

City Council Introduction: Monday, June 29, 2009
**Joint Public Hearing of the Lincoln City Council
and Lancaster County Board of Commissioners:**
Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

Bill No. 09R-109

FACTSHEET

TITLE: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 09001, by the Director of Planning, at the request of the Lincoln Police Department, pursuant to the 2009 Comprehensive Plan Annual Review, to amend the 2030 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to better indicate plans for future police facilities.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

SPONSOR: Planning Department

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Planning Commission
Public Hearing: 05/13/09
Administrative Action: 05/13/09

RECOMMENDATION: Approval (7-0: Esseks, Partington, Larson, Francis, Taylor, Cornelius and Sunderman voting 'yes'; Carroll and Gaylor Baird absent).

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. This is a request by the Lincoln Police Department to amend the Community Facilities, Public Safety, Law Enforcement section of the Comprehensive Plan (page 131) to indicate the need for the Lincoln Police Department to provide additional facilities in Lincoln as the community grows and changes, and to more clearly state that the Police Department currently has plans for improvement projects that will provide "additional full service assembly stations and other facilities." The proposed amendment language is found on p.4.
2. The staff recommendation to approve this proposed amendment is based upon the "Analysis" and "Summary" as set forth on p.3-4, concluding that the proposed amendment is in conformance with the goals of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The staff presentation is found on p.5.
3. There was no testimony in opposition.
4. On May 13, 2009, the Planning Commission agreed with the staff recommendation and voted 7-0 to recommend approval (p.5).

FACTSHEET PREPARED BY: Jean L. Preister

DATE: June 17, 2009

REVIEWED BY: _____

DATE: June 17, 2009

REFERENCE NUMBER: FS\CC\2009\CPA.09001 Annual Review

LINCOLN /LANCASTER COUNTY PLANNING STAFF REPORT
for May 13, 2009 Planning Commission Meeting

- PROJECT #:** Comprehensive Plan Amendment #09001
- PROPOSAL:** Amend the 2030 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to amend language on Page 131 in the Community Facilities - Public Safety - Law Enforcement section to better indicate plans for future police facilities.
- CONCLUSION:** The amendment to the Community Facilities - Public Safety - Law Enforcement section is in conformance with the goals of the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:	Approval of the proposed amendment
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GENERAL INFORMATION:

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SPECIFICATIONS: The 2030 Comprehensive Plan states the following about community facilities, public safety, and law enforcement:

COMMUNITY FACILITIES: (page 129)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ◆ *Public buildings and structures should be well built, functional, and designed to blend attractively within the context of surrounding development or to serve as a guide for future development or redevelopment.*
- ◆ *As the community grows, law enforcement and fire services must be able to respond to changing needs in order to provide public safety services.*

STRATEGIES

- ◆ *The location of public buildings should support the policies of the Comprehensive Plan*
- ◆ *The City's government center must remain Downtown. All efforts should be made to locate local, state, and federal offices Downtown when expansions and relocations are considered.*

PUBLIC SAFETY (page 131)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Lincoln Police Department and Lancaster County Sheriff's Office are anticipated to remain as the sole providers of law enforcement services to the city and county during the planning period. The Sheriff's Office will continue to provide contract law enforcement support to the various incorporated towns of the county. The overall increase in population in the city and county will increase the demand for police and sheriff services in the urban, small town, and rural areas.

The opening of the "Hall of Justice and Law Enforcement Center" in the year 2000 placed both operations within a single facility. This renovated facility at 575 South 10th Street in Lincoln is an example of the cooperation exhibited by the city and county in furthering the efficient delivery of governmental services to the community. Substations/reporting stations serve as satellite locations in neighborhoods to increase

law enforcement visibility in areas where the need is greatest. While future expansion, relocations, or facility rehabilitation to support law enforcement efforts could occur during the 25 year planning period, none are known at this time.

Adult Detention Facility

The current County adult corrections facility is located next to the “Hall of Justice and Law Enforcement Center”. Planning has taken place for the building of a new jail facility on a site which should allow the County to accommodate the projected increase in future inmate numbers. The new facility is anticipated to be built in the near term on a site located at the corner of S.W. 40th Street and W. O Street.

ANALYSIS:

This proposal to amend the Comprehensive Plan has two main purposes:

1. To indicate the need for the Lincoln Police Department to provide additional facilities in Lincoln as the community grows and changes.
2. To more clearly state that the Police Department currently has plans for improvement projects that will provide “additional full service assembly stations and other facilities.”

Current language on Page 131 of the Comprehensive Plan does not clearly state the need to develop future police facilities as the community grows. Instead, the existing language merely implies this need by saying future facilities “could occur during the 25 year planning period.” The proposed new language will better indicate the intention of the community to have the Lincoln Police Department develop additional facilities in the future as the needs of the community change over time.

Also, the current language erroneously states that there are no such new facility projects currently planned by the Police Department. The existing language states the “none are known at this time.” This is not accurate and needs to change. The Lincoln Police Department has deployed two full service assembly stations in the past several years. These facilities reduce the “down-time” for police officers to travel to and from the parking and reporting area compared to one central facility. The department is planning additional such stations and other facility improvements in the Capital Improvement Program.

SUMMARY:

The proposed amendment is meant to clarify the Lincoln Police Department’s intention to provide additional public safety facilities to the community as it grows and changes over time. Additional police facilities will be needed during the planning period. The Capital Improvement Program currently is used by the Police Department to plan for needed facilities, and it will continue to be used in the future. This capital programming mechanism provides for regular public review for the community to see how the City’s resources are being used for capital facility improvements.

Such planning supports the intention of the Comprehensive Plan to provide quality services to the growing Lincoln community. It also properly reflects current practice which provides quality public safety services to new development areas in a manner that is financially prudent, while still providing necessary

public safety to the existing city. This proposed amendment is a result of discussion between the applicant and staff.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Amend the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan as follows:

1. Amend page 131 to read:

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Lincoln Police Department and Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office are anticipated to remain as the sole providers of law enforcement services to the city and county during the planning period. The Sheriff’s Office will continue to provide contract law enforcement support to the various incorporated towns of the county. The overall increase in population in the city and county will increase the demand for police and sheriff services in the urban, small town, and rural areas.

The opening of the “Hall of Justice and Law Enforcement Center” in the year 2000 placed both operations within a single facility. This renovated facility at 575 South 10th Street in Lincoln is an example of the cooperation exhibited by the city and county in furthering the efficient delivery of governmental services to the community. ~~Substations/reporting stations serve as satellite locations in neighborhoods to increase law enforcement visibility in areas where the need is greatest. While future expansion, relocations, or facility rehabilitation to support law enforcement efforts could occur during the 25 year planning period, none are known at this time.~~ The Lincoln Police Department will experience a need for additional full service assembly stations and other facilities located within the community. The Capital Improvement Program will be used to plan and finance projects needed to meet growing needs.

Prepared by:

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April 9, 2009

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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 09001

PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE PLANNING COMMISSION:

May 13, 2009

Members present: Esseks, Partington, Larson, Francis, Taylor, Cornelius and Sunderman; Gaylor Baird and Carroll absent.

Ex Parte Communications: None.

Staff recommendation: Approval.

Staff presentation: **David Cary of the Planning Department** presented the proposed amendment on behalf of the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) for change in text of the Community Facilities Chapter, Public Safety - Law and Enforcement, to clarify the intent of LPD that over time they will be coming forward with public improvements and new facilities for expanded operations as the community grows and changes over time. It is intended to clarify the language currently in the plan.

Esseks asked Cary to define what is meant by a “full service assembly station”. Cary explained that it is intended to provide a site in the future for maintenance of vehicles and for starting and ending the workday - officers and staff bringing vehicles to and from the site. The intent is to not have as much dead-heading back into downtown and to be more efficient with officers and staff time.

There was no testimony in opposition.

ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION:

May 13, 2009

Cornelius moved approval, seconded by Francis.

Cornelius noted that the Planning Commission received a briefing on this amendment last week and it appears to be pretty straight forward in terms of clarification of the language.

Motion for approval carried 7-0: Esseks, Partington, Larson, Francis, Taylor, Cornelius and Sunderman voting ‘yes’; Carroll and Gaylor Baird absent.