

DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Monday, February 8, 2021

555 S. 10th Street

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. MINUTES

1. Approval of Directors' Minutes from February 1, 2021

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. Annexation Map 20012
2. Administrative Approval from January 26, 2021 through February 1, 2021

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

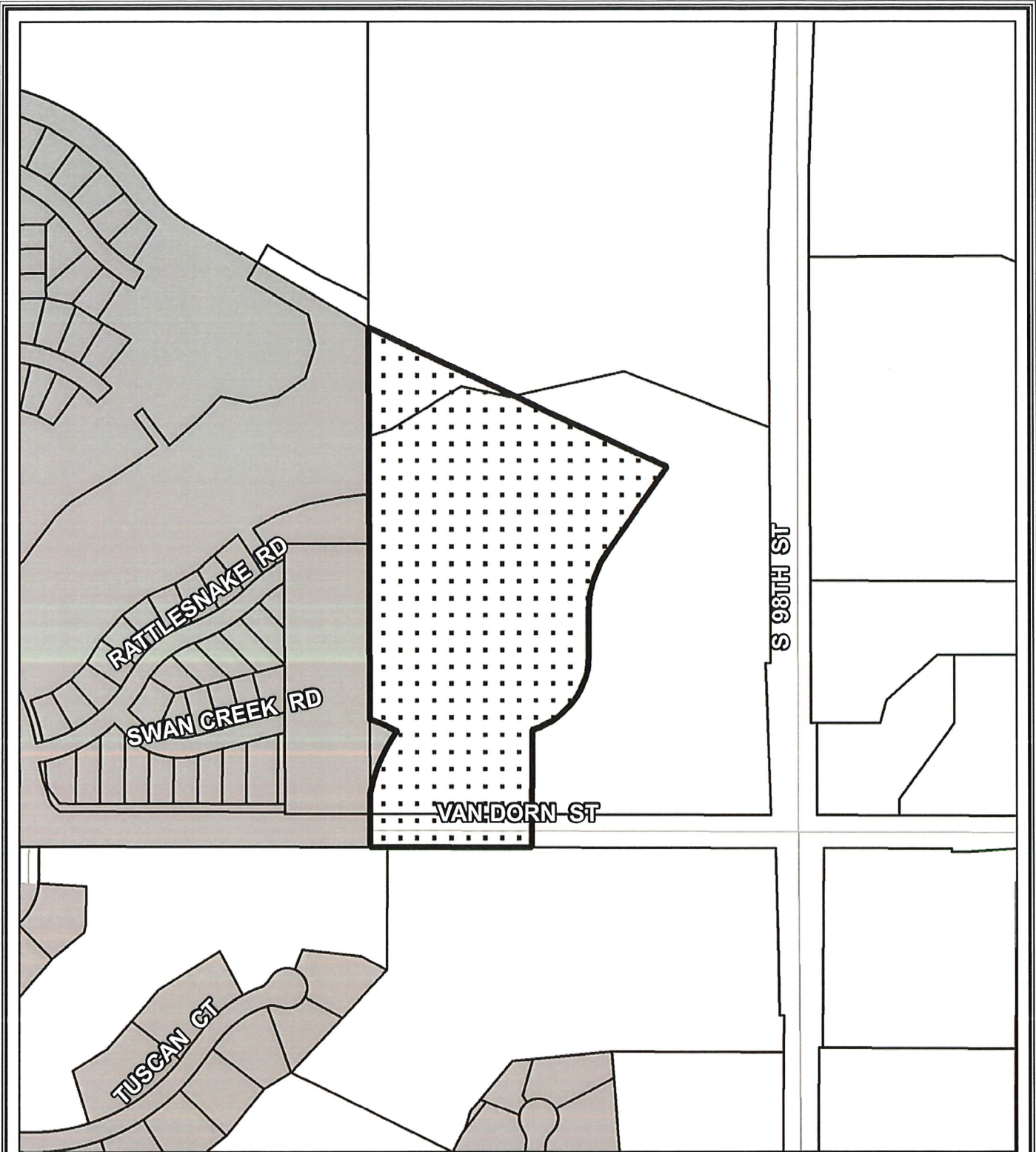
1. Public Health Update provided by Pat Lopez, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

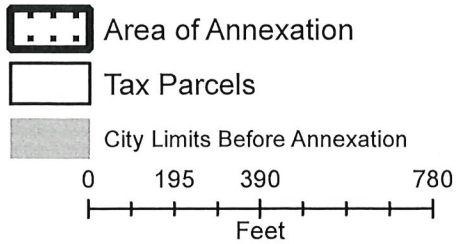
Suspended until further notice

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Proposed Eviction Ban – The Stickney family
2. Proposed Eviction Ban – Sara Kuta
3. Proposed Eviction Ban – Michael Hernandez
4. South of Downtown Redevelopment Plan – Maya Khasin
5. Zoom comment and South of Downtown Redevelopment Plan – SaRena Freet
6. Eviction Moratorium – Lynn Fisher, Real Estate Owners and Managers Association
7. Food Delivery Service Fees – Vernon J.
8. Proposed Eviction Ban – Rebecca Craven
9. Highway 2 Trains, Quiet Zone – Ross Mueller
10. Food Delivery Service Fees – Jon Zvolanek
11. Proposed Eviction Ban – Michael Jurado
12. Food Delivery Service Fees – Scott Bossung
13. Food Delivery Service Fees – Evelyn Weymouth
14. Conversion Therapy – Sara Larkins
15. Food Delivery Service Fees – Jonna Cohen
16. Gate House Row – Nancy Brt
17. Conversion Therapy – David Woodard
18. LES Appointments and Decisions – Steve Bowen
19. Junk Cars – Debra Roberts
Staff response provided by Tracey Domgard, Building and Safety
20. Conversion Therapy – Carmen Skare, NPA Executive Director
21. Support of Ordinance to Amend Title 11 – Jason Varga, Executive Director Cause Collective



**Annexation by Ordinance
S 98th St & Van Dorn St
Effective: January 26, 2021**



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 f:\its\gis\arcview\ann_notif\AN20012.pdf



Memorandum

Date: ♦ February 4, 2021

To: ♦ City Clerk

From: ♦ Rhonda Haas, Planning Dept.

Re: ♦ Administrative Approvals

cc: ♦ Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from January 26, 2021 through February 1, 2021:

Administrative Amendment 20072, to Special Permit 15021, Trinity Oaks CUP, approved by the Planning Director on January 27, 2021, to revise the lots to be developed in Phase 1 and those lots designated for future development, and to make minor changes to the lot layout, on property generally located at South 56th Street & Trinitate Parkway.

Administrative Amendment 21002, to Special Permit 14015, Grandview Estates 1st Addition, approved by the Planning Director on January 29, 2021, to adjust a multi-sided lot, to change the rear setback for lot 10, Block 12 to 5' for a side yard, on property generally located at South 70th Street & Rokeby Road.

January 29, 2021

Mayor & City Council Members,

In regards to the proposed Eviction Ban. My family is not only a property owner but also a Landlord to a piece of rental property. This property has been in our family for many years and my grandmother scrimped and saved to be able to own an additional property which she then left to us after her passing.

For the past year everyone has been struggling to survive during this Covid-19 Pandemic with many temporary losing their employment and unable to pay bills. My entire family has been one of those whose employment has been effected by the Pandemic, along with many others. The purposed ban to evict a tenant will NOT just hurt the tenants but also the property owner as well, especially if that property owner is relying on that rent from the property to help their family financially due to their employment being effected by the Pandemic.....now you have two families needing assistance.

Some of the agencies that our local Government has appointed to assist the tenant in paying are failing to distribute the money, I know this first hand, now the property owner has not been paid for that months rent. A lot of property owners still have a mortgage on their rental property and rely on that rent to make their own mortgages whether it be the mortgage on their property or rental property. Remember most property owners are very honest good people who would be happy to work with his/her tenant who has been effected by Covid, instead you would be punishing the property owner and their families.

When someone mentions "Lanlord", immediately people think they are going to hear a horror story of a Slumlord, but in reality most all Landlords are good people trying to make a living as well with most of them still carrying mortgages on their rental houses as well as their own family home. I do believe it is a law that a Lanlord pays for water/refuse, so let me understand this...the proposal would still require the Lanlord to pay the water/refuse and yet them live in YOUR rental property for FREE, now that doesn't make sense at all.

The Tenant's Rights Activists have stated that 'Housing is a basic Human Right', I would like to know where it is written that housing is a basic human right. So if someone came to your house and wanted to live in your basement, you cannot evict them for NOT paying or contributing anything. I along with many other property owners do believe this proposal would basically give anyone squatter rights, all they have to do is just mention the word Covid.

I would like to know which Government agencies are going to help the property owner pay for their costs like the property insurance, property taxes, water and garbage?.....I bet NONE and now you have put a very heavy burden on the property owners but they will still be expected to pay the insurance, taxes, water and refuse with NO income to help for those costs.....that's NOT FAIR AT ALL.

I agree that property owners should work with their tenants during this time and the Government agencies need to get with the program and get the property owners PAID. I can probably say in confidence that at least one of the City Council members are property owners as well, will you be able to still support your household and yet take on the complete cost of your entire rental property with NO income of that rental property?

I agree something has to be done to help but NOT at the total cost to the property owner...it's not their fault either...all you are doing is giving something FREE to a group of people and laying a heavier burden on another group of people, which you might be ones of those as well.

In closing, I do not and cannot justify this proposal, all it is doing is doubling up on the amount of households requiring Government assistance, the property owner because he now cannot afford to pay his mortgage on his home and his rental property...that surely seems totally one-sided.

Thank you for your time

The Stickney family

Angela M. Birkett

From: Sara Kuta <sarakuta7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Mayor; Council Packet
Subject: Tenant's Rights Activist Groups Putting Pressure to Impose a Total Ban on All Evictions

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

Dear City Council and Mayor's Office,

I currently own property in Lincoln and wanted to reach out in regards to the issue with Tenant's Rights Activist Groups putting pressure to impose a total ban on all evictions, no matter the reason. Not having a way to remove someone from a property you own when they violate their end of an agreement violates the 5th Amendment. In addition, in Lincoln unemployment rates are very low so this really shouldn't even be anything that was related to COVID employment losses. If it is in relation to this, then the city should utilize government money (COVID relief money) to assist those who are unable to make payments rather than put more people at harm and thus hurt the economy in Lincoln. If tenants do not pay, then property owners cannot pay their mortgages causing a much larger problem.

Thank you for your time and for reading this email.

Sincerely,
Sara Kuta

Angela M. Birkett

From: Michael Hernandez <michaeljhernandez90@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 1:05 PM
To: Council Packet; Mayor
Subject: Tenant's Rights Activist Groups Putting Pressure to Impose a Total Ban on All Evictions

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

Dear City Council and Mayor's Office,

I currently own property in Lincoln and wanted to reach out in regards to the issue with Tenant's Rights Activist Groups putting pressure to impose a total ban on all evictions, no matter the reason. Not having a way to remove someone from a property you own when they violate their end of an agreement violates the 5th Amendment. In addition, in Lincoln unemployment rates are very low so this really shouldn't even be anything that was related to COVID employment losses. If it is in relation to this, then the city should utilize government money (COVID relief money) to assist those who are unable to make payments rather than put more people at harm and thus hurt the economy in Lincoln. If tenants do not pay, then property owners cannot pay their mortgages causing a much larger problem -- perhaps consider bailing out landlords and property owners as well, or provide relief, because at the end of the day, we're all financially burdened regardless of socio-economic status.

Thank you for your time and for reading this email.

Sincerely,
M. Hernandez

Angela M. Birkett

From: Maya Khasin <mkhasin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 1:19 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Comment on the South of Downtown redevelopment plan

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

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am a resident of Lincoln and strongly invested in housing advocacy, specifically writing to comment on the South of Downtown redevelopment and revitalization proposal. I am concerned that the plan does not provide sufficient affordable housing for the residents of the so-called South of Downtown. Concretely, the proposal must include rent control, explicitly. One way to approach this could include community land trusts for multi unit housing and for apartment buildings.

Affordable housing is ill-defined in the plan and must be made explicit. By the proposal's own estimation, 93% of South of Downtown residents are renters. There are no homeowners of color in South of Downtown. ~40% of the structures were designated 'blighted'; yet, over one third of tenants are cost burdened. The material reality is that these rents aren't actually affordable to the people who need them. Landlords are actually charging as much as they possibly can, a practice which destabilizes this neighborhood.

These problems are compounded by the dismissive attitudes displayed in the appendix written by the property owners. Property owners were asked to prioritize issues identified by the H3 proposal (Appendix A6, p. A-26). Instead, by their own description, "attendance was sporadic", and when committee members were asked to prioritize their top five issues in the redevelopment plan, "only three [committee members] were in attendance" (p. A-27). The committee only met four times in a six-month period.

In their own words:

"Foreign immigrants make up 20 percent of the South of Downtown area population, compared to 7.6 percent of Lincoln's population. According to the U.S. Census, around 64 percent of foreign immigrants in the South of Downtown area do not speak English "very well", and this language barrier can often serve as an impediment to employment opportunities and economic mobility."

"High rates of turnover rate puts added wear and tear on rental properties and hinders long-term community planning efforts since residents are not vested in the neighborhood."

By admission, property management companies even feel threatened by the slogan "Housing is a human right."

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Board of Public Health recently identified structural racism as a threat to public health. Historically red-lined neighborhoods have far fewer primary care clinics. Medical care facilities are

located in principally white neighborhoods. Most COVID cases are not. The demographic reports in the study ought to raise the alarm that housing is one of the structures that are implicated!

Since the original New Deal red-lining in the 1940s, Lincoln has had a history of letting property owners dictate the terms of economic development and displacement, and neglect to uphold even the modest responsibility they reluctantly formally accept. As demonstrated by their contribution to the redevelopment plan, they cannot be trusted to solve problems that they, themselves, create. Renters must have strong, guaranteed, independent protections. This must also include an eviction moratorium for at minimum the duration of the pandemic.

Regards,

Maya Khasin

1826 Harwood St Apt. 2
Lincoln, NE 68502

Angela M. Birkett

From: SaRena Freet <sarenafreet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 1:31 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: zoom comment + south of downtown cdo redevelopment plan

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

Dear Council Members,

For the sake of accessibility, please restore zoom comments.

I also wanted to share some concerns regarding the South of Downtown redevelopment and revitalization proposal. The plan does not provide sufficient affordable housing for residents in the neighborhood. Historically TIF allocation across the Lincoln hasn't adequately provided or prioritized ~affordable~ housing in the way it says it does. The proposal needs to include rent control and opportunities for community land trusts for multi unit housing and apartment buildings.

The beauty and diversity of the neighborhood is from the people, who are majority renters. If they aren't centered in plans moving forward they will continue to be disenfranchised and harmed, and our neighbors deserve better. I ask you to consider a local eviction moratorium, stopping all evictions to fill the gaps in the CDC's moratorium. Housing is a human right, and we can provide it to all people in our community. To make Lincoln the healthy and safe community it strives to be.

Thanks,
SaRena Freet

Angela M. Birkett

From: lynn@rentgreatplace.com
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: 'REOMA Lincoln'
Subject: FW: City Council testimony
Attachments: Lincoln City Council Feb. 1 2021.docx

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

Dear City Council member,
Please see my attached testimony regarding eviction moratoriums.
Thanks,
Lynn Fisher

Lincoln City Council

February 8, 2021

Lynn Fisher, President

Real Estate Owners and Managers Association

PO Box 6661

Lincoln NE 68506

402-432-2386

Lynn@Rentgreatplace.com

Public Comments on Evictions and Moratoriums

We are an association of small real estate investors in Lincoln. We represent all the hardworking landlords who are providing **affordable housing** to thousands of hardworking Lincolniters. In a competitive market place, we must offer the lowest rents possible given the costs and expenses required to provide a safe, clean and attractive rental home. If we don't then we simply won't be able to get good paying tenants. Likewise, in a competitive market place, good tenants must offer themselves as highly likely to pay rent and likely to be respectful of the valuable property and to be respectful of the neighbors with their good behavior. When a good landlord and a good tenant make a **private contract**, which is mutually beneficial then both gain something valuable. The tenant **pays for** and gains the use of the landlord's **private property** and a nice place to live with good neighbors and the landlord gains a small profit and the hope of asset appreciation. It is really a delicate balance as there is always risk for both parties. The tenant risks losing the peaceful enjoyment of the home if the landlord fails to maintain the property well or if a neighbor misbehaves. The landlord risks having the property damaged or destroyed or losing income when good tenants move out because of a badly behaving neighbor.

An eviction moratorium is an attempt to take advantage of the Covid pandemic crisis to take away private property rights from hardworking, risk taking investors and landlords. There are currently millions of dollars available in Lincoln for rental assistance for tenants affected by this crisis. There is a national eviction moratorium in place and although it is likely unconstitutional it will be in place until the crisis is mostly faded away by this summer. An eviction moratorium is draconian and completely antithetical to the private contract system. It seeks to change the standard remedies of

protection against breaches of contract in rental housing that have served our state and city well and will continue to do so. Almost all of the hardworking renters in Lincoln have been able to pay their rent and continue being good tenants during this last year. Most tenants who have not been able to pay their rent are able to work with their landlord without being evicted. There are numerous sources of rental assistance which people are utilizing. If a good tenant wants to keep their home they can. If a tenant loses their source of income there are resources to get help. Landlords try to avoid getting to the point of the eviction process whenever possible. But when a tenant chooses to not pay rent or behave badly causing property damage or by causing neighbors the loss of their peaceful enjoyment then landlords must be able to correct the situation. Fortunately, evictions are not as common as is suggested by some. But it is a remedy that must be there to protect property and good tenants. During this Covid crisis, 95% or more of the tenants who have moved to a different location have done so unrelated to any court proceeding or eviction. So, the so-called public health crisis is not going to be affected by a moratorium. A moratorium is just wrong. It would prevent action to protect property from damage. It would prevent action to protect other tenants from harassment and from the loss of their peaceful enjoyment.

A tenant may give a proper notice to vacate and give no reason. A moratorium would prevent a landlord the same right.

A moratorium is wrong on many levels and will certainly cause housing to become much less affordable if passed.

Please vote no and protect constitutional rights, private property rights and the rights of all good tenants in Lincoln.

Thanks for your consideration.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Vernon J <Vernon-J@Vernon-J.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Fees limitation of food delivery

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

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing in reference to a story a read online. <https://www.klkntv.com/proposed-ordinance-would-cap-food-delivery-fees-in-lincoln/>

This is unnecessary Government regulation.

Please vote no on this issues.

Vernon J
1425 G St.
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-516-4401

Angela M. Birkett

From: Rebecca Craven <beccacraven14@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Comments for the City Council Meeting - February 1st

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

Hi,

I have recently become aware of a group of city residents that are planning to utilize the public comment period of the City Council meeting on February 1st to demand a blanket ban on all evictions from tenanted properties.

I am unable to attend the meeting myself but would like to advise my views on this issue.

Being a landlord of properties in Lincoln, I believe that I provide a service to the people of Lincoln by providing safe, secure, clean and well maintained properties that tenants can enjoy and use to ensure they can prosper under the guidance of the opportunities that Lincoln Council provides. If Council chooses to introduce a blanket ban on all evictions and my tenants choose to stop paying because they will not be evicted, this stops my ability to provide safe, secure, clean and well maintained properties as a financial burden will be present to myself and family. Although I do pick my tenants to be reliable, I have had to work with some of my tenants on some occasions to agree payment strategies when they are going through an element of hardship. This has worked very well as we have clearly communicated and they have used options available to them to ensure I can maintain a safe and secure environment for them.

The bottom line on this is that you would not convict a shop owner if someone stole from their shop, so why would you convict a landlord when a tenant stops paying their rent, decides to squat in a residence, commits violent crimes, domestic violence or dealing of illicit substances at the property, or deliberately damage the property. This is not in line with basic laws of our country or any country and should not be supported.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Kind regards
Rebecca Craven

Angela M. Birkett

From: Ross Mueller <ross_mueller@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 5:34 PM
To: Richard W. Meginnis
Cc: Council Packet
Subject: Highway 2 Trains- Quiet Zone

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

Hello,

My name is Ross Mueller and I live right off the intersection at 48th and Highway 2. As you are aware, trains have started to run along Highway 2 since January 1st. I am writing to you to voice my support for a Quiet Zone along this route. While there are “only” two trains that run here daily, it seems like a majority of them are at night and required to blow their horn. Residents were sent a mailer by the Nebraska Operation Lifesaver stating, “Trains can run at any time day or night and in either direction”. This seems a bit ridiculous that BNSF can’t even keep a schedule. This has woken me up several times already, and I can’t image that I’m the only one.

I have already contacted Roger Figard and expressed my support for a Quiet Zone on Highway 2. He told me that the board had discussed this at your December 7th meeting, however it was tabled until your March 2nd meeting. Again, I would like to strongly encourage the board to implement a Quiet Zone for the Highway 2 train route.

I look forward to your response and the March 2nd meeting.

Thank You,

Ross Mueller

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jon Zvolanek <jon.zvolanek@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: jon zvolanek
Subject: [The Lincoln Journal Star] City Council weighs putting a cap on delivery service fees charged Lincoln restaurants

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

https://journalstar.com/entertainment/dining/city-council-weighs-putting-a-cap-on-delivery-service-fees-charged-lincoln-restaurants/article_1c626333-1ab1-58ba-8091-31b608b962e4.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

I am opposed to this cap.
No one is forcing folks to order and have food delivered.
They can go and get it themselves.
Or eat at home.
If folks are overcharging, then why aren't more businesses and the restaurants jumping into the delivery business.

Who is the Lincoln City council to decide what the cap should be?

Let the market dictate this.

Or tell the Mayor to end the Emergency Pandemic.
It takes care of itself.
Let common sense and the market dictate.

You all have much large issues of revenue and shortfall of services to be dealing with.
Street paving etc.

Thanks for your service and listening.

Regards,

Jon Zvolanek
jon.zvolanek@gamil.com
402.770.1080

Angela M. Birkett

From: Michael Jurado <mjurado1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 9:20 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Public Comment on Evictions and Moratoriam

Importance: High

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

Dear City Council and Mayor of Lincoln NE

As an active rental property owner in the City of Lincoln NE, I find it incredible wrong to even consider a ban on evictions of tenants in rental properties.

How is an honest, hardworking, risk taking person going to recoup losses due to what would normally be a breach of contract, due to intentional damage of property, or loud unruly tenants. Such rules take away safeguards protecting our investments.

The City of Lincoln has been unaffected by any COVID crises in relation to tenants being able to pay their rent, no more than any other non COVID time. Approximately 95% of any rental property tenant in this city that has moved to another location has done so unrelated to any court proceedings or evictions, during this COVID pandemic.

Please, do NOT approve any Public Ban on Evictions in our city.

Michael Jurado
3199 Van Dorn St.
Lincoln NE 68502

Angela M. Birkett

From: Scott Bossung <scottbossung@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 8:19 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Third Party Food Delivery Services

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

Councilpersons,

I just finished watching the testimony in regards to the resolution to limit third party delivery services to a 15% charge for their services.

I would encourage you to vote against this resolution.

I think it is dangerous for the city of Lincoln to wade into the waters of what is an acceptable amount for a business to charge for their services. These restaurants sign contracts with these service providers, and they know the costs that will be incurred by their decision to do so at the time they sign the contract. I appreciated Mr. Kitten's testimony that he could end his contract with these providers at any time for any reason. I would propose that if these fees are truly unbearable, he should cancel the contract. If in fact the fees are less than or equal to the costs he would incur for starting his own delivery service, then perhaps the fees are not excessive after all.

I had an opportunity to socialize with a manager of a national franchise restaurant just last Saturday. He let me know that his store's financials are better than they have ever been. For the months of June thru December he set all time records for revenue each month. Now he is a "fast food" restaurant, and his ability to have drive thru sales likely impacted his profitability. That being said, I am not sure I agree with Councilperson Ward's assertion that the restaurant industry as a whole is the most impacted industry during COVID.

Thank you for your time,

Scott Bossung

Angela M. Birkett

From: Evelyn Weymouth <weymouth5@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Restaurant delivery fees

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

Dear City Council Members.

I am writing in regards to the article in today's paper (2/2/21) titled "Council Weighs Cap on Delivery Fees" (by Riley Johnson, pg A1).

I have to admit to a little bit of confusion as I am not sure why restaurants should pay the delivery companies any fee at all. The article states that Council Roy Christinsen was concerned that delivery charges might be passed on customers. I contend that delivery fees should be paid by the people to whom the food is being delivered. After all, I pay for deliveries from Amazon and Chewey.com.

I am sure that places such as Valentino's (who are set up to do delivery) pass on delivery costs to their customers. Restaurants are not set up for delivery, as Brewsky's pointed out. Why should restaurants be charged anything at all?

It is the customer who decides to have food brought to them rather than doing pick-up. The delivery companies are in business for the customer, not the restaurants. If people did not want food delivered to their door, the delivery companies would not exist. So why is this a cost for the restaurants?

When I order food to be brought to my door, rather than getting into my car and going to get it, I expect to pay for that service. My choice to be lazy, my expense.

Thank you for listening,
Evelyn Weymouth
355 Prestwick Rd.
Lincoln, NE. 68505
(402) 327-9607
weymouth5@gmail.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: sara larkins <saralarkins2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Conversion therapy - Ban it NOW

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

Hello,

I'm writing to discuss the **need to ban** the inhumane treatment of "conversion therapy". CEASE this awful practice immediately. I support the Ban and encourage others to allow people to be who they are so that they may develop fully into confident and beautiful members of society.

Thank you!
Sara

--

Thank you,
Sara J. Larkins
Strategic Business Planning & Marketing Consultant
402.957.0359
Ideate, Execute, Thrive

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jonna Cohen <info@rootdownland.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: BAN CONVERSION THERAPY

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

I am a concerned citizen, and this practice is inhumane and grossly outdated. We call on you to immediate ban conversion therapy.

Best regards,
Jonna Cohen

Angela M. Birkett

From: nancy brt <nbrt56@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Gate House Row

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

Nancy Brt

625 N 35th St.

February 1st, 2021,

Dear Mayor,

I am in complete opposition to Gate House Row apartments being built on the western edge of Wyuka. I support affordable housing; however, I also support green space and wildlife space. We just keep squeezing the wildlife to tiny parcels of land separated by 4 lane streets. Has anyone sought that sort of funding? There is an ever shrinking area on the east side of Wyuka. There is a small lake there that had some special funding from the Natural Resources District to establish. There are many places to put up affordable housing without forever changing the complexion of our neighborhood. We've lived here 30 years, my neighbor has been here 50 or 60 years, and Wyuka is a huge part of this neighborhood. We walk there almost daily. We enjoy watching the fox hunt and raise their young. This will completely displace 1 or 2 fox families. There is a great horned owl that hunts there. There are red tail Hawks that live and hunt there. But soon, there will be talk of foxes carrying off small dogs. This is one place in town where nature truly doesn't bother the locals. Please don't do this! Every place on the planet does not need a building and people on it. We need nature to be truly healthy! Please, consider integrating new housing in empty lots where older housing has crumpled. But keep this a wildlife space for both humans and animals.

Nancy Brt

Angela M. Birkett

From: David Woodard <dawoodard@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 5:32 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Conversion Therapy

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

Dear Sirs/Madam,

It had taken me quite a while to become fully comfortable in being a gay man. Today at 70 I'm happy, comfortably retired, active and evolved in charitable work. My husband and I have been together almost 34 years.

It wasn't always like that. The shame, guilt and anguish of growing up gay and closeted held its ugly scar for many years. Looking back, seeing what other LGBTQ persons have gone through in an effort to change an innate sexuality makes me happy and proud of the day I just said to the world "I'm gay and if you don't like it that's your problem, not mine".

Being a Vietnam era army veteran I saw the many gay and lesbian people struggle with shame to hide who they were. For many of us we just stopped trying to hide it. Surprisingly, even though some high ranking officers would dishonorably discharge gays and lesbians the rank and file didn't seem to mind. That happens when one crawls through the mud with .50 caliber rounds wizzing over your head. All you wish for is "dear God let me make it out alive" and to be thankful they the guy next to you would risk their life to save yours. His color, religion and sexuality didn't matter.

Knowing people who bought into the guilt and tried desperately to change I'm convinced that conversion therapy is cruel and inhuman treatment to our fellow Americans. It enforced the shame for which there is no cure. If you are a normal heterosexual person consider how hard it would be to be convinced that your natural instincts of attraction to the opposite sex was evil, immoral and punishable by law with prison sentences. Those whom I have known to were forced into this conversion or allowed it for the moral reasons that were instilled in their youth all failed miserably to change with many entering doomed marriages and or destructive patterns of activity and/or addiction.

My wish is that those in Nebraska and other states see the destructive power of conversion therapy. To those who feel me immoral I say to them that's their prerogative; if they hate homosexuality fine; then don't have sex with the same sex.

Hopefully the beautiful state of Nebraska with its truly kind and highly educated populace will join many states in the nation and most of the first world in outlawing this inhumane treatment of our fellow citizens.

Sincerity,

David Woodard
Los Angeles, CA
Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Steve Bowen <spb@schedulingworks.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: LES Appointments & Recent Decisions

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

City Council Members,

A recent decision by the LES Administrative Board will prove to be an epic disaster for Rate Payers and the City of Lincoln. We are referring to the decision to eliminate any electric power sources that provide electricity to LES that produce any carbon emissions. LES, supposedly will then depend solely on electricity produced by Wind or Solar Cells. (Unless some unknown source is discovered.)

Most people, but apparently not the majority of the LES Board, will recognize that Solar Cells don't work very well at night, and Wind Turbines have difficulty turning if the weather is not producing any wind. What is the LES Board's plan for supplying electricity to its customers when these conditions happen multiple times a month?

LES customers who have Standby Electric Generators will experience those units running far more often than planned. Many other customers will begin to install Standby Generators. All customers will now produce the same emissions that the LES Board is hoping to avoid. On top of that extra pollution, absolutely none the existing power plants that LES used to depend on for efficient power will have been terminated. All those plants will continue to produce the same amount of pollution. So, our current LES Administrative Board has effectively greatly increased the amount of pollution, except they brought it much closer.

The City Council will soon be considering an appointment to the LES Administrative Board. The current Board has demonstrated a lack of understanding that will prove to be a disaster. Well meaning people sometimes make uninformed ignorant decisions. The current Board seems to lean in the wrong direction. Please consider appointing people have a better understanding of science and engineering rather than political nonsense. It will be far better for Lincoln, to correct the recent decision to abandon all logic, than to wait until the impending disaster strikes.

There is much more that can be said about this subject I was Chairman of the Board of LES in 1996. I served on the Board for nine years. I have a good understanding of how electricity is produced and transmitted. I was an electrical contractor for 47 years. Please contact me if there are any questions.

Scheduling Works

Steven P Bowen

spb@schedulingworks.com

(402) 610-8880

www.schedulingworks.com



Angela M. Birkett

From: Debra Roberts <mmouse1227@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 2:29 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: mmouse@hotmail.com
Subject: Junk cars

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

Dear City Council,

I am writing in regards to the property at 1735 West "O" Street. Years ago it was a car lot. Now for the last few years it has become a junk yard for junk cars. I have called the Building and Safety several times regarding this property because it is a eye soar on West "O" Street. It look terrible. And he said he would go and take a look and it is still the same old junk cars. It has a burnt up trailer behind the building. Trailers and cars blocking the entrance to the old car lot. I wish someone one would really take a look at this property and make the owner clean it up and get rid of all that junk. They haven't sold any cars there for years. The couldn't anyway they have it blocked. I would appreciate it if we could get West"O" Street cleaned up. It is an area that needs more eating places, small businesses and maybe a Walgreens in the area. There is nothing on that street except gas stations and car lots. And as for gas stations I don't know why you would ever approve a Caseys on West "O" Street with all the station there. You drove a gas station out of business that was there for over 27 years. Seems like Caseys is like a Walmart the like to make the mom and pop shops close. Big corporations kill the smalls businesses. Shame on the City of Lincoln!!!

Thanks,

Deb Roberts

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Angela M. Birkett

From: Building & Safety
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 12:22 PM
To: Debra Roberts
Cc: Council Packet; mmouse@hotmail.com; Bill E. Fuelling; Gregory K. Edwards
Subject: RE: Junk cars

Debra, Building & Safety received one complaint in 2019. After several inspections, the Building Inspector determined that all violations of municipal code were taken care of. I have now created a new complaint for you and Building Inspector Bill Fuelling will follow up. If you would like to contact him directly, he can be reached at bfuelling@lincoln.ne.gov or 402.430 5834.

Thanks for your correspondence!

Tracey Domgard
BUILDING & SAFETY
402.441.6457



From: Debra Roberts <mmouse1227@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 2:29 PM
To: Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Cc: mmouse@hotmail.com
Subject: Junk cars

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

Dear City Council,

I am writing in regards to the property at 1735 West "O" Street. Years ago it was a car lot. Now for the last few years it has become a junk yard for junk cars. I have called the Building and Safety several times regarding this property because it is a eye soar on West "O" Street. It look terrible. And he said he would go and take a look and it is still the same old junk cars. It has a burnt up trailer behind the building. Trailers and cars blocking the entrance to the old car lot. I wish someone one would really take a look at this property and make the owner clean it up and get rid of all that junk. They haven't sold any cars there for years. The couldn't anyway they have it blocked. I would appreciate it if we could get West"O" Street cleaned up. It is an area that needs more eating places, small businesses and maybe a Walgreens in the area. There is nothing on that street except gas stations and car lots. And as for gas stations I don't know why you would ever approve a Caseys on West "O" Street with all the station there. You drove a gas station out of business that was there for over 27 years. Seems like Caseys is like a Walmart the like to make the mom and pop shops close. Big corporations kill the smalls businesses. Shame on the City of Lincoln!!!

Thanks,
Deb Roberts

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Angela M. Birkett

From: NPA Administrator <npa@nebpsych.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy for minors
Attachments: 210203 Conv Therapy Linc City Ltr.pdf

Importance: High

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

Please see attached letter in support of the Lincoln City Council Ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy for minors. Please confirm receipt and let me know if you have any questions or problems with the attached pdf document.

Thank you!

Carmen Skare
NPA Executive Director
P.O. Box 6785
Lincoln, NE 68506
Voicemail: 402-475-0709; 877-355-7934
Fax: 877-355-9234
npa@nebpsych.org



TO: Lincoln City Council Members

The Nebraska Psychological Association supports this ordinance to prohibit the use in minors of therapy intended to alter sexual orientation.

The American Psychological Association, in agreement with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, American School Counselor Association, American School Health Association, National Association of Social Workers, World Psychiatric Association, and the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, opposes the practice of therapies intended to change sexual orientation from gay, lesbian, or bisexual to heterosexual because such therapies are not needed, there is no credible evidence that they work, and there is a significant potential that they could cause harm to participants.

In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association, due to mounting research evidence that having a

same-gender sexual orientation is not inherently pathological, decreed that "homosexuality" is not a mental illness. While gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals are more likely than heterosexuals to suffer from depression, anxiety, and thoughts of suicide, a significant body of research indicates that these mental health issues are directly caused by the discrimination that LGB individuals face in society, not their sexual orientations. To further support this point, a growing body of research indicates that when communities are accepting and supportive of LGB individuals, they are not more likely to experience mental health issues than their heterosexual neighbors.

In 2009, the American Psychological Association, after conducting a comprehensive literature review, concluded that there is little evidence that therapies attempting to change sexual orientation can be successful. This is not surprising, given that decades of research have suggested that sexual orientation, like handedness, is not a characteristic that can be altered therapeutically.

Our final concern is that therapies designed to change sexual orientation are likely to cause harm to participants. Being required to change one's sexual orientation communicates that this aspect of the self is undesirable, which logically could lead to self-hatred, depression, and suicide. In addition, such therapies often include inaccurate and very pejorative information about sexual orientation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Katherine Carrizales, Ph.D.
NPA President



P.O. Box 6785 ♦ Lincoln, NE 68506 ♦ 402-475-0709
877-355-9234 (fax) ♦ npa@nebpsych.org ♦ www.nebpsych.org

DATE: February 3, 2021

TO: Lincoln City Council Members

RE Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy for minors

The Nebraska Psychological Association supports this ordinance to prohibit the use in minors of therapy intended to alter sexual orientation.

The American Psychological Association, in agreement with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, American School Counselor Association, American School Health Association, National Association of Social Workers, World Psychiatric Association, and the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, opposes the practice of therapies intended to change sexual orientation from gay, lesbian, or bisexual to heterosexual because such therapies are not needed, there is no credible evidence that they work, and there is a significant potential that they could cause harm to participants.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Carrizales".

Katherine Carrizales, Ph.D.
NPA President

Angela M. Birkett

From: director@causecollectivelincoln.org
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Support of Ordinance to Amend Title 11

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

Dear Lincoln City Council Members,

Cause Collective is writing to express its full support of the ordinance to amend Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code stating the use conversion therapy shall be considered discriminatory practice.

As some of you may know, Cause Collective is a local membership agency of 127 nonprofits in Lincoln. We work to strengthen our members through education, collaboration and advocacy.

As noted in the amendment, the research of the harmful effects of the practice of conversion therapy are abundantly clear. Dozens of national organizations including ones such as the American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, American College of Physicians, American Psychiatric Association, National Association of Social Workers, Pan American Health Organization have all made statements on the ineffectiveness of conversion therapy and the health risks it leads to.

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy> | <https://whatwewknow.inequality.cornell.edu/topics/lgbt-equality/what-does-the-scholarly-research-say-about-whether-conversion-therapy-can-alter-sexual-orientation-without-causing-harm/>)

Cause Collective urges the Council to pass this amendment for the mental health and safety of its youth.

Sincerely,

Jason Varga
Executive Director, Cause Collective
402.441.4399

Jason Varga, Executive Director
(he/him/his)

