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   14. Ban Assault Weapons in Lincoln - Mary Stillwell

VIII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS
      See invitation list.

IX. ADJOURNMENT
Memorandum

Date:  ◆ April 17, 2018
To:  ◆ City Clerk
From:  ◆ Amy Huffman, Planning Dept.
Re:  ◆ Administrative Approvals
cc:  ◆ Mayor Chris Beutler
     Planning Commission
     Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of the administrative approvals by the Planning Director from April 10, 2018 through April 16, 2018:

Administrative Amendment No. 18017, to Special Permit No. 1985, Athey Painting, approved by the Planning Director on April 13, 2018, to add a 40' x 80' accessory building and increase the total building square footage, generally located at 1st Street & Lincoln Street, Cheney, NE.
Angela M. Birkett

From: 1lnash@windstream.net
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 1:11 PM
Subject: JPA

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear City Council Members:

There is NO NEED for JPA for school security. The resources are there from the increased valuations and tax increase from last year. PLEASE STOP THIS NONSENSE NOW!!!!

Sincerely,

Ron and Lynette Nash
Councilman Camp,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the formation of the proposed Lincoln's Safe and Successful Kids Joint Public Agency. I am not opposed to the draft goals of the program (protective programs; preventative programs; and proactive programs) as outlined in the 4/16/18 edition of the Lincoln Journal Star. However, I am opposed to the creation of another governmental agency with taxing authority. I firmly believe that funding can be found within the existing public and private sector to fund the Lincoln's Safe and Successful Kids goals. In my opinion, there is absolutely no reason to continue to create and expand bureaucracies in Lincoln.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Regards,

Steve Carr
Dear Council Members:

I attended the LPS/LPD public meeting a couple weeks ago at Lincoln High. It is appalling that not one gun violence prevention advocate was invited (allowed?) to be a panel member.

When Korey Reiman states this is not a gun issue, he is being disingenuous. This issue is most definitely a result of too many guns in our society. Why are we not going after the gun industry to pay for the security we now need because of their insistence on guns in every hand everywhere all the time? Just adding armed officers to the schools is akin to airdropping opioids on West Virginia.

This letter is a revision of one I sent to the school board after their last meeting on April 10. Arresting kids when they make an adult mad is a surefire ladder to the school to prison pipeline. Lincoln demographics show increasing populations in African American and Latino kids entering the LPS system. What are the ethnicity ratios among LPD officers and how many minority officers are SROs?

I am concerned greatly that the LPD, LPS, some City Council members and many community members seem determined to add more guns into the schools in spite of evidence from across the country to the contrary. If Lincoln has a track record of diminishing the numbers of juveniles being rushed into the pipeline, then the records should reflect that. Years of SROs in and not in schools should give some indication of local trends. Chief Bliemeister has provided me with various reports and I worked through them prior to the School Board meeting. I have found no records of juvenile arrests prior to 2013 in the LPD Annual Reports. It appears juveniles were just lumped into the criminal arrest records for adults. Records from 2013-2016 list juveniles by age and type of crime but do not distinguish the race of the juvenile or location where crime was committed. How the court disposed of these cases is not in the LPD reports either. This data is not public because of privacy of the suspected offenders’ age. Prior to the final decisions on a JPA or any other taxation to put more armed officers in schools there should be formal research studies conducted to determine:

1. The actual efficacy of SROs being used
2. The specific data on where juvenile arrests are taking place (in/on school grounds or elsewhere)
3. The race and gender of these arrested kids
4. What they were arrested for? Are they being arrested because of “kids making adults mad,” which is Not a crime but a matter for teachers and schools to discipline?

Are SROs being used in
place of school counselors and health officers because funding for schools is not forthcoming from our Governor and the Unicameral?

I taught at UNL for 22 years. More than a few immature 18-25 year old males took my classes. You may remember the one about 10 years ago who picked up a plastic toy watergun and yelled “Gun!” in a crowded hallway! I greatly fear a high or middle school kid doing a similar stupid dumb kid thing but getting shot for it.

Can we not be more creative than this? Other states find ways to avoid the pipeline and are actively changing their laws on what guns are legal within their communities. Just this month a Massachusetts federal judge ruled assault weapons are not protected from being banned by the 2A.

I suggest you look at Head of Juvenile Court, Judge Steven C. Teske’s several testimonies to the US Senate since 2012 about the pipeline in Clayton County Georgia and his success rate at lowering the numbers by eliminating armed SROs in his county’s school system. https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/teske_testimony.pdf

I am looking forward to hearing from you at the upcoming meetings.

Mo Neal
Prof. Emerita, UNL,
College of Fine & Performing Arts
Member Nebraskans Against Gun Violence

Sent from my iPhone
Dear City Council,

My name is Jenni Watson, I am the president of the Eastridge Neighborhood Association. I was able to attend an informational meeting held by Jay and Joan Peters, their lawyer and Panera management. We had several neighbors that also attended the meeting. We were able to discuss potential concerns that might affect the neighborhood. Most neighbors concerns were regarding traffic flow issues. However, as the plans were laid out it seemed that everyone at the meeting was in favor of the proposed change. As a representative of our board and neighborhood, I really do not see this as a problem in anyway. The drive-thru will flow back onto O street keeping heavy traffic flow away from our neighborhood. It will certainly be loved by our neighborhood school, Eastridge. I am in favor of Panera joining our wonderful neighborhood.

Jenni Watson
President, Eastridge Neighborhood Association
822 Mulder Drive
Lincoln, NE 68510
jenni@amazed.com
785-341-6125
Mr. Zvolanek,
Thank you for your email to the Council expressing your views. It is so important that we hear from engaged residents on matters such as this.

I am a vocal opponent of the JPA and agree that we can these things with Interlocal Agreements that will get the services directly to the kids and their safety without creating administrative costs and additional bureaucracy.

I have sent a couple of Resolutions to the law department for drafting. The first would direct city staff to work to expand our current Interlocal to add the SROs. Interestingly, the proposed JPA does not replace the current Interlocal for SROs, and any additional SROs beyond the 6 proposed would still have to be negotiated under the Interlocal because of the 30% cap for spending on “Protective Programming” in the proposed JPA. My second proposed Resolution directs staff to negotiate an Interlocal memorializing the City’s commitment to CLCs and expanded behavioral health services.

I expect hearing on my Resolutions will take place at the evening Council meeting on April 30 (5:30). If you are able to attend, your testimony will be helpful. Until then, I will continue my attempt to work with fellow City Council members to gain majority support.

Thank you again for your participation in the process.

Cyndi Lamm
Lincoln City Council
District 1/NE Lincoln

clamm@lincoln.ne.gov
402.432.9770
follow me on facebook at cyndiforthecity
I am in favor of better security for LPS and more officers.  
We currently have officers in the school already.  
Just amend the inter local agreements for more.  

LPS has money for this and can fund the $2 million with the $9 million in projected increase in 2018 City Commercial taxes.  
Or from the $20 million additional coming from the State.  
Or take it from the additional monies collected in 2017 from the increased personal property taxes.  
Or take some from the City funds which collected more from the 2017 property taxes in which some city council members ran against, then changed their position in favor of.  

I am opposed to LPS and the City of Lincoln voting for another line item in my property taxes.  
I am opposed to decisions being made in closed sessions to include hiring Seacrest as Lawyer when items have not even been voted.  

I expect you and the City Council to better stewards of our money.  
And I expect better of LPS Board of Ed and LPS Administration.  
I will be writing our Mayor.  
I have already written several LPS Board of Ed Members and Dr. Joel.  

I await to hear your response and your position on this.  

Jon O. Zvolanek  
6946 Ash Hollow Lane  
Lincoln, NE 68516  

jon.zvolanek@gmail.com  
402.770.1080
Dear City Council members:

We fully agree with the LIBA position on SRO's and the JPA. We want 12 more resource officers in the schools funded through existing budgets. There are more than adequate funds available due to increased property valuations. We oppose creation of a new taxing entity. Please vote NO on the JPA. Thanks.

Alan & Donna Hersch
5940 Dobsons Ct.
One question about the proposed JPA between the City and LPS.

Will the funding and or spending of the JPA reduce the amount of City spending covered under the State spending lid?

Thanks in advance for your response.

Jim Frohman
7335 Pioneers Blvd
Apt. 212
Lincoln, NE 68506
402.617.2484
jimfrohman@outlook.com
Dear Jon,

I see that you intend to introduce an ordinance to eliminate the current ban on bike riding on downtown sidewalks. You said you want to legislate reality, with safety in mind, but this is a NOT a good idea and let me explain why.

Two years ago, I helped write legislation (LB 717, amending statutes 60-6,153 and 60-6,154) so Senator Kolowski could sponsor it that eventually passed into law, that would allow cyclists the same protection as pedestrians when crossing an intersection so that cyclists would not have to dismount their bikes. After the bill was passed and before the law went into effect July 21, 2016, I worked with City Attorney Jeff Kirkpatrick to make sure the city's ordinances matched up with the state law. We discussed this at great length with many cyclists, and attorneys who are cyclists, who ride all over Lincoln and outside of Lincoln. We all felt that the current ordinance is good for cyclists and pedestrians.

As a downtown worker who bikes, I don't like it when people ride their bikes on the sidewalk as it's too dangerous. It's better to walk the bike in the downtown area where there are more people. If you read the bicycle ordinance, you will see that. I even discussed this with Carl Eskridge, who lives downtown, and he agreed. When I bike down to the Farmer's Market, I always walk my bike as a courtesy as it's safer. And you're not going to get people to use a bell when some people won't even wear a helmet!

My husband Bob Torell, and I (who are constituents of yours) have been avid cyclists for several years. We've ridden our bikes all over the state in over 30 multiple day bike rides, we've ridden in over 35 states, and rode six day bike rides in both Tuscany Italy and Quebec Canada. Bob rode his bicycle across the U.S. from coast to coast four years ago. We have served on the board of directors for the Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) for nearly 20 years and we know the rights and laws of cyclists in Lincoln and Nebraska.

You gave examples of bikes and pedestrians mixing well in China and Europe. That's because biking is a way of life in those countries and people have been riding their bikes for centuries there. Of all the places where we've ridden, Lincoln and parts of our state are the most bike-unfriendly places we've ever been to! In Quebec, I don't speak the language, or read their signage, but I felt so much safer biking there than here. And we biked in Quebec City (pop. 800,000), on trails, and in the countryside. Motorists yield to cyclists all the time. It's the same way in all of Oregon, parts of California, Wisconsin and other states.

If you really want to do something for cyclists and pedestrians, you can please help me convince Miki Esposito of Public Works to eliminate Right Turns on Red at intersections where there are bike trails. That includes Old Cheney & 84th Streets, Old Cheney & 70th Streets to start. I see a minimum of three red light runners every day! Motorists think that because they can turn right on red that they don't need to stop
first. When drivers approach the intersection turning right, they don't look to the right (where a cyclist or pedestrian could be) as they are looking left at the oncoming traffic. I can't tell you the number of times I've nearly been hit because of this.

There are other side streets that cross the trail, and motorists drive right through the lights or stop sign. This is prevalent near the Edgewood Shopping Center where Vandervoort Street and South 59th Street cross the trail. Vandervoort has a stop light, but 59th just has a stop sign and people rarely stop there as they come out of the shopping center. Again these are areas where Right Turn On Red should be eliminated. I bike this trail and the Billy Wolff constantly when training or commuting to work. I see young children, runners and mothers pushing strollers along these trails and they would be protected to by eliminating the Right Turn on Red and the green turn arrow.

I would be willing to meet with you and/or Miki Esposito to discuss any of these issues to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists, but PLEASE don't change the existing ordinance. We worked too long and hard to have the law and ordinance written the way they are now to help protect us!

My home address is 6020 South 88th Street.

Thank you!

--

Mary Torell
Administrative Aide to
Senator Rick Kolowski
District 31 • 402-471-2327
mtorell@leg.ne.gov
I see in the paper today that Councilman Camp is considering an ordinance which permits the use of bicycles on downtown sidewalks. In the downtown area, as is true for the city at large, 80% of collisions between cars and bicycles happen to bicyclists who have been or are riding on the sidewalk, according to police reports. Overall, half of all cyclists in Lincoln ride in the street, half on the sidewalk. But 80% of all collisions between cars and bicycles happen to those cyclists who have been or are riding on the sidewalk--most frequently at intersections. Put another way, it is 4 times more dangerous to ride your bicycle on the sidewalk than in the street. Over the years, there have been--before any bike lanes were installed--only 4 collisions per year between cars and bicycles ridden on the street in the downtown area. However, there have have 20--twenty!!--collisions each year between cars and bicycles ridden on the sidewalks downtown. I think we should not encourage or permit bicyclists to ride on the sidewalk downtown--for their own safety, as well as the safety of pedestrians.
City Council - Contact

Date: 4/18/2018 1:59:55 PM

name  Bradley Hauf
address  1410 F street apartment #12
city  Lincoln
state  NE
zip  68508
email  A7XCROSSA7X@GMAIL.COM
comments  I talked to an officer this morning, he stated we need more police officers. Also, I encourage you in Christ to weed out bad business like strip clubs and liquor places because you have the right to refuse so. Its like a bartender who may refuse alcoholic service to an individual for any reason, whether they have had too many or they refuse to do so based on moral grounds. Even people at restaurants have the right to refuse service, therefore I ask you dearly to refuse service to that which is already stated as criminalistic according to the wholey bible. Encourage the community to come to the council meetings within the christian community, for I rarely see this advertised. This would be a great place to find moral upright citizenry to do so.
City Council - Contact

Date: 4/18/2018 6:06:41 PM

name: Eric Oelke
address: 5210 Danbury ct
      city: Lincoln
      state: NE
      zip: 68512
email: Eoelka@neb.rr.com

comments: Dear council members,

The tweeting and taunting of the lincoln police department should be stopped. To protect and serve. That’s what they are for. To humiliate and make fun of citizens is disgusting. Those citizens pay their salaries. The tweeting is a waste of time and only helps perpetuate the cops vs citizens mentality.

Thank you

Eric Oelke
I am in complete agreement with Nancy's comments below and could not have said it better myself.

Julia Kercher  
3400 S. 81st St. 
Lincoln, NE 68506

Dear City Council Members and School Board Members,

As a taxpayer, I agree 100% with Council Member Lamm's recommendation that you forget forming another JPA to fund the hiring of school resource officers. As she so clearly stated, there is no lack of funds available within the current LPS budget, especially with the bump up of revenues from recent property valuations, and the city can work it into its own budget, as well: "We don't need another entity that lacks transparency, increases bureaucracy." I am in complete agreement. The formation of this new JPA may not immediately affect property tax rates, due to the proposed juggling that will introduce it, but it leaves an avenue open for future abuse of the taxpayer as the levy is found to be "insufficient" and so on. I am opposed to any "new agency" to collect property taxes.

I am also opposed to the other items the "new JPA" would be utilized for as a funding stream: Community Learning Centers, social workers in the schools and mental health services for students. As Lamm and School Board Member Schulte said, and I agree, all of those can be funded from the current revenue and budget processes. There is no need for a new JPA to be formed, and I am very much opposed to such an action. As Lamm said, there is a need to be good stewards of the tax dollars you already have control over.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Nancy Carr

Cell: 402-304-2769
6900 Ash Hollow Lane
Lincoln, NE 68516
I am writing to voice my extreme displeasure in learning that the mayor and members of this council are looking to fund school security needs with a JPA. LPS has plenty of funding as they continue to reap millions of additional property tax dollars due to property valuations, and they make no attempt to reduce their levy to defray costs to the tax payer. Make LPS do this on their own, they have the dollars!!!
A good argument to move forward to ban assault weapons in Lincoln (and in Nebraska, if possible).

2018 ONE BOOK, ONE NEBRASKA: Nebraska Presence, An Anthology of Poetry, edited by Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell

Mary K. Stillwell
The Life and Poetry of Ted Kooser
Maps & Destinations
Fallen Angels

Order from your local bookseller or online at Amazon.com
Is It Time To Bring Back The Assault Weapons Ban?

Number of U.S. gun massacres and fatalities from 1984 to 2014

- **Incidents**
- **Deaths**

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Assault Weapons Ban

Source: Louis Klarevas via The Washington Post