

Public Hearing: July 22, 2013

## FACT SHEET

**TITLE:** Amend the 6 Year Capital Improvements Program to add an appropriation for the Civic Plaza Improvements

**APPLICANT:** Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Department

**SPONSOR:** Parks and Recreation Dept.

**OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:**  
Urban Development Department

**OPPONENTS:** None

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

### **REASON FOR LEGISLATION:**

The proposed amendment allocates \$100,000 of Keno funds that have been appropriated but not designated to be used toward the development of Lincoln's Civic Plaza at 13<sup>th</sup> and P. The proposed funding is related to City commitments associated with an agreement with the owner of the building at 1320 P Street (City Council Agenda Item 13-75).

## DISCUSSION

The Civic Plaza (or "Civic Square") was identified in the 2005 Lincoln Downtown Master Plan as Downtown's future "Living Room" at 13<sup>th</sup> and P Streets. The project is one of seven priority catalyst projects that are expected to stimulate investment, draw people to Downtown, and improve the quality of life of Lincoln residents.

On September 15, 2010, Document No. 83444 approved an amendment to the Lincoln Center Redevelopment Plan, 12th Street Revitalization Area Project, Phase I - 11th/13th Street Core Area Sub Project to include the Civic Plaza project area.

The City, with participation from the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Urban Development, Planning, and Public Works, along with the Downtown Lincoln Association and the expertise of a design team and artist, have developed a design plan for the Civic Plaza at 13<sup>th</sup> and P Streets in Downtown Lincoln. The design team used the program statement developed from the Project for Public Spaces 2010 public workshops in developing a design. The design meets the charge of the Master Plan in creating inviting, dignified, low-maintenance, universally-designed, public assembly space with a location for a significant piece of public art.

The agreement with the owners of 1320 P Street regarding improvements to the prominent east wall of the plaza (west wall of 1320 P Street) will help create an active and aesthetically appealing frontage to the plaza, improve the "eyes" on the plaza for safety and help to increase pedestrian activity. "Continuous ground floor retail activity in adjacent buildings surrounding the plaza" is an essential element of a successful plaza space, as identified in the Master Plan. The agreement establishes cost shares for the owner of 1320 P Street and the City for improvement to the wall and to the sidewalk café. The maximum amount of the City's financial commitment is \$100,000, and to proposed to be funded with Keno funds that have been appropriated but not allocated to a specific project.

### **POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE:**

**COST OF TOTAL PROJECT:** The projected cost of improvements to the west wall of 1320 P Street is about \$113,300. The City is to pay 75% of these costs, not to exceed \$85,000.

The first \$50,000 of costs associated with development of the proposed canopy over the east sidewalk café space is to be paid by the owner of 1320 P Street. The City is to pay up to \$15,000 of the costs exceeding \$50,000. The owner is to be responsible for costs exceeding \$65,000.

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

**CITY:** \$100,000 Keno

**NON CITY:** Owner of 1320 P Street

**BENEFIT COST:**

**FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:** Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Department

**REVIEWED BY:**

A handwritten signature, possibly 'G', is written in black ink next to the 'REVIEWED BY:' label.