

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
LANCASTER COUNTY-CITY OF LINCOLN JUSTICE COUNCIL

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby entered into between Lancaster County, a governmental subdivision of the State of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as the County, and the City of Lincoln, a Nebraska municipal corporation, hereinafter referred to as the City, and collectively referred to as the parties, for the purpose of rescinding and replacing the Interlocal Agreement previously entered into between the parties to establish the City of Lincoln-Lancaster County Justice Council.

WHEREAS, an efficient and effective criminal justice system is essential to maintaining the public safety; and

WHEREAS, the County and City allocate a substantial amount of resources to the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system is comprised of a number of independent agencies which must work together to meet the common goal of protecting the public safety; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 the County and City entered into an Interlocal Agreement to establish the City of Lincoln-Lancaster County Justice Council for the purpose of advising County and City officials and serving as a vehicle to coordinate planning efforts regarding the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the County and City desire to update the purposes and procedures of the Justice Council by entering into a new Memorandum of Understanding replacing the 1988 Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed by the County and City as follows:

1. Rescind 1988 Justice Council Agreement

The Interlocal Agreement previously entered into between the County and the City, adopted by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners on November 14, 1988, and by the Lincoln City Council under City Resolution No. 72450 on November 21, 1988, and which established the City of Lincoln-Lancaster County Justice Council, is hereby rescinded by mutual agreement of the parties.

2. New Justice Council

There is hereby created the new Lancaster County-City of Lincoln Justice Council, hereinafter referred to as the Justice Council.

3. Membership

The membership of the Justice Council shall consist of voting members and nonvoting ex officio members.

A. Voting Members

Voting members shall include the following elected and appointed County, City and State officials who play a key role in the criminal justice system:

County Officials

County Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Corrections Director, Community Corrections Director, the Youth Services Director, the Human Services Director, the Community Mental Health Crisis Center Director, and two members of the Lancaster County Board;

City Officials

City Attorney, Chief of Police, and one member of the Lincoln City Council; and

Nebraska State Officials

Chief Probation Officer of District 6, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Chief of Police, and UNL Public Policy Director.

B. Nonvoting Ex Officio Members

Ex officio members shall include: a judge from each of the following courts – the Lancaster County District Court, the Lancaster County Court, and the Lancaster County Juvenile Court; and representatives from the following community-based organizations which provide services to persons who are involved or may become involved in the criminal justice system – Peoples City Mission Executive Director, Bridge Behavioral Health Executive Director, St. Monica’s Behavioral Health Executive Director, a Lutheran Family Services Representative, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Director.

C. Member Terms

Each voting or ex officio member of the Justice Council shall serve as long as they hold the position identified in this Memorandum of Understanding.

4. Purpose

The purpose of the Justice Council shall be:

- A. Facilitate communication and cooperation among the governmental agencies and private organizations involved in the criminal justice system by providing a forum for the discussion of issues, problems and concerns;
- B. Act as an advisory committee to the Lancaster County Board, the Lincoln City Council, and the Mayor on how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system;
- C. Review and provide recommendations on specific projects or questions involving criminal justice referred to the Justice Council by County or City officials;
- D. Examine the availability and effectiveness of community-based services and programs which can help reduce the jail population, arrests, and recidivism; and
- E. Examine the potential fiscal impact of new and proposed legislation, and make recommendations to County and City officials on legislative proposals which might improve the criminal justice system.

5. By-Laws

The Justice Council shall adopt By-laws for the conduct of meetings and other business, which shall not be inconsistent with this Memorandum of Understanding.

6. Staff

The County shall be responsible for providing any staffing or other resources necessary to support the Justice Council.

7. Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be in force from _____ and shall remain in force until terminated by either party by giving at least thirty (30) days notice prior to effective date of termination.

Executed the ___ day of _____, 2017, by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.

Approved as to form this
___ day of _____, 2017

By: _____
Joe Kelly
Lancaster County Attorney

Executed the ___ day of _____, 2017, by the Lincoln City Council.