 proposed budget includes over $786 million in State and local law enforcement program increases, several programs important to local governments are proposed for elimination.

The bulk of proposed increases come from a doubling of COPS hiring grants from $298 million in FY 2010 to $600 million, while the remaining additional funding is designated for several new initiatives designed to benefit localities. Proposed new initiatives include:

• $30 million for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program (replacement of the Weed and Seed Program funded at $20 million in FY 2011)
• $30 million for the Adam Walsh Child Safety & Prevention Act
• $25 million for the Children Exposed to Violence Initiative
• $12 million for the Justice Information Sharing and Technology
• $12 million for the Gang & Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention Initiative
• $10 million for the Smart Policing Initiative
• $8 million for Ensuring Fairness and Justice in the Criminal Justice System

Amidst the creation of these new initiatives, the Byrne Discretionary grants funded at $185 million in FY 2010 and the COPS Technology grants funded at $170 million in FY 2010 are proposed for elimination. The Byrne Competitive grants are also proposed to decrease from $40 million to $25 million.

The proposed budget also creates a $120 million Juvenile Justice System Incentive Grant Program that serves as a consolidation of Part B Juvenile Justice Grants and the Juvenile Accountability Block grant programs. This new initiative would be a competitive, performance-based program that rewards or incentivizes states for key progress in the juvenile justice system. Juvenile Justice and Safety Programs as a whole would receive $280 million in the proposed FY 2012 budget, a decrease of $144 million from FY 2011.

Other programs to note in the proposed DOJ budget include:

• $519 million for Justice Assistance Formula Grants (no change)
• $432 million for Violence Against Women (+$13m)
• $100 million for Second Chance/Prisoner Reentry (no change)

In a related item, the FY 2011 budget proposal approved by the House this week had included a provision to eliminate the COPS hiring program, but a floor amendment to the bill restored the $298 million program.

HOMELAND SECURITY
Several state and local programs are slated for termination in DHS Budget; some DHS reductions spared on House floor. Even in an austere economic climate, the FY 2012 White House budget proposal would increase funding for the Department of Homeland Security by approximately 0.7 percent. However several state and local government programs are scheduled for termination within the budget, including the Metropolitan Medical Response System, Interoperable Emergency Communications Grants and Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant.

State and local programs, including the firefighter assistance and emergency management performance grants received $3.8 billion in the budget request. This is the same level of funding as FY 2010. Proposed funding in the budget includes:

• $670 million for Assistance to Firefighter Grants, including $420 million for the SAFER hiring program (+$60m from FY 2010),
• $1 billion for State Homeland Security Grants (+$100m),
• $920 million for Urban Area Security Initiative Grants (+$33m),

• $300 million for the Port Security Grant Program (no change),
• $300 million for the Transit Security Grant Program (no change),
• $85 million the Regional National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund (-$15m)
• $27 million for Urban Search & Rescue (-$6m).

In a related event, the FY 2011 budget bill approved by the House this week recommends the elimination of SAFER firefighter hiring grants at DHS, as well as Interoperable Communications grants and Emergency Operations Center grants. The plan also calls for a 10 percent cut to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and would limit UASI grants to 25 urban areas. The House did vote to increase funding for Assistance to Firefighter grants (AFG) and SAFER hiring grants to their FY 2010 levels. The House Appropriations Committee had recommended a $189 million (63 percent) reduction to the AFG program and elimination of SAFER.

HUMAN SERVICES
President Obama requested $79.9 billion for Health and Human Services (HHS) programs, which is just above the FY 2010 funding level. Although HHS programs may receive greater funding overall in 2012, there are sizable cuts in discretionary spending.

Most notably, President Obama’s budget slashes the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding in half, providing only $350 million for these critical grants. In addition, CSBG funds would be offered on a competitive rather than formula basis. House Republicans have also recommended major reductions to the CSBG program, offering $395 million to CSBG for the remainder of FY 2011.

Despite cuts to some HHS programs, President Obama retains funding for many programs of value to local governments. Relative to FY 2010 levels, funding for the following programs will be maintained or increased in FY 2012:

• $7.65 billion for Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness (+ $7.24
reduce the program by 46 percent.

In the President’s FY 2012 budget, several HHS programs would experience relatively modest reductions from FY 2010 levels:

- $654 million for Maternal & Child Health Block Grant Program (- $8 million)
- $2.1 billion for Community Health Centers (- $90 million)
- $637 million for Refugee and Homeless Youth Program (- $94 million)
- $1.42 billion for Substance Abuse Block Grant (- $299 million)

Among other programs with more drastic reductions in funds are the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. In accordance with President Obama’s 2012 budget, LIHEAP will receive $2.57 billion, deduced from $5.1 billion, and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program $59 million, from $98 million. For more information about the HHS budget proposal, please visit: [http://bit.ly/hP1g08](http://bit.ly/hP1g08).

As previously indicated, the 2011 budget proposed by House Republicans allocates greater cuts to HHS programs overall than does President Obama’s budget for FY 2012. There is a notable discrepancy between the budgets outlined by House Republicans and President Obama for the Community Health Centers in FY 2011 and FY 2012 respectfully. Where President Obama would cut funding to the Community Health Centers by 4 percent from FY 2010, House Republicans would reduce the program by 46 percent.

### GRANTS AND NOTICES

#### Allstate Foundation
Funds are available for both new and renewal projects pertaining to one of the foundation’s areas of focus: safe teenage driving; economic empowerment for domestic violence survivors; community safety and vitality, and economic empowerment, and tolerance, inclusion, and diversity. There are two Regional Grant Cycles, the application period being January 17 through March 11, and the second period being March 14 through July 29. Details on each grant program, FAQs and additional information may be found at: [http://bit.ly/akuKJE](http://bit.ly/akuKJE).

#### Department of Justice
Applicants for the Second Chance Act Adult Mentoring program may now apply for FY 2011 Competitive Grants. This program seeks to promote successful reentry for offenders through the establishment and maintenance of pre- and post-release mentoring relationships. The DOJ is offering up to $300,000 to recipients of the Adult Mentoring Grants. Applicants are limited to nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes. The deadline for application is Apr 21, 2011. For more information, please visit: [http://bit.ly/g5RBmD](http://bit.ly/g5RBmD).

#### Department of Labor
The DOL announced $11.7 million in funds for approximately 10 grants for services related to pre-release and post-release programs for ex-offenders returning to high poverty, high-crime communities. These services may include: job training and employment preparation, mentoring, and assistance connecting to supportive services such as housing, substance abuse programs and mental health treatment. More specifically, the employment component of the grant will focus on the development of employment opportunities in in-demand occupations, such as "green" jobs. These grants will be awarded through a competitive process; applications must be received by March 17, 2011. For more information, please visit: [http://bit.ly/e9muvg](http://bit.ly/e9muvg)

#### Department of Housing and Urban Development
HUD released the first issue in a new quarterly publication entitled *Evidence Matters*. This publication will be used to inform housing and community development advocates, as well as policymakers on issues related to housing and community development. The inaugural issue is entitled “Choice Neighborhoods: History and HOPE” and focuses on strategies to revitalize neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. The full publication can be viewed online: [http://bit.ly/dPesYe](http://bit.ly/dPesYe)
CITY OF LINCOLN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thursday, February 24, 4 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 555 South 10th Street

AGENDA

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2011 Commission Meeting

III. Approval of Agenda for February 24, 2011 Commission Meeting

IV. Case Dispositions
   A. Reasonable Cause/No Reasonable Cause
      1. LCHR No.: 10-0504-023-E-R
      2. LCHR No.: 10-0518-024-E-R
      3. LCHR No.: 10-0615-003-PA
      4. LCHR No.: 10-0709-029-E-R
      5. LCHR No.: 10-0812-036-E-R
      6. LCHR No.: 10-0923-046-E-R
      7. LCHR No.: 11-0203-009-E-R
   
   B. Pre-Determination Settlements
      8. LCHR No.: 10-1214-026-H
      9. LCHR No.: 10-1216-027-H
     10. LCHR No.: 11-0124-001-H
   
   C. Successful Conciliation
      11. LCHR No.: 10-0312-009-E-R

V. Administrative Closures
   A. Withdrawal
      11. LCHR No.: 11-0124-006-E-R
      12. LCHR No.: 11-0124-007-E-R

VI. Old Business
   A. Civil Rights Conference Update
   B. Human Rights Office Space

VII. New Business
   A. Award Selections
   B. Annual Report

VIII. Public Comment**

IX. Adjournment

**Public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Members of the public may address any item of interest to the LCHR during this open session with the exception of LCHR cases. Also, no member of the public who wishes to address the commission will be allowed to examine any individual commissioner or staff member on any item/question before the commission unless invited to do so by the chairperson.
The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a scheduled public meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2011. The meeting will convene at 8:00 a.m. in Development Services Center Room 214, 2nd Floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, to consider the following agenda. For more information, please contact the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department at 441-7491.

Agenda of February 24, 2011

1. Approval of meeting notes of January 27, 2011

   Public Hearing and Action

2. Design update on plan for Centennial Mall, with emphasis on themes and cross sections (Design Team and Parks & Recreation Department)

   Discussion

3. Staff report/misc.: State Office Building

History List
** ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION **  
February 23, 2011

NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 23, 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, February 23, 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.

**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, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

[Commissioner Larson absent]

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held February 9, 2011. **APPROVED, 7-0 (Sunderman abstained; Larson absent)**

1. **CONSENT AGENDA**  
   (Public Hearing and Administrative Action):

   **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

   1.1 Comprehensive Plan Conformance No. 11001, to review a proposed amendment to the Lincoln Center Redevelopment Plan as to conformance with the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment extends the “Lincoln Star Buildings Redevelopment Project” area to include the M Street right-of-way from 7th Street to 17th Street to allow for streetscape design and improvements. The “Lincoln Star Buildings Redevelopment Project” involves a portion of Block 88 within the downtown mixed use revitalization/development area. The Lincoln Center
Redevelopment Plan Area is generally bounded by Salt Creek, Interstate 180 and “R” Street on the north, 17th Street on the east, “G” Street on the south, and Salt Creek, 2nd Street and Sun Valley Boulevard on the west.

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, 8-0 (Larson absent).
Public Hearing before City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WITH RELATED ITEMS:

1.2a Comprehensive Plan Conformance No. 11002, to review a proposed amendment to the Northwest Corridors Redevelopment Plan as to conformance with the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment adds the “University of Nebraska Technology Park Project #3: World’s Foremost Bank Project” located within the University of Nebraska Technology Park, and includes the construction of a 40,000 square foot office/commercial building and a parking lot, on property generally located north of the existing bank location at 4800 N.W. 1st Street. The “Northwest Corridors Redevelopment Plan” area is generally along Sun Valley Boulevard from West O Street to Cornhusker Highway, along Cornhusker Highway from I-180 to N.W. 12th Street, along N.W. 12th Street from Cornhusker Highway to Highlands Boulevard, Highlands Boulevard from N.W. 12th Street to N.W. 1st Street, and West Superior Street from N.W. 1st Street to I-180.

Staff recommendation: Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan
Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 8-0 (Larson absent).
Public Hearing before City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

1.2b Street & Alley Vacation No. 11001, to vacate Highland Circle, except 50 ft. east of the east right-of-way line of NW 1st Street, generally located at NW 1st Street and Highland Boulevard.

Staff recommendation: Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan
Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 8-0 (Larson absent).
Public Hearing before City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2011, 3:00 p.m., subject to satisfying the provisions of Chapter 14.20 of the Lincoln Municipal Code.
CHANGE OF ZONE:

1.3a County Change of Zone No. 10026, amending the Lancaster County Zoning Resolution by adding a new section to Article 2.030 to provide a definition for “Commercial Wind Energy Conversion System/Turbine” (CWECS); amending Article 4.007 to allow Commercial Wind Energy Conversion System/Turbine in the AG Agricultural District as a special permitted use and providing conditions of approval; amending Article 13, Special Permits, by adding a new section to provide conditions for granting a special permit to allow a CWECS in the AG Agricultural District.

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Mike DeKalb, 441-6370, mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 8-0 (Larson absent).
Public Hearing before the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will be requested for Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

1.3b Change of Zone No. 11003, amending Title 27 of the Lincoln Municipal Code relating to Zoning by adding a new section numbered 27.03.161 to provide a definition for “Commercial Wind Energy Conversion System/Turbine (CWECS)”; amending Section 27.07.040 to allow CWECS in the AG Agriculture District as a special permitted use and providing conditions of approval; amending Chapter 27.63 of the Lincoln Municipal Code by adding a new section numbered 27.63.425 to provide conditions for granting a special permit to allow a CWECS in the AG Agriculture District, and repealing Section 27.07.040 of the Lincoln Municipal Code as hitherto existing.

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Mike DeKalb, 441-6370, mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 8-0 (Larson absent).
Public Hearing before City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

1.4 County Change of Zone No. 11004, amending Articles 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 14 and 19 of the Lancaster County Zoning Resolution to make provisions for final action by the Planning Commission on special permits and final action by the County Board of Zoning Appeals, with all such actions appealable to the County Board.

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Mike DeKalb, 441-6370, mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 8-0 (Larson absent).
Public Hearing before the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will be requested for Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
MISCELLANEOUS:

1.5 Waiver No. 11002, to waive the requirement of the Land Subdivision Ordinance for a pedestrian sidewalk when the block length exceeds 1,000 feet, located at the end of Naples Drive extending to Pine Lake Road, on property generally located at South 88th Street and Pine Lake Road.

*** FINAL ACTION ***

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission ‘final action’: APPROVAL, 8-0 (Larson absent).
Resolution No. PC-01223.

1.6 County Waiver No. 11003, to waive the Lancaster County Land Subdivision design standard requiring that the lot depth not be over three times the lot width, on property generally located at N. 84th Street and Mill Road (12755 N. 84th Street).

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Mike DeKalb, 441-6370, mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 8-0 (Larson absent).

Public Hearing before the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners being requested for Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 9:30 a.m.

2. REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL: None.

3. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None.

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

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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 Brienz, Transportation Planner . . . . . 441-6369 . . mbrienz@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

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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/pca agenda/index.htm
The following is a news release put out by Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

We already know of 6 locations in the City of Lincoln, and will work toward total eradication.

**NDA Adds Japanese Knotweed and Giant Knotweed to Noxious Weed List**

LINCOLN - Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach today announced the statewide designation of Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica) and giant knotweed (Fallopia sachalinenis), including any cultivars and hybrids as noxious weeds in Nebraska.

"In order for us to continue being good stewards of the land, we need to work to protect our natural resources from non-native plants that have no value and have the potential to cause damage to our ecosystem if left unchecked," Ibach said. "This designation is necessary to help county weed control officials work with landowners to address areas of infestation and to prevent the further spread of this invasive species."

Ibach has the authority to designate weeds as noxious under the Noxious Weed Control Act.

According to Mitch Coffin, NDA Noxious Weed Program Manager, Japanese and giant knotweed can threaten both open and riparian areas. Plants may spread rapidly and from dense monocultures. In riparian habitats, the weeds can increase the risk of flooding and river bank erosion. Prolific rhizome and shoot growth can also damage foundations, walls, pavement, drainage works, and flood prevention structures.

Other officially designated noxious weeds in Nebraska include: Saltcedar, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, musk thistle, plumeless thistle, purple loosestrife, spotted and diffuse knapweeds, and phragmites.

**In the News:**
The news release we put out on Japanese Knotweed was picked up by the Hickman Voice and 1011now.com. Plus the JournalStar did an interview for the article that appeared in the February 16th newspaper. Check out our updated website: [www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds)

**Noxious Weed Control Act Q & A**

**Q:** Who is required by the Noxious Weed Control Act to control noxious weeds within cities and villages?

**A:** All cities and villages in this state shall provide for the control of noxious weeds within their jurisdiction and may appropriate money for and make the necessary expenditures for noxious weed control.

**March Planned Activities**

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<td>FSA Annual Weed Meeting</td>
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<td>NWCA Spring training - Hastings</td>
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<td>Problem Resolution Team</td>
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<td>Publish general notice</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>FY2012 budget to B&amp;F Division</td>
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InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Lee Lamson
Address: 3217 Fletcher Ave Apt 355
City: Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone: 402-435-8298
Fax: 
Email: mrleeisme@windstream.net

Comment or Question:
With approval by you and the blessing of the Mayor and much touting to get out and vote for the new Haymarket Arena, I did and of course and the rest is now history. We as citizen voters were assured by governmant this would be funded by bond, donors and other sources with no increased taxes to Lincoln citizens. The big guns such as the President of the University of Nebraska, Goovenor, Mayor, Coach Tom Osborne and many others including yourselves.

I stopped yesterday for a beer at a local sports bar. When I was given the tab I was shocked. Printed right on the tab/receipt was the words "ARENA TAX". Why Why Why??? I had listened to a couple of bar owners/managers with regard to the 2% tax which was levied on bars and restaurants and of course their response was most negative.

A bar or restaurant will simply raise their prices to compansate the 2% tax. Draft/Draw beer has the highest profit margin in this business............period. Applebees for one raised their pitcher draft beer a flat $1.00 per.

No expense to the citizens of Lincoln and all of us that voted for the new Arena, in my opinion have been kicked in the face and I am now sorry I voted for the beast as all of the citizens of Lincoln are going to pay one way or another.

I challange any of you to respond with something positive as this also went to the Editor of the Lincoln Journal Star.

R Lee Lamson
Lincoln, NE 68504
402-435-8298
Mary, thanks for the note. I have included a number of articles that discussed the financing of the arena prior to the vote and I think everyone was pretty upfront about the fact that a bar and restaurant tax was part of the funding for the arena. Here are a number of links from the Lincoln Journal Star that discussed this in some detail. I think we certainly tried to get out into the public the idea that we would institute a 2% bar and restaurant tax city wide. I think the number of articles that were published indicated that as well.

City to propose restaurant, other taxes to pay for arena October 13, 2009

http://journalstar.com/special-section/arena/101/article_a7c41e42-b78c-11de-8b93-001cc4c002e0.html

This article said:

"A 2 percent occupation bar and restaurant tax"

Should Lincoln levy a restaurant tax
October 13, 2009

This article said:

The city's current financing plan calls for:
* A 4 percent hotel occupation tax.
* A 2 percent occupation bar and restaurant tax.
* A 4 percent car rental occupation tax.

Arena tax plan sound, realistic
Sunday, October 18, 2009
http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_6061d750-bc3d-11de-99f5-001cc4c002e0.html

This article said:

"A person might have to spend an additional 20 cents on a $10 tab for a gourmet burger, fries and a beer to pay for the arena. That doesn't sound too steep. Heck, a person can save more than that by switching from imported beer to domestic."

"Putting together the pieces of Lincoln's arena financing puzzle"
Thursday, November 26, 2009
http://journalstar.com/news/local/article_7c8a3bce-da1b-11de-8a5b-001cc4c002e0.html

This article said:

"The City Council will be asked to approve a 4 percent hotel tax, 2 percent bar and restaurant tax and 4 percent car rental tax. The three new taxes would pay off an estimated $132 million in debt over 25-30 years."

Lincoln business association backs Haymarket arena Friday, January 15, 2010

This article said:

"The plan is for the $350-million arena to be financed by a combination of private money, revenue from events and sales and use taxes. Property taxes would only come into the mix as a backstop for bonds if arena revenue comes in below projections."

Haymarket Arena: Vote 2010
May 5, 2010
http://www.1011now.com/targetedspecialreports/headlines/83769422.html

This article said:

"A significant portion -- $194 million -- will be paid for by increased taxes from hotel rooms, rental cars, bars and restaurants. The occupation tax on hotel rooms and rental cars would be four percent while bars and restaurants would see a new two percent tax."

Editorial, 5/9: Reasons to vote for Haymarket arena Saturday, May 8, 2010
http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_957f256a-5b0b-11df-b947-001cc4c03286.html

This article said:

"The bond for the project will be paid by a 4 percent occupation tax on hotels and car rentals and a 2 percent bar and restaurant tax."
Phone Message:

Alan More
February 22, 2011
1:14 p.m.

Mr. More stated he realizes the City Council has their hands tied on various issues but he feels as they approach the City budget they should really look at the amount spent on city employee benefits. He feels 50% of the City budget is being used to pay for benefits of City employees. Discussed possible CIR reform now before the State.
DEAR CITY COUNCIL,

WHO EVER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRETTY LIGHTS AT SUNKEN GARDENS, THANK YOU, VERY MUCH. THEY CAN BE VIEWED AFTER DUSK AND ARE LOVELY. KATHY

P.S. POSSIBLY 'CITY PARK AND REC'?
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA
ADDENDUM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011

I. CITY CLERK

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS

MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler’s public schedule for the week of February 26, 2011 through March 4, 2011.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Downtown recycle site to move.
3. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will hold a news conference Monday, February 28th, 10:00 a.m., 555 S. 10th Street, in room 303 to discuss proposed changes in retirement benefits for City employees.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor proposed retirement changes for new non-union employees.

CITY OF LINCOLN STREET CONDITIONS
1. City of Lincoln street condition update, Thursday, February 24, 2011, 3:15 p.m.
2. City of Lincoln parking ban update, Thursday, February 24, 2011, 4:45 p.m.
3. City of Lincoln parking ban update, Friday, February 25, 2011, 4:30 a.m.
4. City of Lincoln parking ban update, Friday, February 25, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

DIRECTORS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. The March 2, 2011 Urban Design Committee meeting has been cancelled.

PLANNING COMMISSION

COUNCIL MEMBERS

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL
1. Email from Donna Graham expressing concerns on sidewalk snow removal. (Sent to Public Works Snow Center)

V. INVITATIONS
See invitation list.
Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule

Week of February 26 through March 4, 2011

Schedule subject to change

Saturday, February 26
• Polar Plunge, remarks and plunging with Parks and Recreation team - 11 a.m., Holmes Lake, 70th Street and Normal Boulevard
• Nebraska Boiler 90th Birthday Bash - 6:30 p.m., Barry’s Bar and Grill, 235 N. 9th St.

Monday, February 28
• League of Nebraska Municipalities 2011 Midwinter Conference, remarks - 8 a.m., Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 S. 13th St. The Mayor plans to attend other League events during the day including the luncheon at noon.
• Lincoln Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at Fazoli’s Restaurant - 4 p.m., 5012 N. 27th St.

Tuesday, March 1
• The Mayor plans to attend League of Nebraska Municipalities conference events at the Cornhusker Marriott including the Senator Appreciation lunch at noon.

Wednesday, March 2
• Proclamation signing – Gambling Awareness Month and Peace Corp Month - 11:30 a.m., Mayor’s Conference Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.

Thursday, March 3
• KFOR - 7:45 a.m.
• Mayor’s Environmental Task Force meeting - noon, Mayor’s Conference Room

Friday, March 4
• “In Conversation: Jun Kaneko and J. Daniel Veneciano,” discussion, book signing, reception - 5 to 7 p.m., Sheldon Museum of Art, 12th and “R” streets
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 25, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Gene Hanlon, Recycling Coordinator, 441-7043

DOWNTOWN RECYCLING SITE TO MOVE

The recycling drop-off site at 19th and “L” streets is moving to 21st and “N” streets south of the Randolph Car Wash early next week. The 19th Street site will close Monday February 28th, and the 21st Street site will open Tuesday, March 1. The relocation is necessary due to the widening of 19th Street that is part of the Antelope Valley Project.

More information on the City’s recycling drop-off program is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: recycle) and by calling the recycling hotline at 441-8215.

- 30 -
Mayor Chris Beutler will discuss more proposed changes in retirement benefits for City employees at a news conference at **10 a.m. Monday, February 28** in **Room 303, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.**
MAYOR PROPOSES RETIREMENT CHANGES
FOR NEW NON-UNION EMPLOYEES

Mayor Chris Beutler has proposed lowering the City retirement match for new non-union City employees to 1.3 to 1, the same match in effect for new employees in three of the City’s four civilian unions. Two ordinances are being introduced today to make the change effective April 1 for new Department Directors, Mayoral Aides and other employees who are not in a union because of the confidential nature of their work. The current employees in those positions receive either a 2-to-1 match or a match equal to about 12 percent of their salaries.

“Changing the retirement match for these employees to the same one given to newly hired union employees sends the right message – we are in this together and we must all play a role in keeping City Hall expenditures as low cost and efficient as possible,” said Mayor Beutler. “I urge the City Council to pass the ordinances and bring us one step closer to having all City jobs covered by the lower retirement match.”

Beutler said his administration was the first in 30 years to lower the 2-to-1 retirement match for City employees. As of last fall, new employees in three of the four civilian unions receive a 1.3-to-1 match, a savings of about 20 to 25 percent per employee over the 2-to-1 plan. The fourth civilian union has taken its case to the State Commission of Industrial Relations. When fully implemented, the change will cover about 800 of the 1,260 City positions outside of the Police and Fire departments.

The Mayor is unable to change his own salary and retirement benefits, which are set by the City Council in resolutions adopted by January of the year a Mayoral term ends. The City Council voted to raise the salary for the position of Mayor effective with a new Mayoral term in May. Beutler said if he is re-elected, he will ask the Finance Department to leave the amount of the increase out of his paycheck or he will donate the amount of the increase to the Lincoln Parks Foundation.

Last week, Beutler announced he was ordering a one-half percent reduction in the salaries of City Department Directors and Mayoral Aides for the 2011-2012 budget year. He said the salary cut and the retirement changes are not a reflection on current City employees.
“In the last four years, we have created the efficiencies that have led to the elimination of 120 jobs,” he said. “Our crime rate is down 21 percent. We have a nationally ranked business climate and the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. During our last survey, our libraries and parks received approval ratings of over 90 percent. The leadership of our Directors, Mayoral Aides and other staff played an important role in these successes in moving the City forward.”
CITY OF LINCOLN
STREET CONDITION UPDATE

THERE IS NO VOICE REPORT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

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

Date: Thursday, February 24, 2011
Time: 3:15 p.m.

As a steady snowfall continues in Lincoln, City street crews are engaged in a full material spreading operation. Crews are currently applying salt on snow emergency routes, major arterials and bus routes. In preparation for today’s storm, crews were busy Wednesday applying salt brine on bridges and major intersections.

Lincoln Police Department reports there have been numerous weather related accidents this afternoon. Motorists are urged to slow down and take extra caution as they navigate the city streets.

StarTran reports that buses are currently running about five to 10 minutes behind schedule.

Residents are reminded that City ordinance requires property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks by 9 a.m. the day following the end of a snow storm.

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-
CITY OF LINCOLN
PARKING BAN UPDATE

THERE IS NO VOICE REPORT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

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

Date: Thursday, February 24, 2011
Time: 4:45 p.m.

A snow emergency has been declared for the City of Lincoln. It will take effect at 8 p.m. tonight (Thursday, February 24). A snow emergency means parking is banned on emergency snow routes, bus routes and other major arterial streets. A map showing these routes can be found on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov and in the blue pages of the Windstream phone directory. The ban will remain in effect until further notice.

City street crews are currently engaged in a full-scale plowing effort on the City’s snow emergency routes, major arterials and bus routes. Lincoln Police Department reports a total of 51 accidents as of 4 p.m. today. Motorists are urged to slow down and take extra caution when driving.

StarTran reports that buses are currently running about 15 minutes behind schedule.

Residents are reminded that City ordinance requires property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks by 9 a.m. the day following the end of a snow storm.

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-
Subject: 4:30 a.m parking ban update

CITY OF LINCOLN
PARKING BAN 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
Diane Gonzolas – 402-525-1520

Date: Friday, February 25, 2011
Time: 4:30 a.m.

Lincoln is waking up to about four and a half inches of snow this morning. A snow emergency remains in effect for the City. That means parking is banned on emergency snow routes, bus routes and other major arterial streets. A map showing these routes can be found on the City website at lincoln.ne.gov and in the blue pages of the Windstream phone directory.

About 75 City crews and contractors are plowing these routes and applying salt. At about 6 a.m., they’ll begin spreading salt and sand at intersections, and then move on to bus routes and areas around schools. Streets are snowpacked and drivers are urged to use caution.

City ordinance requires property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks by 9 a.m. the day following the end of a snow storm. Remember, it is illegal to push or blow snow into or onto a 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 questions, you may call the Public Works Snow Center at 441-7644.

-30-
CITY OF LINCOLN
PARKING BAN 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: Friday, February 25, 2011
Time: 10:30 a.m.

SNOW EMERGENCY PARKING BAN LIFTED
New snow removal district parking ban in effect Saturday and Sunday morning

The snow emergency parking ban for Lincoln was lifted at 9 a.m. today (Friday, February 25). Where allowed, parking is again available on major streets and bus routes.

A parking ban for the new snow removal districts will be 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. Saturday and Sunday. 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.

As City street crews wrap up plowing work on the city’s main arterials, they will also be spreading sand in residential areas, specifically on hills, at stop signs and other trouble spots. Crews will continue monitoring the outline edges of the city looking for area where drifting has occurred.

StarTran reports that buses are running about five minutes behind schedule.

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-
The March 2, 2011 Urban Design Committee meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Planning Department at 441-7491.

Michele Abendroth
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department
555 South 10th Street, Suite 213
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-6164
TO : Mayor Chris Beutler  
    Lincoln City Council  
FROM : Jean Preister, Planning  
DATE : February 24, 2011  
RE : Notice of final action by Planning Commission: February 23, 2011  

Please be advised that on February 9, 2011, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted the following resolution:

**Resolution No. PC-01223**, approving a modification to the Land Subdivision Ordinance requested by Allegrini Terrace Townhomes, LLC, to waive the requirement that a pedestrian way be provided when a block length exceeds 1,000 feet, on property generally located near South 88th Street and Pine Lake Road.

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. WVR11002). The Resolution and Planning Department staff report are in the “Related Documents” under the application number.
Dear city council members,

I just want to express my concern on the snow removal on sidewalks on the north side of "O" st. from 66th st. to 29th st. I occasionaly walk home on that route and several business owners do not clean the walks, the one in particular Dillon Auto sales was very messy today. Are they being sighted for their lack of responsibility? Before it was QVC pharmacy and HyVee who were extremely lax in the effort. Are they being held accountable? I'm thankful when I get to my neighborhood where my neighbors keep the snow off the walks. I think that's called being in compliance with the city ordinance. Thanks for letting me voice my concerns.

Sincerely,

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