IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS'/ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA
ADDENDUM
Monday, July 27, 2020

I. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Tina Arsiaga Website - Paul Frink
2. Opens Meeting Act - Vernon J
   Staff response provided by Yohance Christie, City Attorney
3. Keeping Schools Open - S. Wayne Smith
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20. Lincoln Police Force - Marilynn Strahm
21. City Council Meeting - Ashley Daily

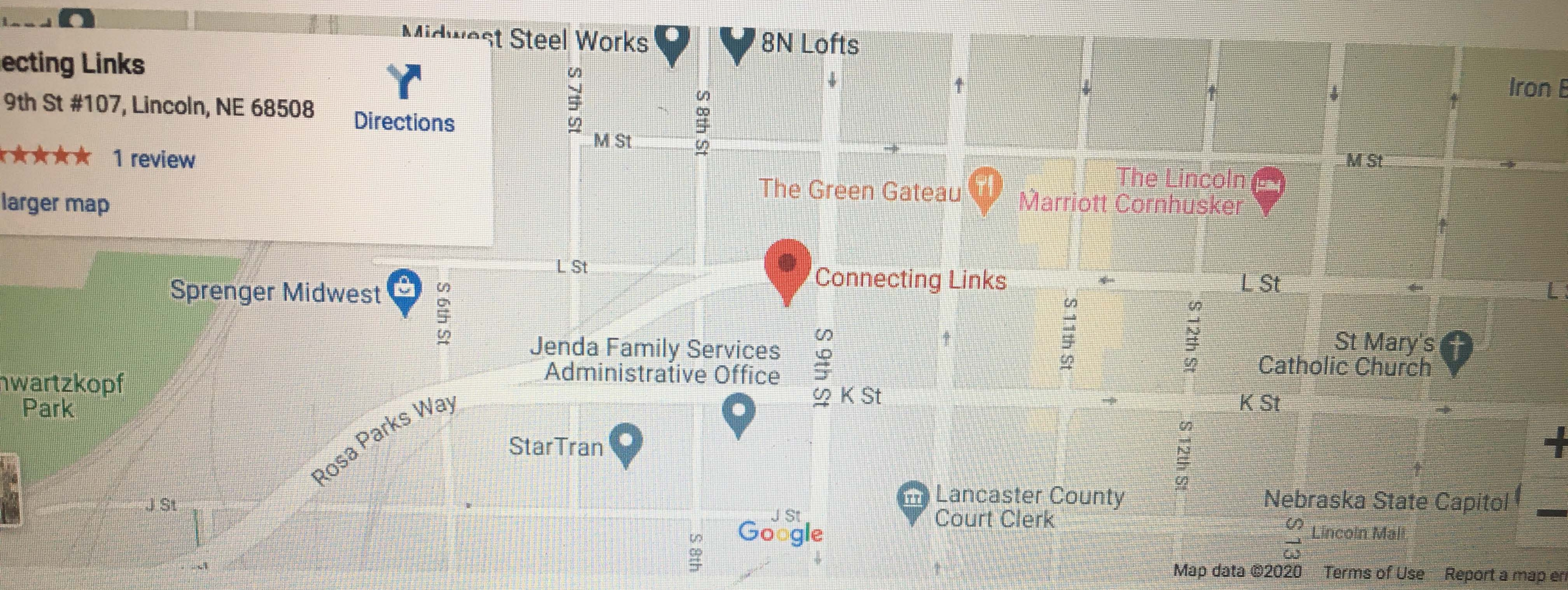
Angela M. Birkett

From: paul frink <paulfrink189@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Tina Arsiaga website

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

tarsiaga@icloud.com

421 S 9th St. Ste. 107 Lincoln, NE 68508



Women's Transitional Living
420 S. 28th St. Lincoln, NE 68510

NEW - Beginning July 1, 2020
Men's Transitional Living
2740 S. 13th St. Lincoln, NE 68502

Angela M. Birkett

From: Vernon J <Vernon-J@Vernon-J.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Nigro, Laura
Cc: Yohance L. Christie; Angela M. Birkett
Subject: Re: Open Meetings Act

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

Thanks.,

Vernon J
1425 G St., Apt. E
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-516-4401
#PrayForSmiles
On 27-Jul-20 09:02, Nigro, Laura wrote:

> Good Morning,
>
> As I stated in my email last week, § 84-1411(6) allows a "member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means or video or telecommunications equipment." My office does not have oversight over the Lincoln City Council and therefore I cannot update you on what they are doing. Please contact the City of Lincoln for this information.
> Thank you,
>
> Laura A. Nigro
> Assistant Attorney General
>
> **From:** Vernon J <Vernon-J@Vernon-J.com>
> **Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 8:34 AM
> **To:** Nigro, Laura <laura.nigro@nebraska.gov>; Yohance L. Christie <YChristie@lincoln.ne.gov>; Angela M. Birkett <ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov>
> **Cc:** Mary Hilton <mamahilton@gmail.com>
> **Subject:** Fwd: RE: Open Meetings Act
>
> Good Morning Laura,
>
> According to your email from Thursday the LCC was only doing in person.
>
> According to the agenda - https://docs.google.com/gview?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgranicus_production_attachments.s3.amazonaws.com%2Flnklan%2F3fd1a99c5f6e4342da6db4856c1a66530.pdf&embedded=true
>
> They are having teleconference testifying.
>
> Can you please update me on the situation.

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

--- Forwarded message ---
From: Yohance L. Christie YChristie@lincoln.ne.gov
Date: July 23, 2020 17:31:46
Subject: RE: Open Meetings Act
To: Angela M. Birkett ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov, Vernon-J@Vernon-J.com

Vernon,
Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411(6): A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means of video or telecommunications equipment.

Thank you for you inquiry and interest in the City Council.

Thank you,
Yohance L. Christie
City Attorney, City of Lincoln

From: Vernon J [mailto:Vernon-J@Vernon-J.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:21 PM
To: Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Open Meetings Act

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

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to you today about potential violation of the Nebraska Opening Meetings Act.

This is a section pulled from the statue:

(3) Videoconferencing means conducting a meeting involving participants at two or more locations through the use of audio-video equipment which allows participants at each location to hear and see each meeting participant at each other location, including public input. Interaction between meeting participants shall be possible at all meeting locations.
Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 2; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 1; Laws 1

I'm not a lawyer, but I know a few. One happens to be the Attorney General of the State of Nebraska.

As the citizens testifying are doing so from private homes, residences, and other non-public places. These places would have to be open and accessible for meeting participants to have interaction.

I therefore believe that you would have to confirm and announce every zoom location that is sending video teleconference testimony or information.

I eagerly await a written legal opinion (within 24 hours) from a city or state attorney on the potential violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Vernon J
1425 G St.
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-516-4401
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Angela M. Birkett

From: swaynes1@windstream.net
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: FW: Keeping Schools Open

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

Below is a copy of my email to the Lincoln School Board and Dr. Steve Joel. I've taken an aggressive approach to keeping schools open even if the risk is high, since I believe that keeping students out of school is more detrimental than in-person learning. Please support my position wherever you can.

Thanks

S. Wayne Smith
402 419-0888

Dear LPS Board of Education and Dr. Steve Joel:

It is very important that schools be opened five days per week for in-person learning. In-person education is much more effective than remote learning.

Thirty children under age 15 have died from Covid-19. In a typical year 190 children die of the flu, 436 from suicide, 625 from homicide, and 4,114 from unintentional deaths such as drowning. (First Trust Covid-19 Tracker/WSJ as of 7.13.20)

We don't shut down schools every year due to the flu.

According to the CDC, the % of deaths due to Covid-19 in the 5-14 age group was 0.7% during 2.01.20 – 6.17.20.

Risk assessment, e.g. the risk dial needs to be based on the risk to students – not based on the total population. If the risk assessment is done for those of school age students, it approaches zero.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics said the importance of in-person learning is well-documented and goes far beyond academic instruction, to include social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, and physical activity." (The Epoch Times, 7.14.20)

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine indicated that opening schools will supply child care, school services, meals, and other family supports. Without in-person instruction, schools risk children falling behind academically and exacerbating educational inequities.

Any plan to require remote learning for very young children could have detrimental long-term academic consequences if they fall behind as a result.

Having very young children do remote learning would make it difficult for the working family, particularly the working single-parent family.

Based on the above and based on all of the safety precautions you are implementing, I recommend that in-person education be continued five days/week even if the risk dial goes into the red (severe) range.

Sincerely,

S. Wayne Smith
6345 S. 35th Ct.
Lincoln, NE 68516

Angela M. Birkett

From: bterry2 <bterry2@lps.org>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Sp 20013
Attachments: 20200610_135703.jpg

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

Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to let us all speak regarding our neighborhood. There are 41 houses on our block. Before the planning commission meeting, my family went around our block to see if people would sign a petition to stop Mr. Euler. Several did not answer, which included his two daughters; three would not sign. Of those three, one was his niece, one was a good friend of his & one was one of his tenants who wanted to sign but was concerned about retaliation from him. Otherwise, everyone was very excited to sign it, including most of his tenants! His numbers stating that most if the block did not oppose is vastly exaggerated. Only five homes would not/did not sign. The neighborhood does NOT want this development at all, neither phase one or two. The center of our block IS flood prone, as we showed in our pictures. The engineer has shared inaccurate numbers regarding the pond as well as the amount of vehicles that travel thru our streets. Our neighborhood was not made to handle that much traffic. I watch Hillside every morning and there are more than five cars every ten minutes from 7am to 8am. On school days, there are also school buses that go up & down Hillside.

You predecessors were wise enough to know that land should not be developed, please, please represent the majority of people that live here and keep it undeveloped. Help us keep our quiet, peaceful dream of a neighborhood.

Thank you for your time,
Elizabeth Terry

Angela M. Birkett

From: Josie Amoo <josieamoo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 4:25 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 Bairdand Members of City Council,

My name is Josie Amoo and I am a resident of Scottsbluff, 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.

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,
Josie Amoo
josieamoo@gmail.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: hsellentin@windstream.net
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 11:08 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: We support law enforcement

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

City Council Members,

Keep law enforcement members as you highest priority.
We need and appreciate their services to keep Lincoln
safe for all of us and especially our youth. (Keep all SRO)

Retired Educator
Helen Sellentin
402-429-1201

Angela M. Birkett

From: INA <INA@neb.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Special Permits to Allow for an Alternative to Imprisonment Facility with More than Three Persons

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

Lincoln City Council Members

I am writing on behalf of the Irvingdale Neighborhood Association Board and the issue of the special permit for halfway houses with more than 3 occupants. The City Council recently delayed its vote on a permit for an expansion of the halfway house in Woods Park. The Woods Park Neighborhood Association and NeighborWorks have called for the development of regulations for the special permit that provides for oversight, review and adequate supervision. The INA Board also supports the development of such regulations/oversight.

The INA Board is not opposed to halfway houses if they are properly operated, supervised and regulated. Examples can be found across the country of successful halfway housing programs, as well as, halfway housing program disasters. Prior to the August 3 Council meeting, the INA Board urges the Council to research how other municipalities have regulated Alternative Imprisonment Facilities within residential neighborhoods.

INA has heard from neighbors of supposed plans for two to three such houses within our neighborhood exceeding three occupants. One such plan may have 10 occupants. This raises concerns about the potential density of halfway houses within a particular neighborhood.

It is unfortunate that the entity or entities wishing to establish these halfway houses did not see fit to communicate with the respective neighborhood associations, provide information on how these halfway houses would be operated and supervised, and how the neighborhood could be engaged.

Since this is the first request for such a permit and given the City's lack of experience with these special permits, as well as the permanency of this type of permit, due diligence is needed.

Sincerely

Geri Cotter, INA President

Angela M. Birkett

From: Michelle Clifford <mcliffor@lps.org>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 2:15 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: online option for testimony

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

Hello,
Today is the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and I am concerned with how our actions continue to show a lack of regard for those who are differently-abled. For example, people with disabilities make up a large proportion of those killed by police in the U.S. (estimates range from a quarter to half), and are frequently discriminated against in employment. They are also being hurt by coronavirus. As a teacher, I am concerned about special needs students who need to be at school in-person for supports, but put themselves at risk in making that decision because of our overcrowding. Even the solutions can cause new issues: in order to get 15 inches of space between the desks in my classroom, it is no longer wheelchair accessible.
Some of these things are not in our power to change, which is why it's important to go after what we can control. I've been told that the Zoom option for public testimony will not be offered permanently, but is only for coronavirus concerns. We have heard from many people that this change has made it more accessible for them to share their concerns, ideas, and opinions, and that their access had previously been limited because of their disability. **Please permanently continue to allow Lincoln citizens to join city council meetings remotely.**

Thanks,
Michelle Clifford
LHS Art // mcliffor@lps.org
instagram.com/lincolnhigh_art/

Angela M. Birkett

From: Judy Faubel <judy.faubel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: LPS Resource officers

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

Please use extra care in protecting our resource officers that work at LPS.. 🐻JF

Angela M. Birkett

From: Fran Colón <fcolon@neb.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: School resource officers

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

I highly encourage school resource officers. They have been helpful in the schools for years. I am speaking as a parent, grandparent, and as a retired teacher. Many good relationships are created between students and officers, especially at the younger ages. There are situations at the higher levels which are greatly aided when an officer is present. We are living in a different world. right now. Their importance is greater than ever.

Fran Colon
Retired LNE educator

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Rick and Nadine Hain <rnhain@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 3:52 PM
To: Council Packet

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

Lincoln Police andSchool Resource Officers
Please vote to keep and or increase the police and also the school resource officers.
Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Angela M. Birkett

From: paul liess <pjliess38@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 8:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Police Department

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

My wife and I are retired and don't get out much in the evening. We want to respectfully let the Council know that we whole-heartedly support our wonderful police department. As all of you know, our police have been understaffed and overworked for years. You are adding 5 officers to the department and we congratulate you for it.

The millions of dollars in damage to the east of the city-county building along Lincoln Mall street is enough evidence to prove that we require a strong effective police department.

I attended the university many years ago and was safe day or night in all parts of Lincoln. Today, we have numerous locations around Lincoln that aren't safe. We have had 2 murders on consecutive days very recently. It would be foolish to decrease the number of policemen or to defund the department.

Thank you for your attention and your service. Please make the right decision for Lincoln.
Paul and Sue Liess

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Angela M. Birkett

From: Tricia Hiltgen <queenlatricia@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 9:34 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Police Department

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

Dear Council Members of Lincoln,

It is time the City Council and the Mayor send a clear message that Lincoln will not defund the police. The people who are demanding for the defunding of the police have evolved into an anti-humanity group. No one had the option to choose the color of their skin or whatever family they were born into. This same group of people want others to feel bad for whatever skin color they are, especially people who are white. No longer is there a call for equality, but equity. Equity is replacing a white person with a black or brown person, just for the sake of skin color-not based on the qualifications of the person. This is racism. The very thing this movement is stating they are fighting, they are now the thing they hate. I do agree that black lives matter, but I do not agree with the organization Black Lives Matter. We cannot change the past, but we can do better in the future ensuring humanity is valued. The police are for the entire city, not for one neighborhood or group of people. I implore you to make a stand that Lincoln, Nebraska will keep the police force for the entire city. Lincoln can be a model for change-stop the division and stand with the police department.

Thank you,

Tricia Hiltgen

Angela M. Birkett

From: MCassidy <mcassidy@neb.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 9:53 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Support Lincoln law enforcement

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

I am a tax paying long time resident of Lincoln and I want to express my full support for our law enforcement community. The notion of defunding our police or even reducing their funding is unacceptable. Law enforcement is one of the most vital components of where our tax dollars should go. Without law and order in our communities, citizens' lives are all negatively impacted. Businesses, schools, and private citizens are all vulnerable if law enforcement is diminished or weakened. Our law enforcement agencies have had minimal issues regarding abuse of force complaints. This community should not be subjected to altering our police enforcement based on what is trending in other cities across the country. Your job is to offer the citizens of this community proper protection. Maintaining our law enforcement agencies as they are or increasing funding for improvements are the only options that are acceptable. I urge you to do what is proper for our entire community and not make cuts to our valuable law enforcement community.

Thank you,

Melanie Cassidy
Sent from my iPad

Angela M. Birkett

From: swaynes1@windstream.net
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:16 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Defunding the Police

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

To believe a society can function without police is to believe that evil doesn't exist. You have to be a fool to believe a society can function without police. Defunding the police is all about emotion. There is no logic to defunding the police.

Defunding the police = increased human evil.

Do you want to stop people who want to hurt people? The police are there to prevent harm.

Please support our police.

S. Wayne Smith
6345 S 35th Ct
Lincoln, NE 68516
402 327-2085

Angela M. Birkett

From: GLO <glo@extras.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Mayor; City Clerk
Cc: Council Packet
Subject: Council Meeting 7-27-20

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

Mayor & Council Members,
I want to voice my concern that there is even talk about de-funding our police.
One important, may be the most important, purpose of our government, Police is to provide security, safety and enforce the laws for citizens. Yes, there has been some terrible incidences, and I would agree there are some bad police. It is an extremely small number. The huge majority treasure and value the lives of our citizenry. They put their lives out there each and every day to protect and serve each of us.

I am stating, most emphatically, my support for the Lincoln Police.
Please Do Not consider de-funding the Police

Thank you for your time.
Greg

Greg Osborn
1144 Manchester Dr.
402-432-8121
glo@extras.net

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4-13

Angela M. Birkett

From: John Sullivan <sullyjohn1940@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: LPD....

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

Our kids are friends of a couple... she is a police officer in our city. A really good and dedicated person. It was recounted that she was driving her police vehicle and at a stop was yelled at... given "the finger"... called names & spit at etc.

There has been a marked up surge in crime, violence & destruction in Lincoln that is unacceptable. Defending the violence & destruction, or turning a blind eye to what is happening is not good. Our political leaders have to make it clear that the word is..."not in our city". The young lady holding the sign..." F the Cops" cannot go unchallenged.

Defund the police... create more "oversight committees" ... ??? How about supporting a really wonderful law enforcement force establishment we have in Lincoln. How about making it known to the anarchists ... Not in Lincoln you don't.

Thank you for letting us share this frustration with you. John & Dianne Sullivan

Angela M. Birkett

From: Lonnie Veik <april47.lv@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: No to defunding police

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

A city without a police department is a city lost. I wouldn't want to live here. Lincoln has been a safe place to live, let's keep it that way.

Thank you
LaVonne Veik

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Dick Veik <dickveik@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:45 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: I support the Lincoln Police

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

I am Richard Veik and am a resident of the city of Lincoln. It is important for all residents to feel that they are safe. If those who disregard what can be considered to be common sense or those laws and statutes that have been rightly enacted are allowed to have free reign, this city will not be fit to live in. We need to keep out police strong. Thank you
Richard Veik

Angela M. Birkett

From: Marilyn Strahm <kstrahm2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:12 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Marilyn Strahm
Subject: Lincoln Police Force

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

As a private citizen who resides in the capital city, I would encourage the council to NOT defund our hard working Lincoln Police. They are the ones who run toward the crime, who attempt to keep law and order in our streets. Who's presence tend to deter crime and lawlessness. We are in need of their services daily and to defund them would be absolute craziness. This thought of defunding the law enforcement tends to smell of an attempt to bring the great USA down. Please, don't go there, we need our men and women in Blue.
Thank you.
Respectfully,
Marilyn Strahm
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Angela M. Birkett

From: City Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:20 AM
To: Angela M. Birkett
Subject: FW: City Council Meeting Tonight

I think this should be added to your documents also. If not you can delete this.

From: Ashley Daily <aesdaily@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:18 AM
To: City Clerk <CityClerk@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: City Council Meeting Tonight

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

Dear City Council Clerk,

My name is Ashley Daily and I would like to address the City Council about installing a protected crossing at the bike trail/walking path crossing spanning Old Cheney Road at about 32st street. My son, Oliver, was struck by a car last week on this crossing and while he is healing well, this crossing is a menace for everyone who rides or walks the Tierra/Williamsburg trail. I have spoken with my neighbors and others in the Seven Oaks and Briarwood developments. We are all in agreement that something needs to be done about that crossing.

Ashley Daily
2816 Shelley Circle
Lincoln, NE 68516
aesdaily@gmail.com
402-417-4517