

## **Mayoral Pardon Policy and Procedures**

### **Petitioner Information**

The power of the Mayor to grant pardons is conferred by Lincoln's City Charter. The Charter language makes clear that the Mayor has the power to grant pardons only for convictions arising from violations of Lincoln city ordinances. The Charter language does not empower the Mayor to commute a person's sentence (i.e., reduce a period of incarceration or probation or the amount of the fine).

According to the Nebraska Supreme Court, no person convicted of a crime is entitled to a pardon as a matter of right. The power of the executive branch of government (in this case, the Mayor) to grant or deny a pardon is a discretionary power of clemency that it (i.e., the Mayor) may bestow or withhold as it deems fitting and proper in a particular case.

#### **Procedure for Requesting a Pardon**

1) Requests must be in writing and addressed to:

Mayor of Lincoln  
Suite 301  
555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Requests may also be submitted via e-mail to [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov).

2) Requests must be accompanied by a completed Pardon Application form (see following pages).

**Note:** The Mayor of Lincoln has authority to grant pardons only for convictions based on Lincoln City ordinances; thus, any conviction for which a pardon is requested may be only from the Lancaster County Court.

3) Documents may be submitted in support of the request but are not required.

4) Letters from members of the community may be submitted in support of the request but are not required. Reference letters must include the writer's full name and address. Individuals who submit reference letters may be contacted by City representatives.

4) A hearing will not ordinarily be held on a request for a pardon, but the Mayor may decide to hold a hearing on a particular case. If a hearing is convened, the petitioner will be notified of its time and place and procedures that will be followed.

5) A petitioner who requests a pardon will be notified of the Mayor's decision in writing.

**Questions about Pardons:** Any questions concerning pardons may be addressed to [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov).





