I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Illegal tobacco sales to minors decrease in 2014.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln City Libraries to host Lincoln Bird EnCOUNTer.
3. NEWS RELEASE. NWU Sports Network to televise basketball doubleheaders.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Public invited to Nature Center’s Sandhill Crane viewing tour.

III. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department meeting minutes of December 9, 2014.
2. Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, December 2014, department report.

PLANNING COMMISSION

WEED AUTHORITY
1. Lancaster County Weed Control - City of Lincoln Weed Abatement.

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

JON CAMP
1. Inquiry from Brian Noonan on Old Cheney widening project and completion date.
   a) Reply from Miki Esposito, Public Works & Utilities Director, on Old Cheney Road project.
   b) Correspondence to Brian Noonan from Councilman Camp.

DOUG EMERY
1. Randy Hoskins, Assistant City Engineer, replying to Jeremy Giese on Independence Drive traffic.
   a) Jeremy Giese replying to Randy Hoskins, providing alternative views.
   b) Photo of damaged vehicle.
(Additional correspondence from Jeremy Giese and Chief of Police James Peschong on Agenda of January 12, 2015)

V. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS
ILLEGAL TOBACCO SALES TO MINORS DECREASE IN 2014

The percentage of businesses that sold tobacco to minors during compliance checks decreased from 12.6 percent in 2013 to 7.9 percent in 2014. The compliance checks are conducted by the Lincoln Police Department and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) using youth volunteers. Of the 302 attempts by minors to purchase tobacco products, 24 resulted in a sale.

Brian Baker, LLCHD Public Health Educator, said national research indicates that when compliance checks are consistently conducted with a sale rate below 10 percent, children in those communities are less likely to use tobacco products. “According to the Lancaster County Youth Risk Behavior Survey, youth who smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days decreased from 16.4 percent in 2011 to 13.3 percent in 2013,” said Baker. “While youth tobacco use is on a downward trend, the goal is that all youth avoid tobacco use.”

Tobacco Free Lancaster County is a community coalition focused on keeping youth from starting to use tobacco, reducing access to tobacco products and eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke. The program is funded by the Tobacco Free Nebraska Program of the State Department of Health and Human Services as a result of the tobacco master settlement agreement.

The following Lincoln retailers sold tobacco products to minors in 2014:

- A’s Stop & Shop, 1301 N. 27th St.
- Casey’s, 4135 S. 48th St.
- EZ-Go, 8411 Windmill Dr.
- Discount City, 5560 S. 48th St.
- Family Dollar, 3211 S. 13th St.
- Fast Break, 1648 South St.
- Jo Bob’s, 1075 N. 33rd St.
- Roc’s Stop & Shop, 1449 N. 56th St. and 2030 S. 27th St.
- Russ’s Market, 6300 Havelock Ave.
- Save Mart, 2727 N. 11th St.
- Schmick’s Market, 1340 West “O” St. and 2727 N. 11th St.
- Shell Food Mart, 1107 Belmont Ave.; 6006 Havelock Ave; and 4810 Old Cheney Rd.
- Stop N Shop, 4801 Randolph St.
- Super C, 3400 Village Dr. and 745 S. 21st St.
- Super Saver, 233 N. 48th St.
- Ted’s Tobacco, 111 S. 66th St.
- U-Stop, 110 W. Fletcher Ave.
- Walgreens, 1404 Superior St. and 2600 S. 48th St.

More information on LLCHD’s tobacco education and prevention efforts is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: hpo).
LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES
136 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-8500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 2015
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Vicki Wood, Lincoln City Libraries, 402-441-8565

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES TO HOST LINCOLN BIRD EnCOUNTer

The public is invited to attend the free Lincoln Bird EnCOUNTer from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, February 7 at Walt Branch Library, 6701 S. 14th St.. The fun and educational family event is sponsored by Lincoln City Libraries, the Wild Bird Habitat Stores, Wachiska Audubon and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

People of all ages are invited to attend the event which includes crafts, games and a live raptor display. Participants will have the opportunity to make a burlap bag full of nesting materials or a pine cone feeder. The event also includes instruction on how to use binoculars for bird watching and how to identify bird songs.

More information on the event and Lincoln City Libraries is available at lincolnlibraries.org.

- 30 -
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Citizen Information Center, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7831

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 2015  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jamie Wenz, 5 CITY-TV, 402-326-7847

NWU SPORTS NETWORK TO TELEVISE  
BASKETBALL DOUBLEHEADERS

The NWU Sports Network (formerly 21 SPORTS) will televise three Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU) Prairie Wolves basketball doubleheaders in January and February on a tape-delayed basis. The women’s games tip-off at 6 p.m., and the men’s games follow on these nights:

• Wednesday, January 14 vs. Doane
• Wednesday, January 28 vs. Midland Lutheran
• Wednesday, February 11 vs. Hastings

The NWU Sports Network is part of the educational access channel on Time Warner Cable channel 80 (digital channel 71.16). The games will air at 6 p.m. the following Fridays with replays throughout the week. Additional viewing times can be found at 5tv.lincoln.ne.gov.

NWU games also will be available live online at www.nwusports.com. Games also may be viewed through video-on-demand on the NWU Sports Network YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/nwusportsnetwork. The games will feature Lucas Mohrman as the play-by-play announcer, with Wade Tracy providing analysis.

-30-
PUBLIC INVITED TO NATURE CENTER’S SANDHILL CRANE VIEWING TOUR

Registration is now open for the Pioneers Park Nature Center’s trip to central Nebraska for a guided viewing tour of the Sandhill crane migration. The tour begins at noon, Thursday, March 19 at the Wild Bird Habitat Store, 56th and Highway 2, and returns at 11 p.m. to the same location.

“To experience the Sandhill crane’s migration, to see them soar above the river and dance together in the fields, and to hear their unique call is a show like no other,” said Jamie Kelley, a Naturalist at the Nature Center.

Space on the trip is limited, and reservations are required by February 19. The cost of $75 per person includes bus transportation, dinner and a viewing blind reservation. The $25 blind reservation fee is non-refundable if the trip is cancelled or if a participant cancels and a replacement cannot be found. Participant cancellation is also subject to a $5 cancellation fee. To register or for more information, contact the Nature Center at 402-441-7895 or naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov.

The group will travel to the Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center in Wood River and then to the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary in Gibbon, where they will view and hear the cranes from a viewing blind as they arrive on the Platte River. The trip will include periodic stops along country roads to view cranes as they feed and dance in the fields.

Sandhill cranes are among the world’s oldest living birds and have traveled through Nebraska for centuries. They are dependent on an 80-mile segment of the Platte River for a four- to five-week stopover because of the food and protection in the area. The cranes come from as far south as Mexico and will travel as far north as eastern Siberia to raise their young. Over half a million Sandhill cranes will make their way through Nebraska this spring. Some of the best viewing is at sunset when the cranes flock by the thousands to spend the night at the river.
I. **ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 5:05 PM by Jacquelyn Miller at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. Members Present: Alan Doster, Doug Emery, Karla Lester, Michelle Petersen, Craig Strong, Brittany Behrens (ex-officio), Rick Hoppe (ex-officio), Tim Sieh (ex-officio) and Jacquelyn Miller.

Members Absent: Roma Amundson, Michael Tavlin and Heidi Stark

Staff Present: Judy Halstead, Scott Holmes, Charlotte Burke, Steve Frederick, Kathy Cook, Gwendi Meginnis, Andrea Haberman, John Chess, and Elaine Severe.

Others Present: Jane Raybould.

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Miller asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Agenda.

**Motion**: Moved by Dr. Petersen that the Agenda be approved as printed. Second by Dr. Lester. Motion carried by acclamation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**Motion**: Moved by Mr. Strong that the November 4, 2014 Minutes be approved as printed. Second by Dr. Doster. Motion carried by acclamation.

III. **PUBLIC SESSION**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

A. **Health Director Update**

Ms. Halstead stated Friends of Public Health will be requesting additional funding from the Nebraska Legislature in the near future. Ms. Halstead announced the Department will partner with the University of Nebraska Medical Center - College of Public Health on workforce development. Masters in Public Health students will do some formal work at our Department.

Ms. Halstead stated City employees are making slow gains in their employee wellness efforts. City and County employees completed the yearly survey and employees are doing better in several of the areas surveyed.
Steve Frederick reported a new high in the number of confirmed cases of Pertussis in the community. Most cases are among children and young teens

IV. CURRENT BUSINESS (Action items)

A. Proposed Revisions to LMC 8.14 - Before & After School Childcare Program

Mr. Holmes stated the Department issues certificates of compliance to about 40 school age child care programs because they were required to have a State child care center permit. School age centers are no longer required to hold a “center” permit. Staff are recommending the Department no longer issue certificates of compliance to school age child care programs and no longer conduct inspections of these facilities.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lester that the Board of Health approve the revisions to LMC 8.14 and forward them to the Lincoln City Council for review and approval. Second by Mr. Strong. Motion carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

B. Proposed Revisions to LMC 24.38 - Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems and Lancaster County Resolution R-13-00623 - Procedures for Regulating Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Mr. Chess stated staff are proposing revisions to LMC 24.38 and Lancaster County Resolution R-13-00623 to make them consistent with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Title 124 Rules and Regulations for the design, operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment systems. Staff are also proposing to rescind Design Standards 4.10 and County Resolution R-02-31 because NDEQ Title 124 will be adopted by reference.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Strong that the Board of Health approve the revisions to LMC 24.38 and Lancaster County Resolution R-13-00623 and forward them to the Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Commissioners for review and approval. Second by Dr. Doster. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

C. Proposed Policy 223.25 - Onsite Wastewater treatment System Variances

Mr. Chess stated the Board of Health approved the revisions to LMC 24.38 and Lancaster County Resolution R-13-00623 and rescinded Design Standards 4.10. Since the design standards will be rescinded, the Department will need an official Board of Health approved policy on variances. The proposed language in the policy was taken from the Design Standards. He noted variances are rarely requested, but it is important to have a policy in place regarding how they are reviewed, approved or denied.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Strong that the Board of Health approve Policy
223.25 – Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Variances. Second by Dr. Doster. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

D. Proposed Revisions to Policy 223.31 - Public Swimming Pool Inspection Policy

Mr. Chess stated recent updates to LMC 8.38 and State Regulations regarding swimming pool inspections necessitate updating Department Policy 222.31 – Swimming Pool Inspection to comply with LMC 8.38 and State regulations. Revisions include deleting the sections dealing with enforcement and the requirement to mail a copy of every inspection to the pool operator.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lester that the Board of Health approve Policy 223.31 – Public Swimming Pool Inspections. Second by Dr. Peterson. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

E. Proposed Revisions to Policy 223.35 - Public Swimming Pool Enforcement

Mr. Chess stated recent updates to LMC 8.38 and State regulations regarding swimming pool enforcement necessitate updating Department Policy 222.35- Public Swimming Pool Inspections to comply with LMC 8.38 and State regulations. Language was added requiring the Department to provide the Lincoln Swimming Pool Operator and the owner a copy of a pool enforcement notice when it is issued as a suspension. Items added include specifics when a pool must be ordered closed due to violations that pose an immediate or substantial health or safety risk. Two new sections were added that provide guidance on what enforcement action is to be taken when violations are found regarding swimming pool water quality tests and on what enforcement action is to be taken when violations are found on the required frequency of pool water testing.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Strong that the Board of Health approve Policy 222.35 – Swimming Pool Enforcement. Second by Dr. Doster. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

V. CURRENT BUSINESS (Information Items)

A. Access to Health Insurance/Health Care

Ms. Haberman provided an update on the Healthcare Marketplace noting 20 staff have been trained to assist individuals in signing up for health care. She reviewed the four plans available from People’s Health Center, Health 360, Urban Indian Health Center, private providers and General Assistance. She stated income guidelines are used to determine who is eligible. Other highlights included: urgent care options, educational links, and three educational videos that were produced by community partners to increase awareness about obtaining health insurance in the Marketplace. The videos are also available on Channel 10 Health.

VII. FUTURE BUSINESS
VIII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Meeting - January 13, 2015 - 5:00 PM

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.

Elaine Severe
Recording Secretary

Jacquelyn Miller
Vice-President
DEPARTMENT REPORT
DECEMBER, 2014

DIRECTOR’S OFFICE

- The Health Director will again coordinate state legislative activities for the Department and the Mayor’s Office. The Mayor’s Office Legislative Review Team meets weekly during the legislative session. The Team held their initial meeting on December 18\textsuperscript{th}. The 2015 Legislative Session begins on January 7, 2015.

- The Health Director and Friends of Public Health are also preparing for the upcoming legislative session. They also met with Lt. Governor Elect Mike Foley, Nebraska Hospital Association & Nebraska Medical Association, regarding public health issues.

- The Health Director met with the University of Nebraska Medical Center – College of Public Health on workforce development. She also provided a presentation to a Masters Public Health class at UNMC and an undergraduate class at Creighton University on Public Health Policy. Masters in Public Health students will do some formal work at our Department.

- The Health Director participated in the news conference for the New Health 360 Clinic on December 18, 2014. Health Department staff will be collocated for this initiative.

- Employee of the Month – Barbette Hall – Information & Fiscal Management.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sep 12- Nov 12</th>
<th>Sep 13- Nov 13</th>
<th>Sep 14- Nov 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pet Licenses Sold</td>
<td>14978</td>
<td>15119</td>
<td>14780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases Dispatched</td>
<td>5890</td>
<td>4160</td>
<td>6088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation</td>
<td>6294</td>
<td>6592</td>
<td>6602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals Impounded</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Citations Issued</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warnings/Defects Issued</td>
<td>3493</td>
<td>4493</td>
<td>4087</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Department Report – December, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>144</th>
<th>112</th>
<th>137</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bite Cases Reported</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attack Cases Reported</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs Declared Pot. Dangerous</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangerous Dogs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Neglect Investigations</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injured Animal Rescue</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Removal</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead Animal Pickup</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost and Found Reports</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Calls</td>
<td>12610</td>
<td>11092</td>
<td>11274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Response Time (in mins)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Staff continue to make progress on documenting work flow for many of our primary jobs. These include Licensing, Bite and Attack Reports, Sanitation Calls, Noise/Barking Dog Calls, Dangerous Dog and Potentially Dangerous Dog Declarations, Neglect and Cruelty Investigations, Stray and At Large Calls and Injured Animals.

- The Animal Control Advisory Committee will meet in January. We will invite a representative from the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office (LSO) to serve on the Committee. There are cases that occur now that will require collaboration with LSO. These may include pet owners that have lived in the city limits and moved out to the county and own a dangerous dog. We also collaborate on bites to assist each other investigations including communicable disease investigation when needed.

- Staff are working on Animal Emergency Management plans, trainings and an exercise. This activity has included close collaboration with the Capital Humane Society. Staff will complete Incident Command Systems training in January. A city/county exercise is being planned for February and Animal Control, along with the Capital Humane Society, will participate in the exercise. Upon completion of the training and the exercise, our local Animal Emergency Management Plan will be updated to include newly established communication channels, key players, timelines for first response and defined duties and tasks for different time intervals.

- Animal Control staff are reviewing and “cleaning up” policies that are outdated and no longer apply. Some of the internal policies are addressed by the City Human Resources Department and don’t need to be duplicated in Animal Control. Other policies are more procedural in nature and should be written as procedures and included in new employee orientations and as reminders for employees on how to perform a job when there is a question of procedure.
- Staff will be working with 10 Health starting this month to create new messages to encourage pet owners to vaccinate and license their dogs and cats. It will be important to use creative outlets for reaching some of the first time pet owners and young pet owners that might not think about the benefits of licensing and the importance of rabies vaccinations.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

STI Branding Campaign

This month, key CHS staff members who work to identify, treat, and prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI) and reinfections, met with a consultant, Clover Fredrick, to discuss current marketing strategies and recommend new messages and tactics to increase visits to our STI Clinic and webpage. Many thanks to following staff who participated: Amber Woods, Amy Marshall, Anita King, Ann Bussey, Ashley Johnson, Barb Martinez, Bernice Afuh, Charlie Richards, Jazzlyn Green, Jeff Krotz, Jennifer Lantz, Nichol White & Thurman Hoskins.

Themes & Target Audiences (In Lincoln and surrounding counties):

- All clients are concerned about stigma surrounding sex and gender and want health services that are private and non-judgmental in which they are treated with dignity and respect for their choices.
- We work with young clients (ages 12-24) who are beginning to make decisions about sex.
- We work with low-income clients who may not have other options for diagnosis, treatment & education.

Measurable Objectives:

- Increase visits to STI Clinic webpage by 25%.
- Reduce bounce rate from webpage to 50%.
- Increase STI clinic visits per week by 25%.
- Increase payment of invoices by 25%.

Finalization of Tagline:
Three tagline suggestions were developed.
2. Answers you need. Respect you deserve.
3. CARE Clinic: Confidential Answers. Respect for Everyone.
4. Tagline # 2 received the most votes amongst staff: Answers you need. Respect you deserve
DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main</td>
<td>2780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMEP</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornhusker Clinic</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food: For July 2014 -

| Food Monthly Obligations | $ 247,909.46 |
| Food Pkg Avg.            | $ 68.29      |
| Women                    | $ 43.86      |
| Infants                  | $ 139.49     |
| Children                 | $ 47.94      |

Mentoring:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and school</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>9 UNMC RN students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMEP Residents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dental Health

- Number of clients seen (unduplicated count): 449
- Number of clients seen (duplicated count): 512
- Number of client visits (duplicated provider appointments): 737
- Number of children seen: 251 (56%)
- Number of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 268 (60%)
- Number of clients enrolled in General Assistance: 13 clients for 15 patient visits. General Assistance is reimbursing LLCHD $30/patient visit.
- Number of Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition (NUIHC) clients referred/seen: 7 (3 Medicaid, 4 uninsured). NUIHC is reimbursing LLCHD $30/patient visits for the uninsured clients.
- Number of racial, ethnic, and White Non-English speaking clients: 297 (66%)

Community Outreach Activities

- LLCHD dental staff provided elementary school based screenings at Eastridge (68), Elliott (227), Norwood Park (67), and Everett (291) for a total of 653 children. Children
targeted through the school based screenings are those children that have not reported seeing a dentist in the past 12 months.

- November 7 and 8, a mini Mission of Mercy was held at the Center for People in Need offering free urgent dental to over 300 patients from the Lincoln area and surrounding communities. Over $200,000 was provided in dental care to the patients utilizing volunteer local dentists, hygienists, and College of Dentistry dental and dental hygiene students with dental supplies purchased through community donations. Dental staff was involved with the planning committee, set-up and delivery of services during the two day event.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Child Care Health Consultation Services

LLCHD’s Child Care Health Consultation Services protect the health of children, their families and our community by preventing communicable disease outbreaks that originate in child care settings. Many child care centers lack adequate health and safety practices, especially those sites that serve low income or racial/ethnic minority families. Improving the training of staff, updating policies, and obtaining input from skilled health professionals decreases the incidence of disease and improves health and safety in child care centers. Through implementation of the Child Care Health Consultation Services with the assistance of Nebraska Health Care Funding Act dollars no community-wide outbreaks originating from child care centers occurred during July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. In the summer of 2014, multiple cases of Shigellosis were confirmed in one child care center and several cases of Norovirus were identified in an additional center. The LLCHD Child Care Health Consultant worked closely with the child care directors of these “infected” facilities to inform parents and staff of needed health and sanitation protocol during the duration of the illnesses. This proactive and close communication approach resulted in no further outbreaks into the community.

The Lincoln Municipal Code 8.14 requires health and safety training for child care center staff every two years. The two hour training includes health information such as illness prevention and exclusion, diapering, hand washing, and food safety (683 child care staff attended the Health and Safety Training). The training is set-up to emulate an actual child care health and safety inspection that is used to regulate the child care facilities. LLCHD’s Child Care Health Consultant performs on-site assessments of child care center environments and program operations, in addition to assisting directors in the development and implementation of improvement plans. The Child Care Health and Safety assessment and the Playground Safety assessment were re-designed this year to include classroom observations and
incorporate the policy and procedures needed by management with classroom evaluations of health and safety practices. References were provided to professional resources (e.g., Caring for Our Children, Environmental Rating Scales for infants and preschoolers, NE DHHS Title 391.3, LMC 8.14) to aid directors in developing best practices in their centers.

Staff continue to use a coaching model to increase the individual’s “buy-in” in making behavior changes (1751 children and 362 staff were reached through consultation). Unique solutions to health and safety barriers are identified and implemented. Over the past year Sanitize, Disinfect and Cleaning Schedule was the top implemented policy followed by Playground Supervision and Playground Safety, Staff Manual Policies, Parent Manual, Supervision, Safe Sleep, Medicine Administration, Lost/Missing Child, Recycling/Waste Reduction (153 Recommendations and 166 Voluntary Health Policy Actions were Implemented in Child Care Centers). Other specialty child care training provided by the Child Care Health Consultant focused on Medication Administration and Health and Safety Train the Trainer (111 Child Care Staff Attended Specialty Trainings). The State of Nebraska updated their Child Care Program licensing requirements in May 2013; this continues to greatly impact the work of the Consultation program. Numerous calls were received from child care centers working to comply with the new standards and child care staff training requirements. Our Consultant also works closely with the Nebraska Child Care Center Directors Association to educate others on state and local child care regulations.

LLCHD’s Child Care Health Consultation Services Program identified a need in the child care community for a “Bleach Safety Kit” due to the following list of concerns:
- Confusion on cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting definitions and usage.
- Multiple chemicals being used and stored.
- Inconsistent and overuse of chlorine.
- Unmarked bottles of chemicals.
- A change in the concentration of sodium hypochlorite in bleach products.
- Chemical exposure to children and staff. (e.g. Toddler teachers change 24 diapers a day on average with exposure to chemical disinfectant each time. In addition, the majority of teachers are female and of childbearing age.)
The LLCHD Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) worked with Metro Health in Oregon to adapt bleach safety materials for use in Lancaster County. The “Bleach Safety Kits” include color coded labels that outline the concentrations for sanitizing and disinfecting with the new 8.25% concentrated bleach and pumps designed to screw onto standard bleach bottles. Color coded labels were designed for the spray bottles in addition to hangtags and posters providing directions for use. Reusable gloves were included in the kits to promote safe handling of chemicals. Fifty-two child care centers have received “Bleach Safety Kits” along with on-site training. Directors have reported that staff have been excited about the bleach pumps and how easy they are to use. Facilities are not using as much bleach due to the correct amount being dispensed—leading to safer chemical usage around our most vulnerable citizens. Another unforeseen result of the “Bleach Safety Kit” has been a large increase in communication between the CCHC and the center directors. Many of our high risk facilities have not reached out to LLCHD in the past for guidance. However after onsite Bleach Safety training, many of these directors have increased their contact with the CCHC to report illnesses or ask questions on other health and safety topics. We feel the Bleach Safety Kit has increased health and safety in our child care environments!

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- As reported last month, the number of cases of pertussis (whooping cough) have increased this fall and we have surpassed our previous high (88 in 2005) since the number of cases has now passed 110. The communicable disease staff has been busy consulting with schools and medical providers to discuss the best means to control the outbreak.

- As expected, the incidence of pertussis is high among those who are not current with the recommended vaccinations, which is estimated to increase their odds of contracting pertussis by a factor of four; but more surprisingly, the number of cases of pertussis for teens and adolescents who are current with the recommended number of pertussis vaccine doses (five doses as children with a booster as a teen) is also relatively high. Apparently, either those individuals did not develop immunity against pertussis or their level of immunity has waned over time. Still, it is believed that those who are current with their vaccinations may have less severe cases than those who are not current with their doses.

- Whooping cough can lead to severe complications in infants less than six so it is important that those people around infants under six months be immunized to protect
them from getting the disease. For adolescents over the age of 11 and adults (especially parents and caregivers), that means they should receive a single booster against pertussis known as TDap; and pregnant women should receive a booster in the third trimester of each pregnancy as it helps pass some protection to the fetus.

- Flu activity has increased significantly over the last couple of weeks even though we have not seen a dramatic increase in student absences as yet. With school being out for the holiday, we anticipate the absences will be up in January as flu will likely spread in the community and may also be brought back by travelers from destinations with even higher levels of flu activity. Also, this year’s vaccine is not well matched with the type of flu that is dominant (H3N2) so even those who have been vaccinated may come down with a case of the flu. Still, it’s recommended that everyone 6 months and older seek the vaccine as it will take two weeks for the immunity to take effect. Anyone who has a high risk from complications if they catch the flu (the elderly, children under 5, pregnant women, persons with a chronic health condition) even though they have been vaccinated should see their medical provider and possibly be treated with an antiviral.

- Our public Health Epidemiologist, Raju Kakarlapudi, has been working with the indicators for the Mayor’s dashboard, which have been recently updated to reflect the most current data. In addition, Raju has been utilizing the 2013 BRFSS survey results to estimate any differences by census tract. Even where there are differences in estimates from one tract to another, that doesn’t mean that there is a statistically significant difference among the tracts. Still, the estimates do pinpoint geographic areas that are slightly higher or lower than other areas in the community.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Chronic Disease Prevention and Minority Health

- Lincoln was selected by the National League of Cities as one of seven cities to be part of a learning collaborative regarding health disparities including childhood obesity-related health disparities. Other cities include Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Cleveland, Ohio; Kansas City, Kansas; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Savannah, Georgia; and Virginia Beach, Virginia. This Learning Collaborative on Health Disparities will engage the seven pilot cities, their local elected officials, staff and community partners in a process to deepen their understanding of childhood obesity-related health disparities and the underlying causes of these disparities. The National League of Cities has engaged an advisory panel to provide expert technical assistance to the cities as they address these health issues. Monthly group conference calls will allow conversation among the city representatives of how the health issues are being identified and addressed in each city. The expert panel will be available to provide insight and guidance on specific questions and action plans. Staff will provide leadership and support to the City team.
Staff are uniting the 54321 GO message and the Let’s Move Cities, Towns, and Counties initiative into a social media campaign, Let’s Move Lincoln! This campaign will include bi-weekly challenges to the community, with emphasis on young children, to increase physical activity and healthy eating. Anna Wishart, the Mayor’s spokesperson for Let’s Move Cities, Towns, and Counties, is the featured adult in the video challenges. These challenges will be on social media in early January, and will be promoted through our community partners, printed materials, and Channel 10 Health.

Tobacco Prevention

Staff continue to promote the smoke-free housing registry. At this time, there are 3,169 units in 279 buildings that are listed on the smoke-free housing registry.

Injury Prevention

Staff conducted a child passenger safety seat event at Anderson Ford south. Sixteen seats were checked. Volunteer technicians typically spend 45 minutes with each car seat installation checking the seat for safety and educating the parents/guardians on proper installation and use. For an event of this size, 6 to 8 technicians are required to accommodate the installations within the time allotted.

Media

Staff appeared on Channel 8 Midday Forum to discuss staying physically active during the winter months and avoid “Hibernating Your Heart.”

Staff were featured in a 54321Go interview segment on the Channel 10 Health Shape of Our City program.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Revenue and Cash Handling Policy has been completed and in the approval process. This is a comprehensive policy which covers all revenue from all sources throughout the Department. It delineates appropriate cash handling practices. Cash handling practices reflect the need to maintain good customer service and protect assets.

New requirements for federal grants go into effect at the end of December. City and County Finance Directors are considering training for all staff who are responsible for managing grants. IFM Fiscal staff will participate in the training when it is available. IFM Manager will be assisting the Director to monitor new grants in light of the new rules and provide feedback on whether it is cost effective in light of the new requirements.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jean Preister, Planning
SUBJECT: Bill #15R-17- Comprehensive Plan Conformance No. 14026
(Amendment to the Antelope Valley Redevelopment Plan amending the
"18th & P Multifamily Redevelopment Project")
DATE: January 13, 2015
cc: David Landis and Hallie Salem, Urban Development
    David R. Cary, Acting Planning Director
    Steve Henrichsen, Development Review Manager, Planning
    Brandon Garrett, Project Planner
    Tom Huston, Attorney at Law
    Rick Peo, Chief Assistant City Attorney

Bill #15R-17, Comprehensive Plan Conformance No. 14026, had first reading on the City
Council agenda on January 12, 2015. The factsheet previously submitted did not contain the
minutes of the Planning Commission public hearing and action, which occurred on January 7,
2015. Those minutes are now attached as supplemental information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 402-441-6365 or
jpreister@lincoln.ne.gov.

Thank you.

f:\dev\review\factsheets\CPC\14000\CPC14026 PC Minutes to Council
Members present: Weber, Sunderman, Corr, Cornelius, Beecham, Harris, Sheer, Hove and Lust.

Staff recommendation: A finding of conformance with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

There were no ex parte communications disclosed.

Staff presentation: David Landis, Director of the Urban Development Department, appeared as the applicant, explaining that this relates to the existing Aspen Project which this Commission has seen and which has been approved by the City Council with the existing boundaries. This application amends the boundaries of the redevelopment project to include city right-of-way and no private property. After the initial boundaries were drafted and approved, it became clear that the N Street bike path had a hole in its financing, such that we could not do the design commissioned and sought to do. This was a concern of the developer. By including the rights-of-way, Urban Development would use a portion of TIF funds if it would allow the developer to cross the finish line with the protected bikeway on N Street. The bike path leads to recreational use of the Antelope Valley trails; to the Haymarket; to the Jamaica trail; and we hope that our customers park their car and walk to campus or ride their bike to campus, which is why there is a considerable amount of bike parking in the developer’s design.

Landis went on to explain that in the redevelopment agreement already approved by the City Council, the developer will promote the use of bicycles and provide places where tenants can lock and store bicycles. The developer is asking the city to construct the N Street bike path and use available TIF bond proceeds to support any portion of its revenues to construct the bike path. Landis submitted that this piece allows us to “cross the finish line.” It is good for the city as well as the developer.

Support

1. Tom Huston, 233 S. 13th, Suite 1900, appeared on behalf of Aspen Heights, the developer of the project at Antelope Valley and P Street, in support. His client envisions that the project will contain 182 dwelling units for 630 people, many of whom will be walking and riding bikes in Downtown Lincoln, and supports this addition to help support that N Street bike path.

There was no testimony in opposition.
ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION: January 7, 2015

Hove moved to approve a finding of conformance with the Comprehensive Plan, seconded by Cornelius.

Cornelius commented that supporting the N Street bike path seems like an excellent use of TIF funds. It helps him to support further what was already a great project.

Lust expressed that she is very happy to see the development community and Urban Design Committee come forward to solve a financing issue for something that is a great development for the city and a win-win for everyone.

Motion carried 9-0: Weber, Sunderman, Corr, Cornelius, Beecham, Harris, Scheer, Hove and Lust voting ‘yes’. This is a recommendation to the City Council.
Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) continues to be the main focus of invasive weed control in Lancaster County. The earlier the landowner can start an aggressive effort to control infestations, the better chance they have to eradicate the problem. Our mission is to stop the spread of new invasives before they get a strong foothold in Lancaster County and to aggressively manage the invasives that already exist.

Cutleaf and common teasel were added as noxious weeds in Lancaster County because of the aggressive nature of the plant and its ability to rapidly spread and cause economic loss for property owners. Our inspectors have already documented 13 locations and aggressive treatment is underway. Leafy spurge, phragmites and sericea lespedeza all saw increases this year, while musk thistle, purple loosestrife and knotweed infestations decreased. Canada thistle and saltcedar have remained steady in recent years.

Inspection totals increased dramatically in 2014. Our overall inspections were up 14.1% over 2013, following a year where inspections were up 28.8% from 2012 to 2013. In short, our 2-year workload increased by a whopping 46.9%. In 2012 we completed 7,510 total inspections compared to 11,034 in 2014. I am very proud of our staff to be able to handle this 46.9% increase in work, while being able to hold our budget to only a 1.78% increase.

On July 1st, 2014 Greg Ibach, Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture approved the designation of cutleaf and common teasel as noxious weeds in Lancaster County. The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act allows individual counties to designate local invasive weed problems to their own county list, without being added to Nebraska’s statewide list. After holding public hearings, gathering information and testimony, Lancaster County Weed Control proceeded with the process to add both teasels to our noxious weed list. Lancaster County is the first county in Nebraska to add cutleaf and common teasel.
Any time a property owner does not comply with our legal notice to maintain their property below the 6" city height ordinance; our office hires a contractor to cut the property. Once the cutting is complete we file a “notice of possible unpaid weed assessment” with the Register of Deeds office. If the assessment is not paid, a lien is attached to the property and is treated the same as unpaid property taxes.

The overall number of enforcements in 2014 dropped by 26, totaling 299, this is an 8.7% decrease. The number of legal notices issued dropped from 1,629 in 2013 to 1,485 in 2014. During the same period the number of properties inspected rose from 3,099 to 3,607. In addition to the legal notices, we also sent 2,391 letters and made 40 personal contacts to get properties controlled.

Noxious weeds know no boundaries. They find themselves at home inside the city limits along the creeks, in wetlands and waste areas just as well as in the rural areas. Saltcedar, purple loosestrife and knotweed were first introduced as ornamentals and planted in our landscapes, so they are found more in the city than in rural areas. It’s important to control them in the city to prevent the spread into rural areas.

In 2014, 33.8% of our noxious weed inspections occurred inside the city limits. While these infestations are very small in the total number of acres infested, we continue to find noxious weeds all around the city.

Our city inspectors made 923 inspections on 564 sites and found 399 sites to be infested with noxious weeds.

The overall number of enforcements in 2014 dropped by 26, totaling 299, this is an 8.7% decrease. The number of legal notices issued dropped from 1,629 in 2013 to 1,485 in 2014. During the same period the number of properties inspected rose from 3,099 to 3,607. In addition to the legal notices, we also sent 2,391 letters and made 40 personal contacts to get properties controlled.

Noxious Weeds Inside Lincoln City Limits

Noxious weeds know no boundaries. They find themselves at home inside the city limits along the creeks, in wetlands and waste areas just as well as in the rural areas. Saltcedar, purple loosestrife and knotweed were first introduced as ornamentals and planted in our landscapes, so they are found more in the city than in rural areas. It’s important to control them in the city to prevent the spread into rural areas.

Lincoln’s Noxious Weeds

- Musk thistle: 161
- Phragmites: 84
- Leafy spurge: 83
- Purple loosestrife: 23
- Knotweed: 18
- Canada thistle: 14
- Teasel: 12
- Saltcedar: 4

City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program

Weed Abatement inspections increased from 7,099 in 2013 to 8,310 in 2014, a 17.1% increase. These inspection numbers represent only the 6" height ordinance on overgrown properties; they do NOT include noxious weed inspections. The total number of properties on which these inspections occurred has also increased from 3,099 in 2013 to 3,607 in 2014, a 16.4% increase. I don’t think the city has more overgrown properties than in prior years, I see the awareness of the program and the success we’ve had in cleaning up properties along with the ease of turning in complaints electronically on the web and smart phones has led to the biggest share of the increase.
Combined Weed Program

Almost every parcel outside of developed residential lots has or had one or more kinds of noxious weeds present. The key to noxious weed control is not allowing the plants to seed. This requires persistence and follow-up. Most of the public and private landowners understand this and are keeping their noxious weeds under control. It is the job of noxious weed control authority staff to assist landowners in the job of controlling noxious weeds. Many landowners are accomplishing control without any assistance or contact from the authority. The authority carries out a strong information and awareness program along with an extensive inspection program to encourage voluntary compliance of the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act.

The authority has also provided the inspection and administration of the City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement program since entering into an Interlocal agreement with the City in 1996. The County Commissioners serve as the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority. Brent Meyer serves as the superintendent and supervises a seasonal staff of six weed inspectors with the assistance of Chief Inspector Pat Dugan and Account Clerk Ashley McAllister.

Education & Outreach Activities

Education and outreach are an important ongoing part of our weed control program. The public is generally not aware of the economic and environmental impacts of noxious weeds. There is a need to increase awareness of noxious weeds and to provide educational information to cooperators, land managers, and the public. As people become more aware of noxious weeds, the probability of detecting them is greatly increased, which allows for more effective and timely control. Education and awareness assist with weed identification, reporting of new infestations, prevention, control, and fosters cooperation and partnerships.

Activities in 2014:
- UNL private applicator trainings begin in early January, we give presentations on Weed ID to those with a private applicator license.
- The display booth is busy throughout the year at a variety of locations including; UNL Extension, State Capitol, State Fair, Husker Harvest Days, Nebraska Power Farming Show, and landowner and agency meetings.
- UNL Extension – Lincoln is a great partner to reach out to citizens throughout Lancaster county and surrounding areas. The 4 page insert in the April Nebline is by far the biggest outreach effort of the year, mailed out to 12,000 and is available online.
- The Acreage owners e-news, the Weed Watcher Program as well as our monthly newsletter keep residents up to date on what is going on at key points during the year.
- Our Web page hits continue to increase annually so we are always keeping new, updated information on that.
- Landowner and Multi-agency meetings this year included the sericea lespedeza cost share grant meeting as well as our multi-agency noxious and invasive weed ID training.
- Other groups we were able to present to this year include; UNL-Plant Pathology class, Master Naturalist training, homeowners and neighborhood associations as well as local high schools.
- Our partnerships with City of Lincoln Parks Department and the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District have provided us with many locations to erect kiosk to inform the public using the trails and parks about invasive weeds and how to report them.
Greetings,

Wondering if you know anything about the status of the old cheney widening project and its completion date?

I was thinking the deadline was Jan 1 with a penalty every day the project extends past Jan 5.

Any information is appreciated.

Thanks,
Brian Noonan
7601 Kennelley Drive
bnoonan@ameritas.com

******
This message may contain confidential information intended only for the use of the addressee(s) named above and may contain information that is legally privileged. If you are not the addressee, or the person responsible for delivering it to the addressee, you are hereby notified that reading, disseminating, distributing or copying this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message by mistake, please immediately notify us by replying to the message and delete the original message immediately thereafter. Thank you.
******
Subject: status of old cheney project

From: Miki Esposito
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 5:00 PM
To: 'Jon Camp'
Cc: 'bnoonan@ameritas.com'; Mary M. Meyer
Subject: RE: status of old cheney project

Councilman & Mr. Noonan –
Thank you for your inquiry.

As of today, roadway paving is 100% complete. The goal was to have the roadway opened by Thanksgiving, but the cold snap that moved in during early November made pouring concrete difficult (placement is best when the air temperature is 34 degrees and rising). The contractors anticipate that the roadway will be re-opened by the end of this month – but winter weather continues to be a factor.

We currently have Old Cheney open one lane in each direction from Cross Creek Rd. (roughly 73rd St.) to 84th St. However, Watts Electric is still working on installing the traffic signal at 70th St. which should be complete by the end of January. Once the traffic signal is completed, we should be able to open the roadway (one lane in each direction) all the way from 70th to 84th!

Substantial completion was slated for January 4, 2014, so the contractor will be assessed LD’s for paving/traffic signal items not completed by this date.

Final completion is still scheduled for May of 2015 and includes major items such as:
- Sidewalk paving
- Biketrail paving
- Street lighting
- Erosion control
- Seeding/sodding
- Final grading
- Retaining wall #4

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,
Miki

Miki Esposito, Director
Public Works & Utilities
555 S. 10th St. Room 208
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 441-6173
m.esposito@lincoln.ne.gov
From: Jon Camp [mailto:joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 11:41 AM
To: Miki Esposito
Cc: bnoonan@ameritas.com; Mary M. Meyer
Subject: FW: status of old cheney project

Director Esposito:

Please see the email below from Brian Noonan regarding the completion date for the Old Cheney project and penalties for delay beyond the contract timeline.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Jon

JON CAMP
LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL

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

Office: 402.474.1838/402.474.1812
Fax: 402.474.1838
Cell: 402.560.1001

Email: joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com
Subject: FW: status of old cheney project

From: Jon Camp [mailto:joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 5:07 PM
To: bnoonan@ameritas.com
Cc: Mary M. Meyer; Miki Esposito
Subject: RE: status of old cheney project

Brian:

Does Director Esposito’s response provide the information you were seeking? Like you and the neighbors, the City is interested in completion of Old Cheney, weather permitting. Ms. Esposito and her staff will be monitoring the time commitments and where appropriate, establishing late charges.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Best regards,

Jon

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

Office:  402.474.1838/402.474.1812
Fax:  402.474.1838
Cell:  402.560.1001

Email:  joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com
Website:  www.lincolnhaymarket.com

Check our reception and event venues at:

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Apothecary-Lofts-Ridnour-Rooms/173175799380032
Mr. Giese:
I was asked to investigate and respond to your concerns voiced about traffic on Independence Drive. As a resident of this subdivision who uses the street on my daily commute, I am very familiar with the situation out there.

Based on the studies we conducted, we found a total of 15 crashes along Independence between 20th and 25th Street in the past 5 years. The majority of these were fairly minor, many involving mirrors of parked vehicles getting clipped. Several more involved vehicles backing out of driveways. None of the crashes has resulted in any injuries.

Independence does carry a high volume of traffic for a residential street. North Star High School students use this route from 20th Street to Folkways, and a large number of vehicles intended for the Wal-Mart shopping center also cut through the neighborhood on this route. While the Public Works and Utilities Department would prefer to see these vehicles using the arterial streets instead of these residential streets, they are all public streets and open to all vehicles.

I see some speeding occurring on my daily trips along Independence, but rarely anything excessive. I believe the Police Department would concur in this assessment, as the numerous times I’ve seen the officers out there monitoring speeds over the last couple of years, I have never seen anyone pulled over by them. The presence of multiple parked vehicles and the high volumes of traffic actually help to keep speeds low along this street.

You stated that the curve from Independence to 25th Street has a “design flaw”. The curve at that location is designed for a 25 MPH speed limit, which is what the street’s speed limit is. While I would agree that when the streets are icy, people should not be driving that fast, we need to have the curve designed for traffic to safely negotiate it during the majority of the year when the streets are not impacted by weather. Designing this curve to a lower standard would likely have more motorists driving off the street and losing control of their vehicles, resulting in even more crashes.

Following our review of this street, we would encourage the neighborhood to take part in our Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program as a means to alleviate the concerns you’ve noted. Information on this program can be found at http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/engine/traffic/pdf/neighborhood-traffic.pdf. This process ensures that the neighborhood is on-board with any proposed traffic changes and ensures that any actions taken are both helpful in improving the safety and in maintaining a high quality of life within the neighborhood. If you have any questions regarding the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, please feel free to call Lonnie Burklund at 402-441-7711.

Randy Hoskins, P.E.
Assistant City Engineer
(402) 450-1216
rhoskins@lincoln.ne.gov
From: Jeremy Giese [truepowerelectric@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 7:54 PM  
To: Doug Emery  
Cc: Mary M. Meyer; Jon D. Carlson; Police Traffic Unit  
Subject: Independence Dr  

Mr Emery,

I am contacting you regarding the street of Independence Dr (NE of 27th and Superior) and the traffic flow/accidents. I have an employee that lives at 2319 Independence Dr who drives and parks company vehicle(s) at his home. During work days, occasionally other employees will park their vehicle on the street. This section of street has had its fair share of issues in the past, specifically at the curve where N 25th St turns into Independence Dr. Recently the problems on this street have become more frequent and consistent - to the point of needing a solution.

In November, one of our 1 ton vans (fully loaded with metal pipe and wire) was hit head on as it was parked in front of his home. The vehicle that hit it was a small car and going fast enough to push the van backwards about 10' and end up with the front wheels on top of the car. Since then, similar issues, and/or other related problems have persisted. As recently as today, one of my employees had his vehicle parked on the street and ended his day by discovering a hit and run on his truck. This location is frequently having vehicles hitting mail boxes and/or going through lawns. Most of the time, the vehicles causing the damage are simply driving away. Not only is this frequently causing myself financial losses, but also the residents/guests of that neighborhood. Over and above financial concerns is the increasing risk to safety of those in the area - the speeds that these vehicles are losing control are fatal for anyone standing in its path. Its my understanding that even the officer who responded to the hit and run today was almost hit while taking pictures of the damage.

I am asking that you, as the City Council representative for that area (or anyone else attached to this email), help provide a permanent solution to slow traffic along this route before these property damage claims become scenes of fatalities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeremy Giese  
True Power Inc  
Electrical-AV-Security Divisions "Wiring For Life!"  
(402)304-5182  
www.truepowerinc.com
Hey Randy,

Thank you for the time in getting back to me. I do appreciate you looking into it. I do have a few comments I would like make to provide alternative views on this, not to be confrontational in any way, please dont take it as that. I appreciate how tough public issues can be to address!

- The majority of these were fairly minor, many involving mirrors of parked vehicles getting clipped. Several more involved vehicles backing out of driveways. None of the crashes has resulted in any injuries. I would agree that most are minor. Again, I know all you have to go of are reported accidents. As I told Mr Peschong, many - including us, have been reluctant to report minor accidents for the simple fact that its viewed as wasting everyones time. Hindsight, for the sake of stuff like this, they should be reported. In the case of the specific address we are talking about, at times, it averages 1 a week. As far as none of the accidents resulting in injury - attached is a picture from this November at the specific address in concern (you will be able to find the police report). The mother of this driver told me she had to take her daughter to the hospital because of the injuries from this crash. To say that none of the crashes resulted in any injuries is just not true. You also have to consider the financial loss to each resident when something like this happens - each one of those unreported accidents realistically probably averages $100. At the address in concern, its been about $1800 between the months of November and December. While isolated, thats a pretty heavy financial impact at just one address location. What's the tally each year?

Independence does carry a high volume of traffic for a residential street. North Star High School students use this route from 20th Street to Folkways, and a large number of vehicles intended for the Wal-Mart shopping center also cut through the neighborhood on this route. While the Public Works and Utilities Department would prefer to see these vehicles using the arterial streets instead of these residential streets, they are all public streets and open to all vehicles. - This was the most striking part of your email back to me and also the most confusing as to the mind set of PW. Nothing I have said prior and after this will mean as much as this. You essentially said - 'its carrying more traffic than we intended and planned for'. Which means you all have a design flaw (maybe it wasnt at one time - you just acknowledged it is now though), you notice it, now act on it please. Thats 100% on PW to be fluid with those changes in flow. Its ok to have mistakes, its ok to have it not work out as intended - the mistake isnt made until you notice it and dont address it (THATS where you all messed up huge on the round-about down the road on Superior). Put in speed bumps at the curve. If there is ever an accident where someone gets hurt/killed and it ends up in court - is there anyone of you that is comfortable having this email/comments in the hands of a lawyer representing them? "We knew that it was being improperly used, but its ok because we preferred that it wasnt" ....isn't a very good defense to protect the city from liability.

The presence of multiple parked vehicles and the high volumes of traffic actually help to keep speeds low along this street. Again - really!? I would agree with the statement in regards to what it seems to cause, but is that seriously something PW considers as part of a good design!? Im an electrician, thats like me saying "I think we should let this live wire hang out in the open - the air will actually help keep it from overheating and it will also shock people so they know not to hang something on it. Its quite effective"....
You stated that the curve from Independence to 25th Street has a “design flaw”. The curve at that location is designed for a 25 MPH speed limit, which is what the street’s speed limit is. While I would agree that when the streets are icy, people should not be driving that fast, we need to have the curve designed for traffic to safely negotiate it during the majority of the year when the streets are not impacted by weather. Designing this curve to a lower standard would likely have more motorists driving off the street and losing control of their vehicles, resulting in even more crashes. Perspective. Oh its well designed to move traffic at 25mph and it will do it safely the majority of the year....until it gets icy. 25mph is too fast at that corner when its icy. Im sure all over town there are seasonal things you do. Do it here. Im far from an expert in thermal-dynamics, but that curve always is the slickest part of the road. Any chance that thermal differences from that culvert that runs right under the curve plays a part - much like bridges? In normal conditions, again the curve doesn't force anyone to slow down like a turn at an intersection would. It can be negotiated at higher speeds... and Im sure is a blast for those HS kids!

Finally - I looked at that traffic calming link. Im familiar with it, thats how you ended up with my initial request (step 1). Ironically lets actually look into what that says -

- "Traffic calming involves changes in street alignment, installation of barriers, and other physical measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or cut-through volumes in the interest of street safety, livability, and other public purposes." (This is exactly what Im saying that needs).

- Traffic Operations staff will conduct traffic volume and speed studies....
a) Are vehicle volumes higher than average for a residential street? (You have already acknowledged that its high volume)
c) Is the traffic being generated from within the neighborhood or is it "cut-through" traffic? (You have also acknowledged this already - the others are on you all to figure out)

- Speed humps should be used on local streets where speed control is desired or where cut-through traffic is to be discouraged. Speed tables should be used on streets where speed reduction or discouragement of cut-through traffic is desired (Remember your comment about the cut through traffic from the school and Walmart? I think the cut through is terrible on that street, I think its a large part of the problems.)

- Narrowings are short roadway segments that are narrower than the typical roadway section. Typical narrowings include neckdowns, chokers, and island narrowings. Narrowings increase pedestrian safety but have little effect on traffic volume or speed. '...narrowings create a less safe environment for bicycles due to less visibility when they are in the narrowed area...' (This sounds exactly like what the vehicles parked on this street are doing in effect. But you say - The presence of multiple parked vehicles and the high volumes of traffic actually help to keep speeds low along this street. Your documentation says otherwise. It also points out that it creates a less safe environment for bicycles...we all do understand that this is a residential area with little kids living there, right? Do we really want to rely on this effect?)

Jeremy Giese