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62. Hate Speech - Gary O. Gutgesell
63. A note from a citizen regarding the budget - Ruth Kohtz Ek
64. Lincoln Police Department - Eugene Cook
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Corrin Day and I am a resident of Nebraska. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in the city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general costing the city 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

We therefore demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:

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Lincoln cannot wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to defund LPD.

Thank you,

Corrin Day
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Olivia Osborne and I am a resident of Walthill, Nebraska. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Olivia Osborne

Sent from my LG Mobile
Angela M. Birkett

From: Rob Conway <jrobconway@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Police reform

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

I am a registered voter and have lived in Lincoln my whole life of 54 years. I request that you move towards allocating more funds to social programs and youth education while removing some from the police and incarceration areas. I've worked in human services for 17 years helping the homeless, mentally ill and addicted people of our community.
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Timothy and I am a resident of York Nebraska. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Timothy wempen
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Supriya and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,
Supriya Patel
Please strongly consider supporting and voting for adopting the Hate Intimidation Ordinance. It's another step toward making Lincoln an even more welcoming and supportive community.

Anne Rickover
2434 Ryons St.
Dear Lincoln City Council Members,

We recognize that this is a time to draw together and protect our community from hate. We believe that the ability to prosecute hate crimes at a city level demonstrates that hate has no home in Lincoln. Additionally, this ordinance would apply to crimes beyond those included in the state statute including disturbing the peace and destruction of property.

Many organizations join with us in our strong support of the hate intimidation ordinance including: ADL - Great Plains, Nebraska Appleseed, Temple Israel (Omaha), Lincoln Friends Group and the Lincoln Chapter of the NAACP.

Shalom,
Nicholette Seigfreid & Seth Harris
Presidents - South Street Temple & Congregation Tifereth Israel

"Two Congregations, One Community"
--
Nicholette Seigfreid
Congregation B’nai Jeshurun, The South Street Temple
President, Board of Trustees

Pronouns: She | Her | Hers

mobile: 402.949.2565
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Ali McFarland and I am a resident of Lincoln, NE. I live in the MeadowLane neighborhood. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Ali McFarland
Hello Mayor and Lincoln City Council,

I am calling for the defunding of the police.

Defunding the Police > Police Reform

The way to reduce police violence is to reduce the scope, size, and role of police in our communities.

Why would we continue to throw money away at something we already know is not working?

We need those resources in schools, toward our health, and for our futures.

Signed,

Jamie Reeves
Please vote against this amendment because no law should be followed by what a person is perceived to have meant to do. No person can decide what another person was thinking and what exactly “Hate” means after some actions.

"amending Title 9 of the Lincoln Municipal Code to create a separate offense for a person who violates any chapter under this title with the intent to intimidate another person or persons due to that person’s actual or perceived status"

Sandra Hilsabeck
Do not pass this ordinance. There will be problems enforcing it. Its passage will alienate social groups who need to be brought together. If anything, you need to pass a free speech ordinance demonstrating your awareness of the US constitution and intent to make Lincoln a place where everybody’s rights are protected. On the flip side, pass the ordinance, and: 1) the city council won’t be able to fly under the radar anymore; 2) expect to be under a lot of unwanted scrutiny; and 3) better-organized opposition will be galvanized.

Gatecliff, LLC
S. Mark Haugland
+1 713 857 2223
I am definitely opposed to hate crime ordinance. You should explain to our mayor that the crime is what she tried to do. Bring justice to those who did so much damage make them pay for breaking the law why are you trying to give credence to bunch law breakers. The mayor needs to resign for incompetence. Rick Meyer

Sent from my iPhone
I wish to enter my opposition to the hate ordinance that was addressed at the June 8 City Council meeting.

Helen Sellentin

Sent from my iPhone
Angela M. Birkett

From: Stuart Sucha <stuart.sucha@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:05 PM
To: Mayor; NewsHelp; Council Packet; James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Roy A. Christensen; Bennie R. Shobe
Subject: THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WANT IT DONE

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Stuart Sucha and I am a resident of Clinton Historical Neighborhood. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,
Stuart
1121 N 28th st
Stuart.sucha@gmail.com
402-890-0017

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Hannah Klemme and I am a resident of South DT Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Hannah Klemme
832 E Street
hklemme04@gmail.com
4022139664
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Katie Brunke and I am a resident of Indian Village neighborhood, Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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You are exactly person we need at this exact moment. Now is time to show your strong leadership skills.

Thank you,

Kathryn Brunke
3939 Saint Mary’s Ave
katieryann@gmail.com
402-525-4839

P.S. Pardon BLM protestors
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Ava Kennedy and I am a resident of Elmwood. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Ava Kennedy
kennedy.ava2005@gmail.com
402-269-5579

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Brad Hensley and I am a resident of Lincoln Nebraska. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Brad Hensley
3939 St Mary’s Ave
Mourningstar.brad@gmail.com
402-419-4856
Angela M. Birkett

From: Hannah Owen <hannahowen016@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:55 PM
To: Mayor; NewsHelp; Council Packet; James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Roy A. Christensen; Bennie R. Shobe
Subject: DEFUND THE POLICE

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Hannah Owen and I am a resident of Lincoln, NE. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Hannah Owen
4621 Prescott Ave
hannahowen016@gmail.com
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Stella and I am an ally to the Lincoln community. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Stella "Lago" Jones  
They/them or She/her  
Couple, Family, Individual Therapist  
Brave Space, LLC  
www.bravespacellc.com  
front desk phone: 503-486-8936  
direct line: 503-389-5892  
fax: 503-894-6020

“Action on behalf of life transforms. Because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal, it is not a question of first getting enlightened or saved and then acting. As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us.” - Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass

The confidentiality of electronic communications cannot be guaranteed. This email may contain Protected Health Information (PHI). PHI is personal and sensitive information related to a person's health care. It is being sent to you after appropriate authorization from the patient or under circumstances that do not require patient authorization. You, the recipient, are obligated to maintain it in a safe, secure and confidential manner. Re-disclosure without additional patient
consent or as permitted by law is prohibited. Unauthorized disclosure or failure to maintain confidentiality could subject you to penalties described in federal and state laws. This transmission is intended only for those to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or protected by law. All others are hereby notified that receipt of this message does not waive any applicable privilege or exemption from disclosure and that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately and shred this documentation.
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Erika Sterner and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Erika Sterner
edogsterner@gmail.com
(708)446-1655
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Andrew Goldsmith and I am a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Andrew Goldsmith
5300 Happy Hollow Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 aggolds@gmail.com
402-641-4836
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Adrian Madlock and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you
Angela M. Birkett

From: Magrieta J Coolidge Van Duren <magrieta.coolidge@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Mayor; NewsHelp; Council Packet; James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Roy A. Christensen; Bennie R. Shobe
Subject: Defund the Police!

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Magrieta Coolidge and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Magrieta Coolidge
Arlington Ave, Lincoln NE 68502
3016461989
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council, My name is Hollis Coniglio and I live in the Near South in Lincoln. I’m writing this email to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs. As Lincoln residents, we therefore demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:
* Reduce LPD’s allocation from the General Fund.
* Reallocate those funds into housing, jobs, youth programs, restorative justice, mental health workers, and community development programs to keep the community safe.
* Disallow unauthorized overtime by LPD.
* Discontinue use of General Fund dollars to pay for settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence.

Lincoln cannot wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to defund LPD. Thank you,
Hollis Coniglio
1601 South 20th St. Apt. 2
councilioolin@gmail.com
(402) 560-5946
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

I am a resident of Lincoln. I urge you to defund and demilitarize the Lincoln Police Department. Citizens of our city and across the country will no longer stand for the current style of policing. Police departments do little to mitigate crime (only responding afterward and far too often, committing crimes themselves) and fail to make most citizens feel safe. Our police officers have become catch-all public safety workers and our tax dollars should be spent expanding programs that enable our police officers to focus on a limited list of duties, while funding other social services that will address the myriad of emergency situations Lincoln residents need assistance with daily.

LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Lincoln's citizens will not wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to defund LPD.

Thank you,

Morgan Spiehs
635 B Street
morganspiehs@gmail.com
308-390-7758
I am writing to express my disapproval of a proposed ordinance to enhance the penalty for crimes committed where hate against some group is supposedly the motivating factor. I do not believe it is necessary in the first place, and I doubt seriously if it will be enforced either. If not enforced, there is no point in passing it. If it is enforced, I would like to know who decides whether hate was a motivating factor, and whether or not the crime was meant to convey that hate or intimidate some protected group, or whether hate toward an individual would also be covered. To me, this amounts to trying to police our thoughts and make hate itself a crime, which it is not and shouldn’t be. We already have freedom of speech, which includes the right to say you hate someone or some group or some thing. That speech can’t occur without the thought behind it being present, so criminalizing the thought is tantamount to criminalizing free speech.

I can picture some teenage vandal out for some “fun” by vandalizing property. This is often done at random and not targeting anyone or any group. Perhaps they may paint a swastika on a car or a building, but they may not even understand the significance of it and may not even know who’s property they are vandalizing, so what sense would it make to apply this enhanced sentence on them simply because it may offend Jewish people, or any group of people.

If anything, simply increase the penalty for vandalism and other crimes where hate may, or may not be a motivating factor, and make it the same for everyone. I think many of our penalties are too lenient and don’t provide much of a deterrent, which should be one of the purposes of any law against some act.

Steve Holman
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Kaitlyn and I am a resident of Lincoln. In light of recent events, I find it pressing to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding takes resources from other services in our city including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, urban development, domestic violence programs, aid for homeless citizens, etc. take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

As Lincoln residents, we therefore demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:

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We can and must do better than lip service.

Thank you,

Kaitlyn Hopkins
1559 S 29th St. Lincoln, NE
(402) 326-9060

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Council Members: It always is to every citizen's interest to preserve the Bill of Rights. History shows that injustices eventually are resolved. Irish Catholics deprived of property rights, blacks deprived of freedom and vote, women denied right to vote. These types of ordinances may divide and cause more difficulties as causes of all kinds have those who hate them. Legal costs could rise for the City as this is tested in higher courts. Best Wishes, Nancy M. Russell
I urge the city council to oppose the proposed Hate Speech ordinance it is considering. It seems above & beyond what is reasonable, by trying to determine one's thoughts & intensions. There are already laws against discrimination that protect all people.
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Wyatt Haertel and I am a resident here in Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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* Discontinue use of General Fund dollars to pay for settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence.

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Thank you,

Wyatt H.
4901 s 75th street, 68516
Whaertel@outlook.com
4025800303

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Graham Garvin and I am a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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* Discontinue use of General Fund dollars to pay for settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence.

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Thank you,
Graham Garvin
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Erin Peck and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Erin Peck
4119 F St
Lincoln, NE 68510
peckerinm@gmail.com
512-745-9383
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Nicole Hatfield and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs. Our libraries and parks need more support.

As Lincoln residents, we therefore demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:

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Thank you,

Nicole Hatfield
2338 S 60
Lincoln NE 68506
zink.nicole@gmail.com
402-486-9285
[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Nathan Barone and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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* Discontinue use of General Fund dollars to pay for settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence.

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Thank you,

Nathan Barone
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Brittany and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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- Discontinue use of General Fund dollars to pay for settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence.

Lincoln must wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to defund LPD.

Thank you,

Brittany Piper
5040 Wilshire Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68504
brittany.piper@gmail.com
309-397-4964
[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Mikayla and I am a lifelong resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation, and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

As Lincoln residents, we therefore demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:

* Reduce LPD’s allocation from the General Fund!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
* Reallocate those funds into housing, jobs, youth programs, restorative justice, mental health workers, and community development programs to keep the community safe!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
* Disallow unauthorized overtime by LPD.
* Reduce police force by 50%, reclassify all school officers as inclusivity enforcement who receive specialized training on bullying and early childhood intervention.
* Discontinue use of General Fund dollars to pay for settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence.

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Thank you,

Mikayla Findlay
1331 S 33rd St
402-314-2754

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Jim Davidson and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Jim Davidson
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is gabby and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you
Dear Mayor Gaylord Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Paul Schmidt and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD's budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD's increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Paul Schmidt
Hello Mayor Baird and City Council Members,

My name is Madeleine McManus and I am a resident of the Everett neighborhood in the near South Lincoln. My neighborhood has felt hurt and has been affected by the escalation by police of peaceful protests at the city-county building. I don't think I will ever forget the week when a helicopter circled the neighborhood constantly, for days, and I could hear the explosions of flash-bang grenades from my bedroom window. I certainly will never forget offering to open my home to loved ones who felt a threat to their physical safety in the presence of law enforcement officers on those nights. I'm sure you are aware that trust in police was greatly harmed and will take monumental efforts to even attempt to repair.

Therefore, I am writing to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city, and concerns for these harms have only grown in recent weeks. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

I'm sure you have heard StarTran as the butt of many jokes. Imagine how reliable it could be with a higher operating budget allowance. Single residents and families love Lincoln's parks! Living near Peter Pan park and other urban green spaces, I appreciate the care Lincoln has taken over the years to be a city committed to providing outdoor spaces even amid development. The median park on A street is my favorite example: it's small, contained within an urban neighborhood, but a refreshing sight. I would love to see how much this city could grow to serve its residents even better (we always brag about being one of the country's best cities to live in!), if LPD's ballooning budget were decreased and divested into community building and enrichment.

As Lincoln resident of more than 20 years, I demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:

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Lincoln cannot wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to defund LPD.
I appreciate your time and dedication reading correspondence with your residents. Lincoln is a beautiful city and I'm happy to have stayed here for college instead of moving away. I would love to see Lincoln grow and thrive with a higher commitment to constructive, rather than destructive, programs.

Thank you,

Madeleine McManus
945 D St, Apt 10
maddiekatemcmanus@gmail.com
402-770-6547
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Emily Graul and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Emily Graul
Dear Mayor Gaylord Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is John and I am a resident of downtown area of S11th St. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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I'm specifically upset that during the protests my apartment was was filled with CS gas that the police used indiscriminately!

Thank you,

John Kendrick Meadows
309 S 11th St
Lincoln, NE 68508
4026081860
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Lacy Smith and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Lacy Smith
1155 N 100th St., Lincoln, NE 68527
Lacy.j.nadeau@gmail.com
(402) 613-7415

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council

This is Joe Shaw and I am a resident of Malone Hawley. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Joe Shaw
2311 Q St
714-858-0599
Joeesha@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone
Vote NO on Ordinance 20-71. It sounds like a “mind reading/thought control ordinance.”

Sincerely,

S. Wayne Smith
6345 S 35th Ct
Lincoln, NE 68516
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Stacia Ogburn and I am a resident of the south bottoms here in Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Stacia Ogburn

staciaogburn@gmail.com
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Stella Bernadt and I am a resident and recent graduate of Lincoln, Nebraska. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Lincoln cannot wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to defund LPD.

Thank you,

Stella Bernadt
402-440-9272
3601 X st Lincoln, NE
Scbernadt@gmail.com
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Casper Muessigmann and I am a resident of Omaha. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

As Lincoln residents, we therefore demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:

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* Reallocate those funds into housing, jobs, youth programs, restorative justice, mental health workers, and community development programs to keep the community safe.
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* Discontinue use of General Fund dollars to pay for settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence.

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Thank you,

Casper Muessigmann
14206 Briggs Circle
4022137845
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Skyler Davis and I am a resident of Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Skyler Davis
6111 Queens Drive
Skyman1796@yahoo.com
June 14, 2020

Chairman Richard Meginnis
and Members of the City Council
555 South 10th Street, Room 111
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Chairman Meginnis, and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to you to express opposition to Bill 20-71 which proposes to create a separate offense for a person who violates any chapter of Title IX with the intent to intimidate another person or persons due to that person’s actual or perceived status.

These sorts of ordinances skate close to the First Amendment. In R.A.V., Petitioner v. City of St. Paul, 505 US 377, an ordinance of the City of St. Paul that criminalized placing symbols, such as swastikas, on private property knowing it would arouse anger, alarm or resentment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, etc. was stricken down. The Supreme Court concluded that it was content-based regulation presumptively invalid under the First Amendment. In contrast, in Wisconsin v. Mitchell, 508 US 476, decided a year later, a statute that enhanced the penalty for aggravated battery because of selection of the victim on account of race was upheld.

This ordinance, like similar ordinances and statutes, goes down the slippery slope of proscribing thought. Apparently for some, it is not enough that, if a person of any race, creed or color is assaulted, the perpetrator is subject to criminal law. Now we need to delve, not into intent, but motive. This ordinance deviates from the concept of determining the intent or knowledge of wrongdoing and instead tries to determine what motivated the individual to commit the crime. That is a useful tool in criminal investigation, and it is a worthwhile consideration in terms of sentencing. However, to establish a law proscribing thought in and of itself is inappropriate, and that is what this ordinance does. It recognizes that the action will be punished under one provision of Title IX, but then establishes a separate offense for having a particular thought when perpetrating the underlying offense.

I ask you to strongly contemplate what you are doing and give consideration to voting against this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Chananne Slepicka
6818 S. 51st Street
Lincoln, NE 68516
kcslepicka@gmail.com
Council,

Jon Herms here, I wanted to send an email to thank you for allowing the open session June 8th! I wish more folks would show up and speak at these meetings so that you might have a higher resolution picture of the Lincoln community to behold and better appreciate. Lincoln is truly a wonderful city. I attached the very clear warning I provided to you in my December 19th clip from my previous Council testimony with each of you.

After my testimony June 8th, not even 4 days later, a native american and a black american got into an altercation widely reported on the news. I indicated in my testimony that the hate ordinance would statistically and predominantly be applied to minorities, and that altercation occurred shortly after, unfortunately. They both need community assistance, not another ordinance to destabilize another family with a criminal record. https://journalstar.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/34-year-old-lincoln-woman-linked-to-alleged-hate-crime-assault/article_6cdffdd4-ead4-564a-bfa1-1104aed8c300.html

Please do not forget that when perception and deception are involved in government and for political purposes, we suffer as a city: https://abcnews.go.com/US/nebraska-woman-charlie-rogers-faked-anti-gay-hate/story?id=17057847

I'd also like to draw your attention to please re-watch the warning I provided you December 9th, 2019: https://youtu.be/6echvXr0xo8?t=5892

How much more hindsight is necessary?

I'm asking each of you, Miss Washington, Mr. Christensen, Miss Ward, Mr. Bowers, Mr. Shobe, Miss Raybould, and Mr. McGinnis to vote NO the inappropriate 'hate ordinance' in its entirety.

I also call on each of you to revisit all of the current Lincoln city ordinances for potential removal where either they are discriminatory on their face or effect especially those with a history of discriminatory enforcement.

Miss Washington, Mr. Christensen, Miss Ward, Mr. Bowers, Mr. Shobe, Miss Raybould, and Mr. McGinnis,

Thank you each for your time.

Miss Ward, I did not leave your name out intentionally. Please accept this correction.

Sincerely,

Jon Herms - Sellstate Empire Realty
Phone: 402.432.5554
Email: Jon@SellingLincoln.com
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Lincoln City Council,

My name is Amelia Long and I am a resident of Lincoln and a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student. I am writing to demand that Lincoln adopts a city budget that prioritizes community services and redirects funding away from the Lincoln Police Department.

The LPD budget is unnecessarily high. The overall general fund budget for Lincoln for 2019-2020 was $171.4 million. The amount of that general fund allocated to the police was $42.8 million, or 25% of the budget. The LPD budget has increased 14% since 2017-2018.

LPD’s high budget is directly harmful to necessary and more needed services in our city. These services, including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development, have been allocated much less of the general fund for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

As a Lincoln resident, I therefore demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:

- Reduce LPD’s allocation from the General Fund.
- Reallocate those funds into housing, jobs, youth programs, restorative justice, mental health workers, and community development programs to keep the community safe.
- Disallow unauthorized overtime by LPD.
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Lincoln cannot wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to defund LPD. Since you are now beginning discussions for next year’s budget, I believe you have an opportunity here to set an example for other cities around the country by taking action to defund LPD.

Thank you,

Amelia Long
3319 S 29th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
amelialong27@gmail.com
(512)571-7410
From: john@johngrothusen.com
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 6:03 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Postpone action on hate speech

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Please postpone action on hate speech until there is more research available as to the constitutionality.

Your time may be better spent on other matters. Why do Fremonters care what you do? 1) We care about our Capitol City and like spending time there. 2) We are politically active. We know that any mayor, council member, or other leader of both of our two largest cities are potential candidates for state wide and/or national candidates. Just because of Lincoln’s large population you are a possible candidate for many offices. Yes, Lincoln… Fremonter’s are watching you, hoping you do what is right and consider the constitutional impact of trying to control speech and intent.

Elaine and John Grothusen
elaine@johngrothusen.com john@johngrothusen.com

Home and Offices 1452 N PARK AVE
FREMONT NE 68025 Land 402-721-2603

From: Bethany Galle <bethanygalle@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 7:37 PM  
To: Mayor; NewsHelp; Council Packet; James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Roy A. Christensen; Bennie R. Shobe  
Subject: Defunding LPD  

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Bethany Galle and I am a resident of Downtown Lincoln. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you,

Bethany Galle  
640 S 12th St  
bethanygalle@yahoo.com  
832.267.8283
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Emily Milligan and I am a resident of Capital Lake. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

As a Lincoln and very active voter, we demand that ensure the following:

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Again, these are demands. Not requests. You work for us.

Emily Milligan

711 Lakeside Drive, Lincoln, NE 68528

Emimilligan@gmail.com

308-627-1334
Hello Local Officials,

I am asking for the complete and total defunding of the police. I am asking for you to halt using taxpayer dollars, provided by me and my neighbors, to sponsor a force that makes my Black neighbors live in fear.

I want our city to adopt a new model of public safety- one that serves not only our white populations, but our black and POC communities as well. Please care for our Black communities, and do your part! Speak up! Make change! Do anything!

Finally, justice for James Scurlock! We will not forget.

Signed,
Jamie Reeves
Dear City Council,

I am writing in opposition of Ordinance 20-71. What is the standard of “hate intimidation”? Hate has different definitions between different groups. Lincoln has many representations of different cultures and lifestyles. What one culture or lifestyle views as hate, may not seem like hate to another. Who sets the standard for what is considered “hate intimidation”? In my humble opinion, with the recent riots that happened in Lincoln I would deem those as “hate intimidation”. Destroying our city, which amounted to $20 million dollars of damage and intimidating the city of Lincoln. I would ask that you consider who will set the standard for “hate intimidation” before you vote on this matter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tricia Hiltgen
I just want to voice my opinion that free speech is there for all—not just the liberals. Too many times I have voiced an opinion and immediately have been criticized for voicing that. It seems like only the democratic party wants anyone to have "their own shared" opinions. Intimidation of people is never OK.
Thank you for listening.
Rosie
Thank you for taking the time to read this. While I believe the ordinance has the right "heart" and intentions, I fear unintended consequences will result because far too often people see what they want to see and hear what they want to hear.

Case in point - our black and tan chihuahua got out of the yard in NE Lincoln. My 20-something son went looking for him. He asked everyone he encountered if they had seen a little black dog. At one intersection a car came roaring up, slammed on the brakes and an angry young black man leaped out threatening my son with a beating for having yelled "racial slurs" at his grandma. My son walked away from the situation fearful for his safety. Had he been beaten would his attacker be subject to the hate ordinance since his anger was guided by racially motivated and fueled by hate because his grandma misrepresented or misheard what was said?

Similarly, as audio release has shown, "you guys" was heard as "you people" by a room full of North Omaha pastors - in racially charged times can we trust what is heard? If a crime (say assault) occurs during an emotionally charged encounter, aren't the penalties and costs of the crime enough? And don't judges have the option of increasing the penalty in especially heinous cases?

No my friends, I am against this ordinance.

Thank you,

Cindi Card

District 26, Lincoln
Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of City Council,

My name is Ava and I am a resident of Lincoln, NE. I write this letter to urge you to begin defunding and demilitarizing the Lincoln Police Department. LPD’s budget has increased by 14% since the 2017-2018 budget. For the 2019-2020 year, the portion of the general fund spent on LPD was just under 25%. LPD’s increased funding is a direct harm to other necessary and more needed services in our city. Other services including parks and recreation, transportation and utilities, and urban development take much less out of the general cost for the city: 9.8%, 1.3%, and 0.5% respectively (Source: 2018-2020 Council Adopted Biennial Operating Budget). LPD is a direct cost to other services this city desperately needs.

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Thank you
From: Gary Gutgesell <gfgutgesell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: "Hate Speech" Ordinance Vote Today

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Please do not pass the "hate speech" ordinance today. You must already know that it is unconstitutional to charge anyone, not for a civil crime that has happened, but for what the intent of the action was. This ordinance is vague and puts EVERYONE'S first amendment rights in danger. This bill will put our city in a legal battle that it cannot possibly win.

Gary O. Gutgesell
7154 Culwells Ct.
Lincoln, NE 68516
Good morning, Council Members! I am forwarding along a message I just shared with the Mayor, in the hopes that my views as a voter in Lincoln will be taken into consideration.

I am writing because I am also the mother of a preschool aged child and I have some deep concerns about the budget you unveiled recently. The Lincoln City Libraries have saved our sanity both before and during the pandemic. In addition to the books that provide entertainment in our household, I know that the services of the library serve folks who are more severely impacted by the economic depression we are facing. Access to both educational and entertaining materials is a matter of quality of life in our community and I would hate to see our quality of life diminished by something we could find a creative solution for, when it already has been diminished so much by factors that are out of our control.

I am also concerned about the parts of the budget where city employees wages are frozen and more money is being used on police equipment. In my research, I have seen very little evidence that body cameras improve the quality of policing. Our community needs food security, housing security, and quality education more than our police force needs more toys to play with. The big picture here is that we have an opportunity to be on the right side of history in regards to a community's relationship with its law enforcement, and that will only be achieved by putting more of our energy and resources into the actual members of our community. I did see that your budget includes strengthening the relationship between the police and mental health services. I appreciate that, and I think we can do better than that for Lincoln.

As far as wages for city employees, that is just such a blow to morale at a time when many employees across sectors are being asked to do more work for less money. In the absence of action by our federal government to provide adequate economic relief to the citizens of this country, I urge you to fairly compensate the hard working employees of our city so that they can continue to provide so many essential services without detriment to their own well-being.

Thank you so much for your service, and for taking the time to read my remarks.

Ruth Kohtz Ek
To: Mayor Leiron Gaylor Baird

I have been very upset with the Black Lives Matter demonstrations in Lincoln. First, ALL LIVES MATTER and the Black Lives Matter group appears to indicate that they believe only Black Lives Matter. In my opinion this is an absolutely racist agenda.

The demonstration in Lincoln got out of control. Thieves robbed the gas station and vandalized the property. Apparently, 24 police officers were injured, and that received almost no news coverage. There was a terrible amount of property destruction on the street between the County/City building and the Capitol. If it hadn't been for the National Guard, I can't even comprehend what would have happened because our police force was obviously inadequate to protect the property of our tax paying citizens.

On the news last night was a short clip on the open mike at the City Council meeting. Only the Black Lives Matter radical agenda appeared to receive coverage. I think that normal law abiding citizens are too scared to attend, thinking that they will be targeted by the thugs if they say anything that does not support their agenda.

I agree that if there is blatant discrimination of any type, steps to resolve the issue should be taken. However, we absolutely cannot condone police intimidation to the extent that they cannot properly do their job. There are a lot of police being killed nationally and their deaths barely make the news. The news media and social media are so biased and are even suppressing free speech.

I strongly support increasing the police budget, adding more police persons and providing laws that provide for their protection except in extreme cases of injustice such as we recently witnessed in the George Floyd death.

I also believe that all firefighters should be trained and armed so they can protect themselves and add to police support in times of crisis.

I pray that you and our elected officials will take proper actions to implement policies that will provide adequate protection to our law abiding citizens and their property.

A copy of this letter is being provided to the members of the City Council and the Police Department.

H. Eugene Cook
2200 Larchdale Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68506
402-327-0654

COPY