

DIRECTORS'/ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA
ADDENDUM
Monday, May 4, 2020

- I. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE**
1. Potential for a COVID-19 Outbreak at Lowe's - Zac Stegen
 2. Opening Lincoln's bars - Mitchell Whiteley
 3. Fairness Ordinance - Barbara DiBernard

Angela M. Birkett

From: Zac Stegen <zstegen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:45 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Potential for a Covid-19 Outbreak at Lowe's

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

It has come to my attention that Lowe's Home Improvement in Lincoln has created alarming conditions that may lead to an outbreak of Covid-19. Other major retailers in the city have placed capacity caps and limit the number of customers in their stores at any given time. Lowe's has refused to do this. As a result, the number of shoppers in their store, especially during the weekend, significantly exceeds the number and density of customers before the pandemic. The fact that they are one of the few places without a wait on the weekend makes the situation worse, as it incentivizes those who do not wish to wait.

The city needs to ask Lowe's to limit the number of customers in their store. I ask you to please exercise strong leadership to protect the health of all of those who live in Lincoln. I have a relative who is awaiting a kidney transplant, and waiting to address this situation is putting her and those like her at grave risk.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 573-201-9677. You can also reach me by email at zstegen@gmail.com.

Angela M. Birkett

From: mitchell whiteley <practicalintelligence@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Opening Lincoln's bars

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

Dear City Council members,

With the Mayor of Lincoln dragging her feet on allowing Lincoln to open back up the City the City Council can override her directives and get Lincoln back to work.

Current plans for May 11, will allow restaurants to open but not bars that do not serve food. Having several friends who own bars in Lincoln they are devastated that they cannot get their business up and running on the same plans for the restaurants.

Currently in Lincoln, NE we have a .001 percent chance of contracting the virus and a .0000034 percent chance of dying from it. Opening a bar at 50% capacity like the restaurants is going to have less of a chance of spreading the virus than the restaurants because fewer people handle the end product. In a restaurant there will be 4-6 people handling the food and drinks versus one bartender serving a drink. Most of my friends do not allow anyone under 21 in their bars, hence another argument for not getting the virus, families with children who will be allowed to eat in groups of 6 at the restaurants and who knows where the kids have been playing.

I would rather go to a bar after working a long day and sit the appropriate distance and have a few drinks with friends I have not been able to see since the shut down. By not allowing bars to open up under the same guidelines as restaurants is discrimination against the bars who have just as much to lose, like their business. Lincoln needs to allow every business to get back up and running before we lose more businesses, already some are planning on not reopening after the shut down. I would like to see this put on your agenda to get Lincoln reopened and back to normal as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Mitchell Whiteley

Dear City Council Members:

While we are rightly focused on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the health of those who have it and of those who care for them, and how our city will emerge from this crisis, the Fairness Ordinance remains remarkably relevant.

You may want to review a brief researched and written by the Human Rights Campaign: “The Lives and Livelihoods of Many in the LGBTQ Community are at Risk Amidst COVID-19 Crisis.” You can find a link to it at: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lives-and-livelihoods-of-many-in-the-lgbtq-community-are-at-risk-amidst>.

The HRC states: “As this research brief makes clear, in addition to the greater risk of health complications as a result of COVID-19, LGBTQ Americans are more likely than the general population to live in poverty and lack access to adequate medical care, paid medical leave, and basic necessities during the pandemic.”

LGBT people, especially trans people, will also be more at risk as the pandemic lessens. For example, they are disproportionately employed in jobs which have “disappeared” during the pandemic as businesses have closed. The lack of a Fairness Ordinance in Lincoln leaves LGBTQ people at risk of being discriminated against by not being rehired, at greater risk of insecurity in housing, and facing other risks which are increased by our not having legal protections.

A Fairness Ordinance for Lincoln is even more essential now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara DiBernard