I. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE
   PLANNING
   1. Annexation Map 19011 - NW 56th Street and West Holdrege
   2. Annexation Map 20003 - NW 48th Street and West Holdrege

II. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE
   1. Evictions - Tish Fobben
   2. Evictions - Katelyn Farneth
   3. Lincoln Streets - Chuck and Kathy
   4. Evictions - Chelsea Egenberger
   5. Evictions - Ella Durham
   6. Evictions - Shawn Ryba
      Staff response provided by Jon Carlson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor’s Office
Annexation by Ordinance
130 West Lincoln Business Center
NW 56th St & W Holdrege St
Effective: March 31, 2020

Area of Annexation

0 95 180 360
Feet

W PARTRIDGE LN

W HOLDREGE ST

NW 56TH ST

NW 54TH ST

W SUNDOWNER RD

NW 52ND ST

W CARY GALEY ST
Annexation by Ordinance
I-80 West Lincoln Business Center
NW 48th St & W Holdrege St
Effective: March 31, 2020
Dear members of the Lincoln City Council,

I was alarmed and greatly saddened to read in the newspaper about Lincoln’s evictions in the face of COVID-19. Evicting residents at this time is a direct contraction with sensible government guidelines which encourage sheltering in place and thus creates a significant public health risk.

Evicting residents at this time is also cruel and unusual punishment for not being able to afford rent as our Lincoln neighbors deal with job loss, lost income, school closings, and all the other disruptions that are felt most sharply by those with the lowest incomes and thus the fewest resources to cope with additional chaos.

I hope this is a short-term failure of communication and that these evictions will be immediately placed on hold until the pandemic recedes.

Sincerely,

Tish Fobben
Resident of Lincoln
We need to STOP evictions now. It’s the right thing to do and as community we need to come together to support one another in these hard times!

Best,

Katelyn Farneth

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Why not start taking care of the streets, especially in front of businesses that would be affected. Not so many cars out so traffic wouldn't be impacted so much either.
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and the Lincoln City Council,

Lincoln has demonstrated great leadership and care for its community in response to the coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping our nation. However, we continue to see the strain on families across our community. While we are all living with the collective anxiety of this pandemic, it is cruel to continue to have individuals face eviction at this uncertain time.

I am one of many residents asking the Mayor’s office, City Departments, and the City Council to all do their part in stopping evictions from continuing in our community.

This is the time to lead.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Egenberger
1716 B St, #1, Lincoln, NE 68502
Dear Lincoln City Council,

My name is Ella Durham, I live at 2840 Apple St. I’m reaching out today to urge you to halt evictions in our community. COVID-19 has already disrupted our neighbors' lives in lost wages, lost jobs, social isolation, and many other ways. We should not be adding housing and potential homelessness to the list of things that our neighbors have to worry about.

According to the Nebraska court case calendar, there are 25 eviction cases slated to be heard in the Lancaster County Court on Thursday, March 26th. Next week, there are a staggering 72 eviction cases on the calendar. 67 of those alone are scheduled for March 31st, 2020.

We keep hearing that to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it is crucial to practice social distancing. However, how can we expect people to do this when they don't even have a home? Pushing this many households to shelters, food pantries, and other community resources will not only add an incredible demand to those services, but puts our community's public safety at risk. When we push neighbors towards homelessness, we put their health at risk, the potential for community spread is heightened, and we add even more strain to our service providers who are already working so hard to meet the demands of families and individuals during this pandemic.

Many renters rent out of financial necessity. Our neighbors who work at coffee shops, in retail, at daycares, as musicians, in restaurants, etc., are already having to make tough decisions about their finances. Many have been laid off or had their hours cut drastically. Utility companies like LES and Black Hills have already come out to say they're taking an understanding approach and won't disconnect utilities. While many landlords are understanding and might do the same regarding rent, relying on this goodwill isn't a guarantee that they won't pursue eviction. So many renters already live paycheck-to-paycheck. As we feel the impacts of cut wages, there's no doubt that many of us won't be able to make rent next Wednesday, April 1st. We need an eviction moratorium to make sure that we stay safe, healthy, and housed during this pandemic.

We ask that you use your power to halt evictions for the sake of public health, for the sake of our neighbors' housing security, and because it's just the right thing to do. Altogether, there are 97 cases scheduled for eviction court by the end of the month. Our community needs you to act immediately to halt evictions so that we stay safe, healthy, and housed.

Sincerely,

Ella Durham
Shawn,

As I said below, the Governor issued an executive order yesterday suspending evictions:  

That is the law landlords need to comply with.

Please call me so we can talk more.

Thanks,

Jon

---

Shawn Ryba
<br>Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Jon D. Carlson <jcarlson@lincoln.ne.gov>
Cc: Adelle L. Burk <ABurk@lincoln.ne.gov>; Mayor <mayor@lincoln.ne.gov>; Mindy M. Rush Chipman <MRushChipman@lincoln.ne.gov>; Tammy J. Ward <TJWard@lincoln.ne.gov>; Jane Raybould <jane@brstores.com>; Bennie Shobe, Jr. <bennie.shobe@gmail.com>; Christa Yoakum <cyoakum@neappleseed.org>; Daniel K. Marvin <DMarvin@lincoln.ne.gov>; Wynn S. Hjermstad <WHjermstad@lincoln.ne.gov>; Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Re: Strongly urge landlords to suspend tenant evictions

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**CAUTION: This email comes from a sender outside your organization.**
Jon,

Thank you for your prompt response. Will REOMA and the City of Lincoln make a public statement making a commitment to suspending evictions?

I have talked to seven landlords in South of Downtown and three of them still plan to evict as usual regardless of your work with REOMA. There is no law they need to comply with.

Asking landlords to do the right thing, is not a thing. Let's assume that 90% of landlords do the right thing. What about the other 10%? How does this fit with the One Lincoln initiative?

I am asking because I need to know how to respond to my constituents in the South of Downtown. The neighborhood consists of the lowest income and most vulnerable populations with 94% of the population renting. I need to tell them what is being done by city leaders to protect and support them. I hope you can understand why I am concerned.

The South of Downtown CDO has directed and will continue to direct residents to finite resources/website at your request. We want to continue to partner with the City of Lincoln to help inform and connect the public to resources. What else can we do or communicate to the public? Thank you.

Best,
Shawn

On Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 11:28 AM Jon D. Carlson <jcarlson@lincoln.ne.gov> wrote:

Hi Shawn,

As I’m sure you are aware, Governor Ricketts, the level of government with the legal authority, has issued an executive order in regards to evictions. The Mayor’s office has been communicating with Real Estate Owners & Managers Association (REOMA) and other property owners and managers to understand the issues and urging them to find solutions that will keep people housed. I have attached a letter that was sent to them last week. As you can see in the attached message, she is asking them to help direct tenants to financial resources that will help them be able to pay bills. We are also reminding property owners and managers that they will need to work with tenants by waiving late charges, setting up payment plans, and accepting late payments as people work to get help. Reminding them that evicting tenants does not guarantee they will quickly find another tenant. It simply means they will have an empty unit and the community will have a potentially homeless person or family. In addition, eviction moves people around our community during these months where social distancing and limiting contact is absolutely critical to protecting public health.

The Mayor has been on record in the newspaper advocating for the same thing.
We are also working with neighborhood groups, tenant advocates like you, and service providers with the same goal in mind: working together to keep people housed. We appreciate your continued advocacy for tenants and ask for your continued help educating and directing them to the resources they need. As you know, a good list of resources can be found at covid19.lincoln.ne.gov

Jon

Jon Carlson
Deputy Chief of Staff | Office of Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird
City of Lincoln
O: 402-441-7224 | M: 402-450-1637
555 South 10th Street, Ste. 301
Lincoln, NE 68508
lincoln.ne.gov
Follow Us: Facebook / Twitter / YouTube / Instagram

From: Shawn Ryba <shawn.ryba@lincolnsoutdowntown.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Jon D. Carlson <jcarlson@lincoln.ne.gov>; Adelle L. Burk <ABurk@lincoln.ne.gov>; Mayor <mayor@lincoln.ne.gov>; Mindy M. Rush Chipman <MRushChipman@lincoln.ne.gov>; Tammy J. Ward <TJWard@lincoln.ne.gov>; Jane Raybould <jane@brstores.com>; Bennie Shobe, Jr. <bennie.shobe@gmail.com>; Christa Yoakum <cyoakum@neappleseed.org>; Daniel K. Marvin <DMarvin@lincoln.ne.gov>; Wynn S. Hjermstad <WHjermstad@lincoln.ne.gov>; Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Strongly urge landlords to suspend tenant evictions

* CAUTION: This email comes from a sender outside your organization. *

Greetings All,

I just wanted to share this letter signed by Mayor Stothert and the County Commissioners in Douglas County.
Why is the City of Lincoln not making a statement or sharing with the public how leadership is addressing this issue that will be devastating for at least 46% of Lincolniters? I believe there are 67 evictions scheduled for March 31st in Lancaster County.

Evicting people is contrary to the public health imperative (and a moral one).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Shawn

--

Shawn Ryba, MSW, MPA
Executive Director
He | Him | His
South of Downtown CDO
1247 S. 11th Street
PO Box 85330
Lincoln, NE 68501
402.416.8686
www.lincolnsouthdowntown.org
March 23, 2020

To: Omaha Landlords,

As a result of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the subsequent directed health measures from the State of Nebraska and the Douglas County Health Department, many workers have been laid off and thus have no source of income. The unfortunate result is that many of these workers will be evicted from their homes in the next few weeks. With an average of 4,823 evictions filed annually in Douglas County or approximately 92 per week, many of these tenants may end up homeless further creating a public health disaster. Accordingly, the Mayor of the City of Omaha and the Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners strongly urge landlords to waive or suspend all evictions due to the inability to pay rent until the pandemic subsides and emergency health measures have been lifted.

The safety and wellbeing of our community will be greatly appreciated by your actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Jean Stothert
City of Omaha

Douglas County Commissioners:

Clare Duda, Chairman

[Signature]

Date

Date