I. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

FINANCE
1. April 2018 Sales Tax Report reflecting February 2018 sales

II. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE
1. Proposed Bike Ordinance, opposition - Mike Edwards
   Staff response provided by Councilman Camp
3. Proposed JPA, opposition - Bryan Jones
4. Proposed JPA, opposition - Dale McIntosh
5. Proposed JPA, opposition - Steve Carr
6. Proposed Bike Ordinance, opposition - Ron Case
7. School Security - David Nicholson
8. Proposed JPA, opposition - Danielle Conrad, JD
9. Proposed JPA, opposition - Bill and Linda Ramsey
## Actual Compared to Projected Sales Tax Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017-18 PROJECTED</th>
<th>2017-18 ACTUAL</th>
<th>FROM PROJECTED</th>
<th>$ CHANGE</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>$6,241,848</td>
<td>$6,288,498</td>
<td>$46,650</td>
<td>$239,946</td>
<td>3.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>$6,515,645</td>
<td>$6,780,531</td>
<td>$264,886</td>
<td>$213,486</td>
<td>3.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>$6,482,909</td>
<td>$6,536,831</td>
<td>$53,922</td>
<td>$146,570</td>
<td>2.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>$6,202,974</td>
<td>$6,324,661</td>
<td>$121,687</td>
<td>$275,454</td>
<td>4.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>$6,197,601</td>
<td>$6,052,437</td>
<td>($145,164)</td>
<td>$61,424</td>
<td>1.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>$7,579,660</td>
<td>$7,458,413</td>
<td>($121,247)</td>
<td>$255,238</td>
<td>3.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>$5,939,416</td>
<td>$5,880,960</td>
<td>($58,456)</td>
<td>$451,304</td>
<td>8.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>$5,770,028</td>
<td>$5,576,757</td>
<td>($193,271)</td>
<td>($32,563)</td>
<td>-0.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>$6,890,278</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>$6,451,042</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>$6,419,310</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>$6,836,893</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$77,527,604</td>
<td>$50,899,088</td>
<td>($30,993)</td>
<td>$1,610,859</td>
<td>3.27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Actual collections for the fiscal year to date are 0.1% over projections for the year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>% CHG. PRIOR YEAR</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>% CHG. PRIOR YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>$5,431,071</td>
<td>$5,741,404</td>
<td>$6,041,963</td>
<td>5.23%</td>
<td>$6,265,764</td>
<td>$6,386,734</td>
<td>1.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>$5,740,406</td>
<td>$5,848,947</td>
<td>$6,089,519</td>
<td>4.11%</td>
<td>$6,598,756</td>
<td>$6,811,452</td>
<td>3.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>$5,729,609</td>
<td>$5,873,441</td>
<td>$6,266,119</td>
<td>6.69%</td>
<td>$6,471,721</td>
<td>$6,537,754</td>
<td>1.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>$5,401,140</td>
<td>$5,737,783</td>
<td>$5,876,792</td>
<td>2.42%</td>
<td>$6,128,386</td>
<td>$6,371,026</td>
<td>3.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>$5,562,529</td>
<td>$5,525,231</td>
<td>$5,651,337</td>
<td>2.28%</td>
<td>$6,285,444</td>
<td>$6,432,363</td>
<td>2.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>$6,570,418</td>
<td>$6,802,647</td>
<td>$7,137,154</td>
<td>4.92%</td>
<td>$7,293,928</td>
<td>$7,459,132</td>
<td>2.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>$5,304,048</td>
<td>$5,396,268</td>
<td>$5,392,157</td>
<td>-0.08%</td>
<td>$5,521,761</td>
<td>$5,930,406</td>
<td>7.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>$5,214,537</td>
<td>$5,188,877</td>
<td>$5,426,539</td>
<td>4.58%</td>
<td>$5,639,028</td>
<td>$5,618,037</td>
<td>-0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>$5,642,139</td>
<td>$6,348,190</td>
<td>$6,494,521</td>
<td>2.31%</td>
<td>$6,708,815</td>
<td>$6,708,815</td>
<td>3.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>$5,635,827</td>
<td>$5,728,421</td>
<td>$6,030,654</td>
<td>5.28%</td>
<td>$6,255,952</td>
<td>$6,255,952</td>
<td>3.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>$5,654,660</td>
<td>$5,841,882</td>
<td>$6,000,464</td>
<td>2.71%</td>
<td>$6,440,709</td>
<td>$6,440,709</td>
<td>7.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>$5,921,577</td>
<td>$6,196,574</td>
<td>$6,657,168</td>
<td>7.43%</td>
<td>$6,736,493</td>
<td>$6,736,493</td>
<td>1.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$67,807,961</td>
<td>$70,229,665</td>
<td>$73,064,387</td>
<td>4.04%</td>
<td>$76,346,757</td>
<td>$51,546,904</td>
<td>2.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Actual 2013-2014</td>
<td>Actual 2014-2015</td>
<td>Actual 2015-2016</td>
<td>% CHG. from Prior Year</td>
<td>Actual 2016-2017</td>
<td>% CHG. from Prior Year</td>
<td>Actual 2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>($80,176)</td>
<td>($44,232)</td>
<td>($105,779)</td>
<td>139.15%</td>
<td>($217,212)</td>
<td>105.35%</td>
<td>($98,235)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>($96,046)</td>
<td>($191,059)</td>
<td>($94,343)</td>
<td>-50.62%</td>
<td>($31,712)</td>
<td>-66.39%</td>
<td>($30,920)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>($15,001)</td>
<td>($151,968)</td>
<td>($83,553)</td>
<td>-45.02%</td>
<td>($81,460)</td>
<td>-2.50%</td>
<td>($923)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>($18,536)</td>
<td>($23,916)</td>
<td>($43,624)</td>
<td>82.41%</td>
<td>($79,179)</td>
<td>81.50%</td>
<td>($46,365)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>($603,295)</td>
<td>($277,201)</td>
<td>($98,310)</td>
<td>-64.53%</td>
<td>($294,431)</td>
<td>199.49%</td>
<td>($379,926)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>($58,173)</td>
<td>($381,405)</td>
<td>($276,479)</td>
<td>-27.51%</td>
<td>($90,752)</td>
<td>-67.18%</td>
<td>($719)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>($169,963)</td>
<td>($69,314)</td>
<td>($39,620)</td>
<td>-42.84%</td>
<td>($92,105)</td>
<td>132.47%</td>
<td>($49,445)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>($81,416)</td>
<td>($79,747)</td>
<td>($75,796)</td>
<td>-4.95%</td>
<td>($29,707)</td>
<td>-60.81%</td>
<td>($41,280)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>($43,775)</td>
<td>($72,554)</td>
<td>($105,297)</td>
<td>45.13%</td>
<td>($67,726)</td>
<td>-35.68%</td>
<td>($91,272)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>($81,809)</td>
<td>($26,219)</td>
<td>($152,053)</td>
<td>479.93%</td>
<td>($83,394)</td>
<td>-45.15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>($116,801)</td>
<td>($40,332)</td>
<td>($55,289)</td>
<td>37.08%</td>
<td>($1,932)</td>
<td>-96.51%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>($49,577)</td>
<td>($10,119)</td>
<td>($312,528)</td>
<td>2988.53%</td>
<td>($17,202)</td>
<td>-94.50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>($1,414,568)</td>
<td>($1,368,066)</td>
<td>($1,442,671)</td>
<td>5.45%</td>
<td>($1,086,812)</td>
<td>-24.67%</td>
<td>($739,085)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CITY OF LINCOLN
NET SALES TAX COLLECTIONS
2013-2014 THROUGH 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Actual 2013-14</th>
<th>Actual 2014-15</th>
<th>Actual 2015-16</th>
<th>% CHG. FROM PR. YEAR</th>
<th>Actual 2016-17</th>
<th>% CHG. FROM PR. YEAR</th>
<th>Actual 2017-18</th>
<th>% CHG. FROM PRIOR YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>$5,350,895</td>
<td>$5,697,172</td>
<td>$5,936,184</td>
<td>4.20%</td>
<td>$6,048,552</td>
<td>1.89%</td>
<td>$6,288,498</td>
<td>3.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>$5,644,359</td>
<td>$5,657,888</td>
<td>$5,995,177</td>
<td>5.96%</td>
<td>$6,567,045</td>
<td>9.54%</td>
<td>$6,780,531</td>
<td>3.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>$5,714,609</td>
<td>$5,721,474</td>
<td>$6,182,565</td>
<td>8.06%</td>
<td>$6,390,261</td>
<td>3.36%</td>
<td>$6,536,831</td>
<td>2.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>$5,382,604</td>
<td>$5,713,868</td>
<td>$5,833,168</td>
<td>2.09%</td>
<td>$6,049,207</td>
<td>3.70%</td>
<td>$6,324,661</td>
<td>4.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>$4,959,233</td>
<td>$5,248,031</td>
<td>$5,553,027</td>
<td>5.81%</td>
<td>$5,991,013</td>
<td>7.89%</td>
<td>$6,052,437</td>
<td>1.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>$6,512,245</td>
<td>$6,421,242</td>
<td>$6,860,675</td>
<td>6.84%</td>
<td>$7,203,175</td>
<td>4.99%</td>
<td>$7,458,413</td>
<td>3.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>$5,134,084</td>
<td>$5,326,954</td>
<td>$5,352,537</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
<td>$5,429,656</td>
<td>1.44%</td>
<td>$5,880,960</td>
<td>8.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>$5,133,122</td>
<td>$5,109,130</td>
<td>$5,350,744</td>
<td>4.73%</td>
<td>$5,609,320</td>
<td>4.83%</td>
<td>$5,576,757</td>
<td>-0.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>$5,598,363</td>
<td>$6,275,635</td>
<td>$6,389,224</td>
<td>1.81%</td>
<td>$6,641,089</td>
<td>3.94%</td>
<td>$5,598,363</td>
<td>-0.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>$5,554,017</td>
<td>$5,702,202</td>
<td>$5,878,601</td>
<td>3.09%</td>
<td>$6,172,558</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>$5,554,017</td>
<td>-0.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>$5,537,859</td>
<td>$5,801,550</td>
<td>$5,945,175</td>
<td>2.48%</td>
<td>$6,438,777</td>
<td>8.30%</td>
<td>$5,537,859</td>
<td>-0.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>$5,872,000</td>
<td>$6,186,455</td>
<td>$6,344,640</td>
<td>2.56%</td>
<td>$6,719,292</td>
<td>5.91%</td>
<td>$5,872,000</td>
<td>-0.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$66,393,390</td>
<td>$68,861,601</td>
<td>$71,621,717</td>
<td>4.01%</td>
<td>$75,259,945</td>
<td>5.08%</td>
<td>$50,899,088</td>
<td>3.27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hi, Jon. I wanted to take a moment to express my opinion on bikes on sidewalks. I don’t know what it’s like in the Haymarket. We’re in the downtown core, and bikes on sidewalks are a regular occurrence, even when the street has a bike lane. And I think they’re often dangerous. They weave in and out and tend to go very fast. I’ve seen pedestrians narrowly escape getting clobbered by a kid going too fast on a crowded sidewalk. I don’t think a bell will solve that.

Just my two cents.

Mike
Mike

Thanks for your comments regarding bicycles on sidewalks. I understand the concerns you expressed and am wondering if you can offer some thoughts on a better way to address this subject.

As you note, the bicyclists are already on the sidewalks and create points of conflict with pedestrians. I am basically looking for a common sense approach to this situation that minimizes conflict among pedestrians bicycle riders and motor vehicles.

I do not want to be your cradic in the matter nor do I want to put extra duties on our police officers. Our the present situation is one in which the bicycle violators are rarely if ever stopped.

Thanks,

Jon

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council,

Lincoln & Nebraska has typically followed fiscally conservative principles on projects and growth of government. This proposed JPA is neither conservative or prudent when there is a very large windfall ($32 million) in additional funding this year that LPS realized (not to mention the $18 million last year in additional revenue). LPS growth demands will be requesting a bond issue voting just around the corner and if they want Lincoln to support (which they typically do for education) they need to approach the safety proposal as funded within their new funds and set it aside for longevity ($2 million a year - their excess would be funded it from just this year for over 12 years conservatively). This is what Lincoln residents have to do and government entities should as well. A new bureaucracy of a JPA is not Nebraska like.

This proposal is not Lincoln like nor Nebraska like. Please do not support the forming of the JPA.

Sincerely
Dan Klein Jr
3745 Calvert St
68506
Dear City Council member,

I am writing to express my opposition to the creation of the proposed JPA for funding of additional SRO’s, mental health services and community learning centers.

I believe that in light of the additional property tax collections from valuation increases and increased state aid to education to LPS that there is ample tax revenue in their budget to fund the proposals.

If I am correct, community learning centers are already funded in the city budget and if the JPA is enacted that money will be refunded to the city general budget to the tune of several hundred thousand dollars, thereby allowing the Mayor’s budget to exceed it’s spending increase limits.

I think SRO’s, mental health services and community learning centers are important, but I would ask you and LPS to prioritize and work within the funding you have at your disposal.

Respectfully,

Bryan Jones
Good Day,
I would like your support against the JPA proposal for SRO, mental health counselors and security needs in Lincoln. The last thing we need in this town is another entity to generate more tax increases and costs. We have to stop spending and taxing like there is no limit to the peoples money.

Thank you,
Dale McIntosh
Council Members,

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 agencies to fund the Lincoln's Safe and Successful Kids proposed 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
6240 S Richland Cir
Lincoln, NE
Councilman Camp,

I am a bicyclist and a member of GPTN. However, I am also a pedestrian and I oppose your idea of allowing bicyclists on sidewalks. Way too many cyclists go buzzing by and I have nearly been struck twice. We don’t want to encourage that bad behavior.

Ron Case
2420 N. 78th St
Lincoln
6 April 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SCHOOL SECURITY

Let's pretend I am a person who has decided I need some national notarization. So I decide I am going to enter a school and start shooting people at random.

The idea of law enforcement officers in the school is a good idea as long as they are well trained and can react quickly to a hostile situation.

Knowing that the system has increased law enforcement presence the first thing I am going to look for is a uniformed officer and take him out first. Put these officers in plain clothes so they might appear as school administration personnel and not law officers. Keep them in uniform, you might as well put a target on their back so the perpetrator can identify him right away and attempt to take him out.

David Nicholson
Nebraska State Patrol (retired)
402-223-0077.
Dear Mayor Beutler-
First, thank you so much for your ongoing commitment to public service and for your hard work to keep our students safe and provide meaningful opportunities for positive student engagement that benefit us all.

Second, attached please find a letter that we are sending to all Lincoln city leaders and LPS leaders that outline some of our concerns about recently announced proposals regarding School Resource Officers (SROs). We are grateful this community has hard working educators and acknowledge that they have difficult jobs. We are also grateful that this community has hard working law enforcement officers and acknowledge that they have difficult jobs. However, we remain deeply concerned about how an increased presence of SROs impacts racial justice, disability rights, immigrant and refugee students, and all LPS student’s civil rights and civil liberties.

Finally, we are happy to visit with you at any time about these issues or to provide more information about these matters if that is helpful. We do urge you to proceed with caution and ensure a robust community conversation can occur on these critical topics.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

In friendship,

Danielle Conrad, JD
Executive Director | ACLU of Nebraska
134 S. 13th St. #1010, Lincoln NE 68508
(402) 476-8091 x102 • dconrad@aclunebraska.org
www.aclunebraska.org

Angela M. Birkett

From: Danielle Conrad <dconrad@aclunebraska.org>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 5:01 PM
To: Mayor
Cc: Rose Godinez; Council Packet; Rick D. Hoppe
Subject: ACLU Letter on SROs- Education Not Incarceration
Attachments: ACLU Letter, SROs, April 2018.pdf
April 20, 2018

Lanny Boswell
School Board President
Lincoln School Board
5000 South 63rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68516

RE: School-to-Prison Pipeline: Intersection between School Resource Officers (SROs) and Students

Dear Honorable School Board Members:

For over 50 years in Nebraska, the ACLU has worked in courts, legislatures, and communities to protect the constitutional and individual rights of all people. With a nationwide network of offices and millions of members and supporters, we take up the toughest civil liberties fights. Beyond one person, party, or side — we the people dare to create a more perfect union.

The ACLU of Nebraska writes today urging you to ensure your effort to protect students does not result in the further over-criminalization of youthful misbehavior or mental illness. We commend you on your quick response to a national tragedy and for hearing the voices of the many students and families requesting action be taken. We write to ensure that measures intended to protect our students from harm do not result in more students becoming ensnared in the student-to-prison pipeline.

The ACLU works with teachers, parents, students, community members, and legislators to ensure equality and dignity for all students in Nebraska schools, regardless of their religious affiliation, immigration status, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The ACLU is committed to challenging the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a disturbing national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Many of these children have learning disabilities or histories of poverty, abuse, or neglect, and would benefit from additional educational and counseling services. Instead, they are isolated, punished, and pushed out.

The ACLU believes that children should be educated, not incarcerated. We are working to challenge numerous policies and practices within public school systems and the juvenile justice system that contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline.
Many under-resourced schools become pipeline gateways by placing increased reliance on police rather than teachers and administrators to maintain discipline. Growing numbers of districts employ school resource officers to patrol school hallways, often with little or no training in working with youth. As a result, children are far more likely to be subject to school-based arrests—the majority of which are for non-violent offenses, such as disruptive behavior—than they were a generation ago. The rise in school-based arrests, the quickest route from the classroom to the jailhouse, most directly exemplifies the criminalization of school children.

We are particularly concerned about proposals to increase the presence of law enforcement officers in our schools when considering the City of Lincoln’s history with the use of SROs. While intended to protect the student body, these officers are often relied upon to provide routine school discipline. The tools law enforcement uses to combat unruly behavior are often not appropriate in our classrooms, where conflict would be a learning experience but for the reliance on law enforcement.

Lincoln’s History with SROs

Before the City of Lincoln, school board, and police department negotiate over guardrails in an MOU, a more thoughtful careful deliberation must be taken before rushing to increase the presence of SROs in schools and even consideration to pull back on existing SROs. Throughout Lincoln’s history, the City of Lincoln has illustrated concerns about a possible expansion of SROs and in the past has instead taken steps to eliminate the positions multiple times. It is important to revisit the logic used during those circumstances to prevent public safety and budget issues for the City and school-to-prison pipeline issues for the students:

In 2002, the City of Lincoln eliminated positions for five SROs placed in elementary schools. The City quickly explained that the elimination of these positions did not mean officers would be taken off the streets. Chief Casady ensured the city that “the elimination of the elementary school resource officers will not affect the City’s safety or the core services to fight crime.”

In 2010, at the LPD Chief’s recommendations, the City of Lincoln reassigned four SROs placed in middle schools. Mayor Beutler further stated “[t]his program has been on my potential ‘cut list’ from the police department during budget deliberations every year for a long time...[t]he average number of police incidents at

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1 Wesely Balances City Budget With Help From Unions and Budget Cuts. Budget balanced without property tax rate increase, City of Lincoln Mayor’s Office (June 24, 2002), available at https://lincoln.ne.gov/CITY/mayor/media/2002/062402.htm.
a middle school is roughly a third that at a high school.”

We recommend LPD, the City of Lincoln, and the school board look into their statistics and study the alleged need for increased presence of SROs. Would it not be more efficient to have an officer dispatched to the school in the event of an emergency rather than having an officer stationed at the schools? We encourage you to study all the possible alternatives.

Moreover, in the school’s existing structure, there have been a striking amount of referrals to LPD from LPS and the City. These referrals illustrate our shared concerns about the school-to-prison pipeline and its correlation with the presence of SROs. Just during the 2013-2014 school year, 145 students were referred to LPD from Lincoln’s six public high schools. This number is compared to 2013’s total of 1,854 juveniles referred to juvenile court by the police for incidents throughout the city. For that school year alone, 7% of all juvenile cases referred to juvenile court arose from high school students referred to LPD.

We encourage the parties involved in considering an MOU to look back at each school year dating back to the year 2001 through the present school year to reflect on how the schools have contributed to the school-to-prison pipeline. We appreciate and thank our police department for keeping us safe and recognize the difficult work they must endure but believe our scarce personnel and resources should be placed where they are most needed—in the community, fighting against real public safety risks.

Unsafe Schools

After every school shooting, calls to toughen security at school come up. This reaction to protect our kids is natural. Unfortunately, the armed guards in schools are not like the armed guards at a concert or capitol. While you attend a concert or walk through the Legislature, you are not treated like a suspect by the guards. Instead, they are focused on protecting you from public threats.

In contrast, in our schools, our students are the suspects. They are learning under the watchful eye of law enforcement. Law enforcement patrols the halls. Law enforcement is called when students get into school ground fights, even food fights. Law enforcement is called when students are disruptive – according to Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) reports, officers arrest more than 1,000 students annually.

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for disorderly conduct alone. During the 2013-2014 school year alone, Nebraska referred 1,529 students to law enforcement, ranking 12th state in the country. Out of those referrals, 283 students were arrested.

Adolescents make mistakes. Teens are biologically wired to be more reckless, especially when peers are present. Science tells us that they respond better to rewards than punishments, and yet the DJJ reports nearly 5,000 arrests for misdemeanor offenses in schools annually, two thirds of which are for non-violent offenses. The evidence shows that even one arrest reduces the likelihood of graduation and makes a future arrest more likely.

Our youth are shaped by their environments and experiences. Teens especially rely heavily on these in shaping their identity. Let’s protect their schools as learning centers, not prisons. Let’s treat our students like our future leaders, not criminal suspects.

Unequal Justice

While an increased law enforcement presence in schools impacts all students, it is especially hard on youth of color, youth with disabilities, and youth who identify as LGBTQ:

- Black students are more than twice as likely as their white peers to be arrested at school.
- Students with learning disabilities as evidenced by IEPs are nearly seven times as likely to be arrested at school. Black students with IEPs are nearly three times as likely to be arrested as their white classmates with IEPs.
- Although LGBTQ youth represent 5-7% of the nation’s population, they represent 13-15% of youth in the juvenile justice system.

Such inequities are unjust in a diverse state like Nebraska that guarantees its youth a uniform, high quality system of public education. To add law enforcement officers to our 12 Lincoln Middle Schools to patrol our school halls would exacerbate this injustice.

School Resource Officers Fill Unclear Role

School resource officers often perform a triad role: counselor, teacher, law enforcement officer. While they may be good law enforcement officers, counselors are better prepared to counsel at-risk students, and teachers are better equipped to teach them. With the blurred lines of law enforcement and school administration, students struggle to assert their constitutional rights and protections. Law enforcement has unprecedented access to monitor them and review their records.
and may be present for investigations and searches, even if students may not have access to legal representation. Most of us would not accept this level of intrusion on our liberty.

A Better Approach

We encourage you to consider proposals to improve the accessibility of mental health services for youth. Funding youth mental health services will be a more effective investment to prevent mass school shootings than increasing the presence of law enforcement officers in our schools.

Medical experts tell us that the majority of mental illnesses first appear in adolescence. Such illnesses also respond to treatment best during this time. Investing in such services and programming will help students develop the tools they need to be successful adults. As long as schools prioritize punishment over treatment and services, at-risk kids will be pushed out of schools and onto the path of delinquency. This hurts us all. Kids’ unmet needs can’t be kicked down the road – they grow into larger problems for society.

We urge you to invest further into mental health services and restorative strategies for youthful misbehavior in schools rather than investing in additional school resource officers. We also urge you to create safeguards to ensure our students are not unduly criminalized:

- Clearly define the role of law enforcement officers in schools to ensure they are only focused on imminent threats to student safety, not school discipline.
- Require annual data reporting and analysis to track school policing trends.
- Require training for law enforcement working with youth to include youth development and criminality, non-violent conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, cultural competency and implicit bias and interacting with youth with disabilities.
Thank you for your consideration of the above and we look forward to working with you as this process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (402) 476-8091, ext. 105 or rgodinez@aclu.org if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Rose Godinez
Legal and Policy Counsel

Cc: Lincoln School Board
    Lincoln Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Steve Joel
    Lincoln City Council
    City of Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler
Good morning!
It came to our attention that there was an error in the letter attached yesterday. The quote on pages 2-3 regarding the elimination of SROs in the 2010 city budget should have been attributed to Chief Cassady. [http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/officers-would-be-removed-from-middle-schools-under-proposed-lincoln/article_e81f86fc-8af4-11df-90b1-001cc4c03286.amp.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/officers-would-be-removed-from-middle-schools-under-proposed-lincoln/article_e81f86fc-8af4-11df-90b1-001cc4c03286.amp.html)

Best for a lovely weekend-

Danielle Conrad
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 20, 2018, at 5:00 PM, Danielle Conrad <dconrad@aclunebraska.org> wrote:

Dear Mayor Beutler-
First, thank you so much for your ongoing commitment to public service and for your hard work to keep our students safe and provide meaningful opportunities for positive student engagement that benefit us all.

Second, attached please find a letter that we are sending to all Lincoln city leaders and LPS leaders that outline some of our concerns about recently announced proposals regarding School Resource Officers (SROs). We are grateful this community has hard working educators and acknowledge that they have difficult jobs. We are also grateful that this community has hard working law enforcement officers and acknowledge that they have difficult jobs. However, we remain deeply concerned about how an increased presence of SROs impacts racial justice, disability rights, immigrant and refugee students, and all LPS student’s civil rights and civil liberties.

Finally, we are happy to visit with you at any time about these issues or to provide more information about these matters if that is helpful. We do urge you to proceed with caution and ensure a robust community conversation can occur on these critical topics.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

In friendship,

Danielle Conrad, JD
Executive Director | ACLU of Nebraska
134 S. 13th St. #1010, Lincoln NE 68508
■ (402) 476-8091 x102 ■ dconrad@aclunebraska.org
www.aclunebraska.org <image001.png><image002.png><image003.png>

<ACLU Letter, SROs, April 2018.pdf>
Dear Lincoln City Council Members:

This letter is written in opposition to the formation of an additional taxing authority for the Lincoln Public Schools system and the city of Lincoln. With the recent increase in property valuations, LPS will receive a huge windfall in funding. Thus, there should not be any economic justification or need of any additional taxing authority. The new JPA would have the authority to raise Lincoln's property taxes without a vote of the people. That authority to issue bonds without a public vote is a legitimate concern. The programs to improve school safety and security may be worthwhile, but creating another government body to tax and fund these programs is not the answer. Existing funds are more than adequate to cover these costs.

Bill and Linda Ramsey
5215 S 75th ST
Lincoln, NE 68516