DIRECTORS’ ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, July 23, 2018
555 S. 10TH STREET
BILL LUXFORD STUDIO

I. MINUTES
1. Approval of Directors’ minutes from July 16, 2018

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR’S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

PLANNING
1. Administrative Approvals from July 2, 2018 through July 16, 2018
2. Action dated July 18, 2018
3. Final Action dated July 19, 2018

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS
Carried over from the week of July 9, 2018
1. Funders Group - Gaylor Baird (07.12.18)
2. ISPC - Gaylor Baird (07.12.18)
3. Parks & Rec - Gaylor Baird (07.12.18)
4. JBC - Lamm, Gaylor Baird (07.13.18)
5. PBC - Camp, Raybould (07.10.18)

No Boards or Committees to report on for the week of July 16, 2018

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE
1. DACA - Nuestro Mundo
2. Proposed 13th Street Improvements - Pat Anderson
3. Proposed 13th Street Improvements - Carole Closter
4. Proposed Budget - Dale McIntosh
5. Proposed 13th Street Improvements - Sara Hartzell
6. Proposed Budget - Marv Walker
   Staff response provided by Councilman Camp
7. 14th & Warlick Project - Ann Lif
8. Pershing Auditorium - Jim Frohman
9. Pershing Auditorium - Glenn and Peggy Shorney
   Staff response provided by Councilman Camp
10. People’s City Mission - Mrs. McCoy

VIII. COUNCIL MEMBERS
1. Letter received from Governor Pete Ricketts - Civil Protective Custody service provided by The Bridge

IX. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS
See invitation list.

X. ADJOURNMENT
Memorandum

Date: July 17, 2018
To: City Clerk
From: Amy Huffman, Planning Dept.
Re: Administrative Approvals
cc: Planning Commission

Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of the administrative approvals by the Planning Director from July 3, 2018 through July 16, 2018:

Administrative Amendment No. 18043, to Change of Zone No. 16045, Telegraph District, approved by the Planning Director on July 3, 2018, to allow light trespass at the interior lot lines, generally located at S. 21st Street & N Street.

Administrative Amendment No. 18039, to Special Permit No. 07015, Special Permit No. 07015, Tamarin Ridge, approved by the Planning Director on July 06, 2018, to remove Lot 1 from the boundaries of the special permit, generally located at S. 27th Street & Tamarin Ridge Road.

Administrative Amendment No. 18046, to Change of Zone No. 16038, Terrace Gardens PUD, approved by the Planning Director on July 10, 2018, to specify that any building constructed on Outlot J must be at least 6 feet from any property line, generally located at N. 35th Street & Superior Street.

Administrative Amendment No. 18048, to Use Permit No. 90, Lennox Village Use Permit, approved by the Planning Director on July 16, 2018, to revise notes to provide a specific breakdown of uses and to add a note regarding parking, generally located at S. 70th Street & Pioneers Boulevard.
**ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION**

NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska. For more information, call the Planning Department, (402) 441-7491.

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

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

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018

[Commissioners Scheer and Harris absent; Commissioner Corr served as Chair.]

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held June 20, 2018, as revised.

**APPROVED:  7-0; (Harris and Scheer absent).**

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

   **SPECIAL PERMITS:**

   1.1 Special Permit No. 17039, to allow for a mobile concrete rock crusher, on property generally located at 330 SW 20th Street. **FINAL ACTION**
   
   Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
   Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 402-441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
   Planning Commission ‘final action’: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated July 3, 2018: 7-0 (Harris and Scheer absent). Resolution No. PC-01608.

   1.2 Special Permit No. 18026, to permit a licensed early childhood care facility, including a waiver from the parking requirements, on property generally located at 2741 South 44th Street.
   
   Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
   Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
   Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated July 3, 2018; 7-0 (Harris and
Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 6, 2018, 3:00 p.m.

1.3 Special Permit No. 18027, to allow for an early childhood care facility for up to 30 children within an existing building, on property generally located at 6601 South 70th Street. **FINAL ACTION**

Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval

Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission ‘final action’: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated June 28, 2018: 7-0 (Harris and Scheer absent). Resolution No. PC-01609.

2. REQUESTS AND FOR DEFERRAL – None.

3. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None.

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

CHANGE OF ZONE:

4.1 Change of Zone No. 18009, from I-1 (Industrial District) to H-3 PUD (Highway Commercial District Planned Unit Development District), from I-1 (Industrial District) to B-1 PUD (Local Business District Planned Unit Development District), from R-2 (Residential District) to H-3 PUD, from R-5 (Residential District) to H-3 PUD, and from B-5 (Planned Regional Business District) to H-3 PUD, all with various waivers, on property generally located in the vicinity of the former Missouri Pacific Railroad corridor between Vine Street and approximately 736 feet east of North 66th Street and include approximately 19.52 acres.

Staff recommendation: Approval

Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL; 7-0 (Harris and Scheer absent). Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 6, 2018, 3:00 p.m.

PRELIMINARY PLAT:

4.2 Preliminary Plat No. 18003, to modify Site Specific Note 13 regarding the timing of the Aster Road connection relative to platting of additional lots, on property generally located at West Silverado Court and Highway 34. **FINAL ACTION**

Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval

Staff Planner: Rachel Jones, 402-441-7603, rjones@lincoln.ne.gov
5. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

COUNTY SPECIAL PERMIT:

5.1 Special Permit No. 18025, for the construction of a commercial feedlot, on property generally located at 13350 West Wittstruck Road. **FINAL ACTION**

Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 402-441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission ‘final action’: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the revised staff report dated June 8, 2018, reflecting the new property owner: 4-3 (Edgerton, Hove and Washington dissenting; Harris and Scheer absent). The motion failed due to the lack of 5 affirmative votes. Continued public hearing and action on this matter will be held at the August 1, 2018, hearing.

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

* * * * * * * * * *

Adjournment: 8:32 p.m.

PENDING LIST:

Change of Zone No. 18013, from AGR (Agricultural Residential) to O-3 (Office Park District), on property generally located at 8435 Firethorn Lane.
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov

Use Permit No. 107F, to expand the use permit by approximately 1.12 acres for an additional 13,400 square feet of commercial floor area, on property legally generally located at 8435 Firethorn Lane. **FINAL ACTION**
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
TO: Mayor Chris Beutler
   Lincoln City Council

FROM: Geri Rorabaugh, Planning

DATE: July 19, 2018

RE: Notice of final action by Planning Commission: July 18, 2018

Please be advised that on July 18, 2018, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution No. PC-01608, approving SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 17039, to allow for a mobile concrete rock crusher, on property legally described as Lot 38, I.T., located in the NE 1/4 of Section 28-10-6, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at 330 SW 20th Street;

Resolution No. PC-01609, approving SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 18027, to allow for an early childhood care facility for up to 30 children within an existing building, on property legally described as Lot 162, in the SE 1/4 of Section 16-9-7, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at 6601 South 70th Street; and

Resolution No. PC-01610, approving PRELIMINARY PLAT NO. 18003, as amended, to modify Site Specific Note No. 13 regarding the timing of the Aster Road connection relative to platting of additional lots, on property legally described as Lots 1-35, Block 1, Lots 1-26, Block 2, Lots 1-8, Block 3, Lots 1-5, Block 4, and Outlot A of Highland View Addition; Lots 1-5, Block 1, Lots 1-9, Block 2, and Outlots B, C and D, Highland View 1st Addition; Lots 1-12, Block 1, Lots 1-14, Block 2, Lot 1, Block 3, and Outlots A, B, C and D, Highland View 2nd Addition; and Lots 41, 47, 50 and 52, I.T., all located in the NE 1/4 of Section 33-11-6, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at West Silverado Court and Highway 34;

The Planning Commission action on these applications is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a notice of appeal with the Planning Department within 14 days of the action by the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission Resolution may be accessed on the internet at www.lincoln.ne.gov (Keyword = PATS). Use the “Search Selection” screen and search by application number (i.e. SP17039, SP18027, PP18003). The Resolution and Planning Department staff report are in the “Related Documents” under the application number.
Sir/Madam; Among the several Objectives listed in the Mission Statement of the NAACP, are;
“To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens;”
“To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States;”
“To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights.”
All of the listed Objectives are apparently just words to bandy about as if they actually had any meaning when it comes to our Dreamers!
What in the world has happened to Lincoln’s NAACP? It has evidently conspired with others to give validity to the Lincoln City Council members to sidestep a symbolic yet meaningful Vote on a Resolution supporting the Dreamers—DACA!
It’s a sad day in Lincoln when the Lincoln NAACP and city council have lost all its collective marbles, cojones, and good sense by failing to do what is the right and moral thing to do on behalf of young people in its midst who aspire as much as any other youngster, in pursuit of the American Dream!
It is for me a political “Chicken Dance” sashayed to the tune taken, with all due respect to the author, from the song—The Sidestep—from the musical, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."
“Ooh I love to dance a little sidestep,
Now they see me, now they don’t,
I’ve come and gone . . . .
And lead the people on!”
For more than 2 hours the city council heard from a host of activists, parents, Dreamers, supporters, the religious community, and even some political types, urging the council to do the “right thing,” and pass a DACA Resolution. Had they done so, they would have joined with the often conservative minded Omaha City Council, which had passed a DACA Resolution previously. It had been somewhat contentious, but in the end, a majority of Omaha’s City Council saw how important it is for our respective communities to have a vote, on the record, from our elected officials, showing a little bit of courage in supporting our youth. All of Our Youth!
But no, at the last minute the Lincoln NAACP came in with an offer for the council to sidestep the Resolution. Offering via some back room shenanigans, a way for the council to Chicken Dance away from a vote.
Cowards! All of you, including the NAACP! What will you say to your fellow NAACP members at your next Convention? That you mouth these lofty Objectives only when it benefits African Americans?
Shame on you! And shame on the Lincoln City Council for doing its best to side step the entire issue as if it would somehow make your legacy in Lincoln something to be proud of.
Complete and utter nonsense and lack of courage!

Ben Salazar, Omaha community advocate
Dear Mayor and City Council,

I'm writing in support of the 13th Street bike lanes with a center turning lane. I often use 16th Street and narrowing the lanes has greatly helped calm the speed and pedestrian safety. I think it will have a similar positive impact on 13th Street.

A few things I would add is:

1. to focus on the area surrounding downtown and UNL campus and prioritize this area for the change over to LED. This area is densely populated and has more people that walk/bike rather than drive.
2. to install a beacon light for pedestrians to safely cross on 13th Street. It has been several years since the street light at 13th & D was taken out during a storm and nothing has replaced it. In an area where you have 100-200+ people living on one block, 2 elementary schools and F St. Rec, it is amazing there hasn't been a fatality.

Please support 13th Street improvements, increased lighting and safe pedestrian crossings.

Thank you,
Pat Anderson
City Council - Contact

Date: 7/17/2018 9:53:33 AM

name  carole a. closter
address  1420 C St Apt E
city  Lincoln
state  NE
zip  68502-
email  closter.ca@gmail.com

comments  I attended the June meeting at F St Rec Center about the proposed changes to 13th St, which was well attended by those in the neighborhood. But I don't know if our questions were considered by the planners. Some questions are:

Bus route on 13th St scheduled every 30 minutes--they must pull into bike lane. But is there enough space for them and will they have to use a portion of the single lane traffic? Is this dangerous for bikers?

With a single lane of traffic N & S, what happens if you are trapped behind a slow moving vehicle? Will you use the center turn lane to pass them? Or squeeze into the bike lane?

I doubt the Table 1 pedestrian volume 7-9am and 11-2pm at 13th & D. Every other day I walk across that intersection. And also people catching the bus cross there.

In my small sedan at 13th & D, I do not have clear vision to the south. There is a dip near C St which blocks my view of fast moving cars. Plus suckers from street trees are also in the way. Walking I can see--but sitting in my car I cannot.

Table 3 shows 12 right angle collisions which is more than any other intersection. Does this show it is a dangerous crossing? Put the traffic signal back in operation for safety of pedestrians including school children and drivers.

If pedestrians need to cross 13th at D or F, they will be crossing 5 lanes, 3 possibly with cars and 2 with bikes. We need traffic signals or flashing beacons for safety. Buses will block view of other lanes.

Please read the complete PDF file on this project and consider my questions before approving it.

Thank you.
City Council - Contact

Date: 7/17/2018 2:13:50 PM

name Dale McIntosh
address 1610 Manatt St
city LINCOLN
state NE
zip 68521
email dmcintosh@neb.rr.com

You are making a mistake in not listening to Ms Lamm and Mr Camps proposals in regard to the budget. Don't spend every penny there is and find out next round you have run out of pennies.

I am wondering how long you think the can, can be kicked down the road on the police/fire pension. We count on these guys for everything we have in an emergency and the reward for them is to find out there is no pension as promised some day? And while doing so pumping money into people who don't help themselves and cosmetics into the Hay Market?

If the strategy is like the agreement for the staff position that was broken, I fear that it's going to be tough to look in the mirror knowing this was allowed and approved and you could have prevented it.

Sincerely,
D McIntosh
Angie,

On July 10th the Mayor’s Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee took action to send a letter of support for the 13th Street Improvement Project to the Mayor and City Council. That letter is attached.

Thank you

Sara S. Hartzell, Park Planner II

Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department
3140 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-441-8261
July 10, 2018

Lincoln City Council
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear City Council Members,

The Mayor’s Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee often has the opportunity to comment on projects various City departments undertake involving our transportation system. One such project is the 13th Street Improvement Project.

We believe that 13th Street is an ideal candidate for street optimization. The proposed plan reduces the four lanes to two with a center turn lane. Studies have shown that such a reduction actually increases driver safety without reducing the capacity of the roadway. The reduction in driving lanes allows sufficient space for the addition of dedicated bicycle lanes. This plan increases the safety and utility of the roadway space for all modes of travel. Because the changes required are primarily to street markings, the cost of this project is also low.

We believe this project supports the Complete Streets Policy that Lincoln has had in place since 2013, and we urge you to support its implementation.

Sincerely

Susan Larson Rodenburg, Vice Chair
Mayor’s Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee
Mr. Walker:

Thank you for your email. Your question regarding contribution to the Police and Firefighter Pension Plan is a great question.

In the case of police and fire personnel have retirement plans under a “defined benefit plan” which “promises” pension benefits at the time of retirement. Actuaries are use to “predict” the future of life expectancies, earning on contributions and a number of other factors to arrive at an amount that needs to be accumulated for each plan participant for pay for this retirement benefit—it is “guaranteed”. Unfortunately, due to (1) sufficient contributions not having been made decades ago at a sufficient level and (2) investment earnings not achieving the “assumed 8%”, the Police and Firefighter Pension Plan is underfunded by millions of dollars. This is a “commitment” and a “liability” to the taxpayers of Lincoln.

I have strongly encouraged increased funding during my 20 years on the City Council—I used to own an actuarial consulting firm and personally established over 500 defined benefit plans, so I am very aware of the need to keep the defined benefit plan.

All other City employees are covered by a defined contribution plan under which there is no guarantee of investment performance nor benefits. A 401(k) plan is a type of defined contribution plan.

I am opposed to depleting our cash reserves, but in light of Leirion Gaylor-Baird's proposal to take $4.9 million from cash reserves and spend that sum (a majority on new fire engines and fire trucks), I recommend that instead the City transfer the $4.9 million into the Police and Firefighters Pension Plan, which is a liability. Essentially, the unfunded liability of the pension plan is costing the City’s taxpayers 8% interest. The City’s investment rating allows us to borrow funds at under 3%.

So the question boils down to:

1. Should we reduce City Reserves/Cash Balances
2. If there is majority and mayoral support to reduce cash reserves, is it better used to:
   a. Reduce Pension Plan unfunded liabilities/debt with interest rate of 8%, or
   b. Spend the reserve on one-time expenditures leaving the City with an 8% debt to the Pension Plan.

Under option 2.a. the City would save approximately $400,000 per year in interest, because the debt to the Pension Plan will have been reduced $4.9 million. I have suggested the $400,000 interest savings be used to purchase fire engines and fire trucks during the next 5 years.

Again, thank you for your email.
Sir..almost everyone lost money in the 2008 market crash. If I recall, no one felt they needed to make that up to my 401K...why in the hell should tax payer money be used to pay back loses for police and fire fighters loses? The market is a risk reward situation...I'm sure they are reaping the rewards now that the market is doing well. Marv Walker
Angela M. Birkett

From: WebForm <none@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 5:49 AM
To: Jon Camp
Subject: InterLinc - Contact

City Council - Contact

Date: 7/18/2018 5:48:35 AM

name: Ann Lif
address: 7810 S 34th St
   city: Lincoln
state: NE
   zip: 68516
email: Annlnk2@gmail.com
comments: I support proceeding with the roundabout at the 14th and Old Cheney area. I disagree with the delay because of public safety. I have lived in Lincoln since 1960's and lived in this area all my life. That area is horrible for traffic coming off the 55 exchange.
   I had a family friend die in a T bone there, long ago.
   This will compliment the highway 77 exchange and the new south beltway. Lincoln has delayed major project too many times. Git R Done!

IP: 96.44.134.156
Form: https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/council/contact.htm
User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/67.0.3396.99 Safari/537.36
How about earmarking $1-2 million of the $5 million coming out of the reserve to remove the asbestos and tear down Pershing. We are going to pay for this one way or the other, either TIF or through bonding. Do it now and significantly increase the chances of an amazing development project on the site.
Glenn and Peggy

My resolution as it is amended, does not preclude the library from locating on the Pershing block. However, my resolution forces the issue of repurposing Pershing. . .for six years it has essentially been dormant.

There are many considerations of the Pershing block as well as the value of the Bennet Martin Library’s current property. Due to obsolescence, environmental issues and repurposing costs, there may be little value in a sale of that property. This is very unfortunate.

To its credit, the Library Board investigated acquisition of the old YWCA building, but owners of the YWCA, who purchased that building for $200,000 a few years ago, have stood firm on a purchase price of millions of dollars; if the YWCA was acquired, there will be substantial repurposing costs as well. A more reasonable price for the YWCA would allow transitioned renovation and give the library a doorstep on the Centennial Mall. It also could be the beneficiary of future expansion of the District Energy Corporation’s (DEC) heating and air conditioning possible expansion. For your information, I am the President of the DEC, which is a non-profit entity created by the City and Lancaster County Board.

Regardless, I am pleased that many individuals and groups are now actively getting involved on the Pershing issue, which is the goal of my legislation.

Best regards,

Jon

JON A. CAMP
Lincoln City Council
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

From: Angela M. Birkett <ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 11:59 AM
To: Jon Camp <joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com>
Subject: FW: Pershing Auditorium
Dear Jon,

As we read and hear about the sale of Pershing Auditorium, we have questions.

What has happened to the possibility of the building being remodeled for the downtown library? It seems to us that this would be a great relocation for the library. After moving the library, that property could be sold!

Please include this in your discussion again before a sale is made.

Glenn and Peggy Shorney
To:
Attn: Cyndi Lamm, People's City Mission board of directors and city councilwoman, also,
City of Lincoln City Council
555 10th Street Rm. 111
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

From:
Mr and Mrs Clyde McCoy
110 Q Street room 13
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Re: retaliation against blind and disabled pregnant mother, autistic child and family for seeking advocacy from Lincoln Human Rights Commission

Dear Distinguished City Council Members and Mayor of City of Lincoln;

My name is Mrs. McCoy. I am in National Federation of the blind national scholarship winner, former Paige for Senator Bob Dole, volunteer mentor for Missouri division of blind services/ Kansas rehabilitation services for the blind and a medical social worker striving to complete a masters in social work and Rehabilitation Counseling. Our family relocated to the Lincoln metropolitan area after being involuntarily displaced when our landlord was unable to repair our home after natural disaster and code enforcement determined the rental homes rental home was not safe. I was working as a social worker and my husband was offered a job at Hormel Foods in Fremont Nebraska however because we were suddenly displaced we did need the assistance of local agencies to resettle in the community.

I am happy to be in the community because of the shortage of teachers for the Blind and Rehabilitation counselors for the blind in this area and in the rural areas where farming communities are in desperate need of vision professionals and medical social workers.

I regret to have to inform you that over the last two years I have experienced extreme discrimination, verbal abuse emotional abuse and denial of reasonable accommodation by The People's City Mission to the extent that I had to reach out to Lincoln Commission on human rights for advocacy & to make systemic change to improve the situation at the shelter for persons with sensory disabilities.

Some examples of glaring discrepancies in services for persons with sensory and print related disabilities include but are not limited to failure to Mark exits , emergency exits, bathrooms and eating areas so that people who are blind or low-vision are able to safely navigate the building and get out in case of emergency such as fire.

Another disadvantage that persons with print Vision or other sensory related disabilities have while staying at the shelter is that absolutely none of its Publications applications or other materials to assist persons who are
homeless and becoming self-sufficient have been put in accessible format and all of my efforts to offer to help with this have been ignored.

On the first two occasions when my family applied for services at the mission the caseworker Kendra did everything she possibly could to discourage our participation in the program because she was not comfortable with me as a blind mother being a part of the services at the facility. I was able to find another local shelter but was put at a distinct disadvantage because there is no medical care transit or disability services in that area and it prevented me from completing my vocational rehabilitation services for the blind education plan depriving me of the opportunity to complete my training and return to the workforce in a timely manner.

On the third occasion we were accepted into the shelter and tried for several weeks to educate the staff regarding the lack of accessibility and other very serious issues regarding gaps and service for persons with chronic health conditions and for children with disabilities. The director Philip seemed to respond with anger instead of with an open mind and open heart and without trying to understand how difficult it must be for a person with a sensory disability to participate in programs and live at the mission "in a safe & equal manner" without proper accessibility in place.

Although I approached the facility staff with a servant's heart understanding that they are the only shelter in the entire city and that the School for the Blind is here and it was important to correct these issues; my family started experiencing harassment and I felt that I had no choice but to file appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act complaint with the administration and try to improve Services by following appropriate standard ADA concern and complaint procedures.

The initial meeting with Amy Pappas the director of operations seemed to be productive, however, that evening as soon as she left the office my family was retaliated against by the case worker Kendra who felt I had circumvented her Authority and was very angry with me for approaching the administration and reaching out to Lincoln Commission on human rights to help advocate for improvements in services and safety for persons with sensory disabilities and those with chronic health conditions, especially disabled children, at the shelter.

I made it clear that although I am in a high risk pregnancy I would make every effort to help the shelter improve if they were willing to listen and work with me so that no other family would have a difficult or negative experience at the shelter simply because one of their family members happens to have a disability. The shelter does not even have a standard reasonable accommodation request form or any policies in place for persons with disabilities and their families to request and simplify the process of receiving reasonable accommodations so they can have equal access to programs and services while at the facility. Furthermore, in talking with several persons who had had some difficulty at the shelter because of cultural and and religious differences, it seemed there might be a need for some cultural sensitivity training to help staff understand social norms and dietary practices of our diverse and changing community.

Unfortunately because after two years of trying to advocate in this area with the agency I was not receiving a productive response-I chose to contact Lincoln Commission on human rights, the shelter decided to evict my family from the program and try to push us out of the Lincoln Nebraska Community to prevent me with from working with civil rights investigators, League of human dignity and other agencies willing to help address the much-needed improvements in safety and provision of services at the shelter.

The director of the shelter Philip, called my husband and I into the office and told us that the executive director Pastor Tom wanted him to let us know that by contacting Lincoln Commission on human rights "we created an environment where we are no longer welcome at the shelter" and that in fact the shelter was going to see to it that we were expelled from the entire city and had to relocate to another area.
We explained to the shelter director, that we felt this actions were retaliatory as we had never received even one disciplinary complaint in the three weeks that we had been at the program and we're only trying to make changes to improve services because this was the only shelter in the entire city and it needed to be a safe and accessible place for all members of the community regardless of disability health status and or religion/ cultural and ethnic heritage.

We explained that the decision by Pastor Tom and Phillip endangered the health and safety of our unborn child because we were receiving specialized Healthcare at Bryan East hospital for my high risk pregnancy and it would be disruptive to any services that we were putting in place for our autistic child. Philip stated that for the mission the issue was "very black and white" because I filed a complaint for mediation with Lincoln Commission on human rights I am no longer welcome at the facility and neither are my four children who will also be left out on the street if no other arrangements can be made. Pastor Tom has refused to speak with me and my family directly or review any of the evidence regarding the abuse and discrimination we have faced at the shelter and has to date made no effort to speak with me regarding my request to volunteer and improve the safety conditions for people with sensory disabilities and for children with disabilities at the shelter but Philip made it clear that Pastor Tom did not want us or our children in the facility or in the Lincoln Nebraska community anymore.

The City Mission staff are fully aware that I have scheduled surgery next week to help address some serious complications in my high risk pregnancy and that their decision to kick our family out in retaliation for the request for mediation from the Human Rights Commission deprives me of access to that healthcare provider and delays the needed surgery. This causes a serious safety risk to myself and my unborn child. Philip (shelter director) was aware that I had just been released from the hospital hours prior to him calling us to the front office to tell us that because we continue to advocating for changes necessary to allow equal access for persons with disabilities and chronic health conditionsthat we were being kicked out, simply to cause distress and with no regard for my health or the health of my unborn baby or the well-being of my other children including two children with cardiac conditions and a child with autism ADHD. We made it clear to Phil (family shelter director) that this Sudden Change would have serious impact on the progress that are disabled child had made because changing routines for children with autism and ADHD is very disruptive to their well-being and progress, that he was depriving the child of the ability to have his IEP created in the school district that he will be attending in a timely manner and that on a previous occasion the mission pushed us out into a rural area where I had no access to healthcare and neither did my disabled son and that by evicting us without cause again none of the safety and accessibility issues were going to go away and I was going to make sure persons in Authority who could see to it that the changes are still addressed would be notified about the retaliatory action against my family.

I am formally requesting that the city of Lincoln step in regarding this issue and regarding the maltreatment of my family because we should not be deprived of our right to live in the community because we are trying to improve services for persons with disabilities at the only shelter available in the entire town.

This kind of discrimination and retaliatory exclusion of a disabled family from the community for seeking civil rights enforcement is similar to tactics used in the South by separist/ supremacist and other groups to exclude minority families from the communities there.

I am contacting the city council specifically Cyndi Lamm, one of the board of director members for this facility is on the city council, and I believe she should be aware of the situation I am asking her to protect my rights and the rights of my disabled and chronically ill children because she is our representative with the city and we should not be pushed out of our home City because we are advocating for change and equal access to homeless services and facilities for those persons with sensory print and emotional or mental disabilities including young children who have no control over the fact that they have become homeless with the adults and their families.
these important safety and accessibility issues pertain to persons with disabilities, elderly persons who needs shelter because they lack community and family support, vulnerable persons with chronic health conditions who are more likely to die on the street without Shelter, persons with chronic health and disability related issues who must come into the Lincoln Nebraska area for services because there are no hospitals and medical specialists in rural areas including but not limited to pregnant women/persons with cardiac conditions and diabetics also persons with chronic health conditions and children with emotional and behavioral disorders or physical disability. Evicting my entire family from the area putting my Health at risk and my children's well-being at risk will not make these issues go away I wanted to work with the commission on human rights and other agencies to get funding to make things better and should not have to experience personal retaliation for my efforts or the fear of being out on the street with my children because this agency Administration is angry with me for reaching out to the appropriate agencies that could assist in accessing funding and the proper equipment to make the needed Corrections.

Mrs. McCoy
785.580.3659
July 6, 2018

Councilman Roy Christensen
555 S. 10th St. Rm 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Councilman Christensen:

I am writing in response to your joint letter regarding Civil Protective Custody (CPC) service provided by The Bridge in Lancaster County. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and my team are eager to help The Bridge achieve licensure, so you can continue serving the people coming into your custody. I conveyed that message yesterday to Councilman Christensen, Councilwoman Lamm and Commissioner Wiltgen during our meeting on this issue.

Contrary to what has been characterized in the media, I understand that the team at DHHS has been in extensive communication with leadership at The Bridge starting a year and a half ago. Outreach began after the state and one of our managed care organizations reviewed how The Bridge was reimbursing expenses, and whether those expenses were allowable under federal Medicaid finance rules. Our review of the reimbursements found that The Bridge’s work, as currently conducted, is not reimbursable by Medicaid.

While the State of Nebraska would prefer more flexibility in how we expend federal funds and cost share with local governments, we must comply with existing federal law and state regulations, i.e. 471 NAC 20-001.15 ((Adult MH/SA services) Medical Necessity) and 471 NAC 20-001.15 (Active Treatment), as written. Should the State of Nebraska spend federal funds inappropriately, the State of Nebraska could face fines and federal sanctions at great expense to state taxpayers. To be clear, both federal Medicaid funds and state general funds will only reimburse for treatment, not confinement.

To help bring The Bridge into compliance, our team at DHHS has spent a great deal of time offering solutions and support to help during this period of transition, and they will continue to do so. DHHS has directly communicated with The Bridge staff numerous times in the last year and a half and this does not include a multitude of other communications with interested parties. DHHS team members have been explicit about their desire to assist The Bridge through the licensure and accreditation process. Here is a short timeline of key communications:

An Equal Opportunity Employer
November 2, 2016: WellCare, a Heritage Health Managed Care Organization, first met with The Bridge, and shared with The Bridge that social detoxification (H0012) requires prior authorization.

March 23, 2017: WellCare had a conference call with The Bridge to discuss issues with social detoxification claims, including rejected claims.

March 29, 2017: WellCare had a follow up call with The Bridge and was informed CPC services were not Medicaid reimbursable.

May 2017: Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) determines that CPC services billed to Region 5 do not meet Social Detoxification service standards.

July 2017: In response to The Bridge’s May 2017 request to offset the loss of projected Medicaid reimbursement, DBH authorizes a contract amendment in the amount of $22,000 for Region V to reimburse Medicaid eligible clients receiving services under CPC status.

July 2017: DBH, Medicaid & Long-Term Care, and The Bridge begin a series of discussions related to service delivery and need to align service provisions to existing or modified service definitions. More than 10 separate discussions occurred between July 2017 through May 2018 with DHHS staff and The Bridge personnel related to program and service definition discussions.

December 2017: The Bridge staff recommend modification of Social Detoxification service definition as the most appropriate viable option for service definition discussion going forward. Agreement on changes to the Social Detoxification service definition was reached in May 2018.

May 2018: DHHS Directors from DBH and Public Health released letter to The Bridge offering assistance in policy review related to ongoing licensure compliance as well as reiterating that accreditation is required for DBH funding. The Bridge was again invited to submit an accreditation development plan to assist in the transition.

June 2018: DBH facilitated onsite consultation with The Bridge, Region staff, DHHS personnel and a representative from the Commission on Accreditations of Rehabilitation Facilities to identify needs related to becoming accreditation-eligible as needed to retain DBH funding.

Throughout these conversations, DHHS has offered assistance in reviewing policies, working on service definitions, continued discussions, flexible timelines, arranging a visit from the Commission on Accreditations of Rehabilitation Facilities (a national accrediting body), and more.

I share this information with you to help illustrate the lengths to which the agency has gone to communicate clearly and work together. Our team has outlined solutions that can be implemented so that The Bridge can continue to serve the people in Lincoln and Lancaster County using federal, state and local funding. This has been a process, and we will work with you to comply with federal requirements, achieve licensure, and get accreditation, so we get the positive outcome we all desire.

We agreed at yesterday’s meeting with Councilman Christensen, Councilwoman Lamm and Commissioner Wiltgen to first focus on ensuring The Bridge continues to have the licensing necessary to meet the needs in the local community. A meeting is being scheduled between The Bridge and the DHHS Division of Public Health to work together on a set of policies that will ensure licensure. We have been working through the same issue in Douglas County and can use that framework to find a solution for The Bridge.
My administration is committed to upholding the law, and I support the leadership at DHHS as they diligently work to comply with federal requirements and improve their finance operations. We invite you to collaborate with our team, so you can continue to deliver this service to the people of Lincoln and Lancaster County. If you would like to visit further on this matter directly, please reach out to Matt Miltenberger in my office at 402-471-2244.

Sincerely,

Pete Ricketts
Governor