

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

September 8, 2014

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

## Attendance

Fifteen citizens and four staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40th & A NA	Michael Cooper – Arnold Heights NA
Karen Dienstiber – Eastridge NA	Paula Rhian – Everett NA
Scott Richert – Indian Village NA	Larry Evermann – Irvingdale NA
Amy Karabel – Irvingdale NA	Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO	Bill Vocasek – West A NA
Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office	Milo Mumgaard – Mayor's Office
Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Dept.	Russell Miller – Lincoln Neigh. Alliance
Sheree Goertzen – Neighbor@Works-Lincoln	Mike Renken -- Neighbor@Works-Lincoln
Lee Heflebower – Lincoln Homeless Coalition	Angela Morehouse – Lincoln Police Dept.
Jodi Delozier – Ridge HOA	Mayor Beutler

## Welcome & Introductions, Volunteer to Take Notes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Tracy Corr and introductions were made.

## Mayor's Comments

Mayor Beutler discussed the Public Safety bond issue. He explained the relationship between the sales tax discussion and the request for the Public Safety bond. Consensus had been reached to put the sales tax increase to the voters, with a proposal for ¼ cent increase for 6 years. Of the \$11 million/year this would generate, \$7 million would be allocated for roads, \$2 million for parks and \$2 million for sidewalks. When the decision was made not to pursue the sales tax increase at this time due to lack of votes from City Council members, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was consulted. The first item for next year in the CIP is the Public Safety System including new radio equipment and the relocation of four fire stations. Since these items had been discussed during the sales tax community conversation and also included in the CIP, it was logical to assume Council would approve placing the Public Safety bond issue on the November ballot. Although there were initially enough votes, some Council members changed their minds and voted against placing the bond issue on the ballot. Mayor Beutler is following what was suggested by Council members opposed to the vote: providing more information and considering other options. Mayor Beutler is disappointed the bond issue will not be placed on the ballot for a vote of the people and feels strongly that people should be able to vote. He encourages neighborhood associations to continue discussion about the sales tax proposal and provide their input.

## SunShares

Milo Mumgaard, Senior Policy Aide for Sustainability for Mayor Beutler, explained that LES is actively involved in renewable energy and is pursuing a community solar project. Construction is scheduled for 2015. The size of the farm will depend on voluntary contributions by LES customers. The deadline to sign up is October 1. See **Attachment 1** for more information on the project.

## Lincoln's Homeless Population:

### Balancing the Needs of Homeless People, Neighborhoods & Communities

*What are the resources available to balance these needs, especially in public spaces?*

A panel was present to discuss homelessness issues and concerns. Lee Heflebower, Supportive Housing Administrator with Community Action Partnership and Chair of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition, began by describing what the homeless population looks like in Lincoln. She distributed information from the annual Point-In-Time survey (see **Attachment 2**) which is conducted each January. The survey literally counts homeless people on the streets and in shelters. It does not count the estimated thousands that are staying with family and friends. Results show that nearly one-third of homeless are children, 20% are due to domestic violence and 10% are veterans. Those who fit the homeless person stereotype represent 5%, or 46 people, who are unsheltered.

Care must be taken with legislation intended to restrict those 46 as there may be unintended consequences for others who are homeless, keeping in mind that a large number are children and most homeless are not the visible 5% living on the street. Lincoln's homeless service providers pool resources and collaborate well. However, the lack of funding is a huge issue with much more need than can be served. The City Mission is the only shelter for the general public and is almost always full. There is great outreach provided by CenterPointe and Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. Both organizations encourage unsheltered homeless people to use available resources. Their outreach includes bridges and parks. Some people cannot live in an apartment. They know and trust the streets and feel isolated in an apartment. It takes many steps to get them to shelter; streets are their comfort zone. There is a national initiative that encourages communities to not punish people for being homeless. They are sometimes punished because they cannot make it on their own.

Officer Angela Morehouse, Lincoln Police Department (LPD), agreed that the public sees the 46 chronic homeless people that live on the street, largely due to the panhandling they do. She distributed a brochure (see **Attachment 3**) distributed to downtown businesses. There are restrictions such as not panhandling in a group of two or more. Verbal appeals are legal if not done in an intimidating manner. Panhandlers can make hundreds of dollars from the public on game days. UNL students in particular do a lot of the donating.

She spoke about the importance of educating the public about panhandling. She shared information about donation parking meter projects that have been effective in Denver, Colorado, and Manhattan, Kansas (see **Attachment 4**). This type of project can be successful if people are educated to contribute to homeless service providers via the meters rather than directly to panhandlers. Denver has experienced an 80% decrease of panhandling in its downtown. Where these efforts have failed, it has been due to not enough public education. Lincoln is considering a parking meter donation program downtown.

There is no law prohibiting camping out on a sidewalk, but it does impact the public perception of safety. Officer Morehouse works with the Homeless Coalition which created a subcommittee focused on downtown. The subcommittee focused on two individuals for two months and estimated the cost to the public due to repeated 911 calls at \$60,000 a month.

Jerry Shorney, Assistant Director/Park Operations spoke about issues in City parks. The Parks Department has seen an increase in day campers and some overnight camping. It is almost exclusively adult males who also will lay on picnic tables and benches. There is no law against these uses but there is for use of parks after hours and use of alcohol in a City park. These issues can be addressed by LPD. The biggest concern is that it does deter others from using the park facilities.

Jocelyn Golden, Assistant City Attorney addressed legal issues. She stated that panhandling is allowed, but not after sunset; holding up a sign is permitted after sunset. Panhandling is illegal under certain situations: near an ATM, approaching a vehicle, and if it is aggressive. Lincoln does not have any anti-camping or sit/lie laws. Lincoln does have a law prohibiting use of any public property after 11:00 p.m. that is maintained by the Parks Department.

Questions of the panelists included:

- How does the number of homeless in Lincoln compare to other cities? Lee Heflebower responded that for a city our size, the numbers are fairly typical. Rural Nebraska has fewer shelters so more people stay with friends or family. It may appear there are more homeless in Lincoln, but much of that is due to better counting.
- What can be done to discourage homeless men from taking ownership of a picnic table in a park, or camping in a park? Jocelyn Golden responded. If there is suspicious activity, call the police non-emergency number (402-441-6000). Calls to 911 result in responses from the Fire Department as well as from LPD. If it is not a medical situation, that unnecessarily ties up medical resources that may be needed elsewhere. Officer Morehouse added that it is not illegal for a homeless person to be in a City park; they have every right to be there. However, illegal activity is prohibited, such as drinking alcohol or being there after hours. If a particular individual is continually using a park and others are deterred from using it, they should call her (ask for her at 402-441-6000 or email her: [LPD1704@cjs.lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:LPD1704@cjs.lincoln.ne.gov)). She will bring the issue to the Continuum of Care outreach committee and an outreach worker can be asked to work with the individual. Her goal is to find a more compassionate and long-term solution to helping the homeless.
- Are Lincoln's laws similar to other cities? Jocelyn replied that they are. Some states have different laws.

### **Announcements**

Wynn Hjermstad, Urban Development Department, referred meeting attendees to the announcements listed on the agenda.

### **Next Meeting/Agenda**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 13<sup>th</sup> which is the Columbus Day holiday. The City is open and attendees agreed to hold the meeting that day as scheduled. All agreed that Chairperson Tracy Corr would choose the agenda item.

*Submitted by Wynn Hjermstad.*

**ENROLLMENT CONTINUED**

By signing this form (prior page), you are authorizing that the amount listed/circled on the front side be added each month to your electric bill, beginning Jan. 1, 2015. You also have the understanding that this money is to be used to help fund a utility-scale solar project in the Lincoln area. Your participation in LES SunShares will continue each month unless you notify LES in writing. This donation is nonrefundable and completely voluntary.

**Mail to:** Lincoln Electric System  
P.O. Box 80869  
Lincoln, NE 68501

Or you can enroll by calling **402.475.4211** or completing the online form at [www.les.com/SunShares](http://www.les.com/SunShares).

**ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS FOR EVERY 1 MW OF SOLAR INSTALLED**

**EQUIVALENT CARS**



Total estimated CO<sub>2</sub> annually is equal to taking this many cars off the road



**EQUIVALENT TREES**



It would take this many acres of trees in the forest to reduce the total CO<sub>2</sub> avoided annually

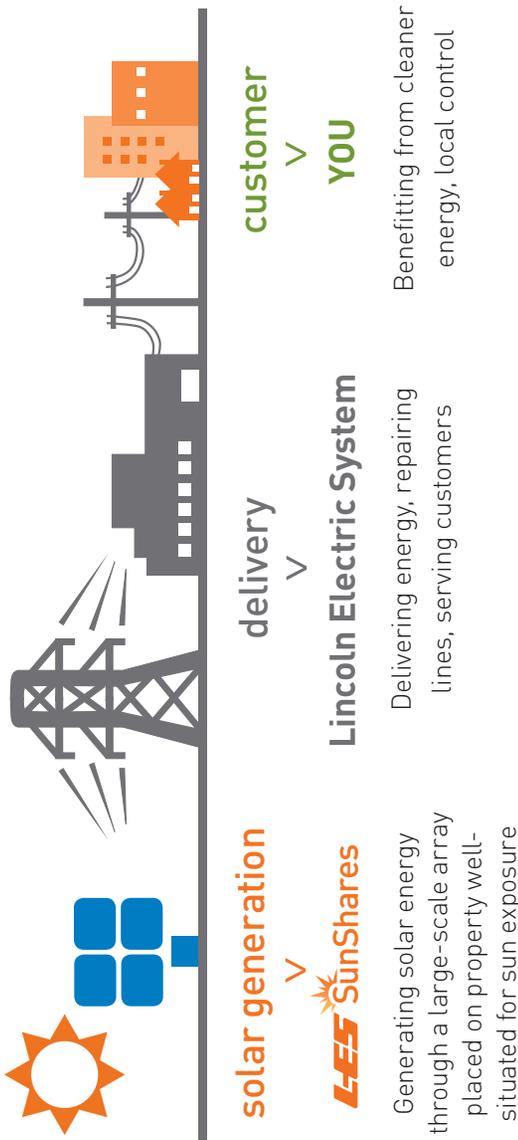


**EQUIVALENT COAL**



Total estimated tons of coal not burned annually

How it works



1040 O Street, P.O. Box 80869  
Lincoln, NE 68501-0869

p: 402.475.4211 [www.les.com](http://www.les.com)



FOR ONLY \$3 PER MONTH  
YOU CAN ENROLL IN  
COMMUNITY SOLAR

- EASY
- AFFORDABLE
- GOOD FOR OUR PLANET



# Plug into the sun



Now YOU can help bring more solar power to the Lincoln area. Lincoln Electric System's SunShares program gives homeowners, renters and businesses the opportunity to go solar.

Whether you have too much shade for rooftop solar, own or rent a home or business that doesn't allow solar, or you prefer not to have solar on your roof, you now have a way to participate.

COMMUNITY SOLAR IS AN EMISSIONS-FREE, LARGE-SCALE PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY PLACED ON PROPERTIES WELL-SITUATED FOR SUN EXPOSURE.

## Solar for everyone

Not everyone can afford to put solar on the roof, so in addition to being a good thing for our planet, community solar is affordable. You can support solar in our community for as little as \$3 per month through your electric bill.

Your involvement, along with others in the community, will aid LES in making a large solar farm a reality.



## Green solar

Demonstrate your commitment to clean power and the environment.

LES SunShares provides an easy and affordable way to participate in a solar energy project. You'll be part of a pioneering group moving the Lincoln area toward a cleaner, renewable energy future... That means community solar is a good investment for the planet.

### Great for our planet. Great for the community.

- Solar is a clean energy source.
- Solar is a renewable energy source.
- Adding community solar will increase LES' renewable energy portfolio.

## Solar made simple

Take advantage of the ease and convenience of community solar. Construction and commercial operation of the facility is scheduled for 2015. Participation and contribution amounts will help determine the size of the solar farm. The program will run through 2034 and is 100% voluntary.

Fill out and send in the enrollment form. Learn more at [www.les.com](http://www.les.com) or contact LES at [sunshares@les.com](mailto:sunshares@les.com).

## ENROLL NOW

### MONTHLY LEVEL OF SUPPORT

#### Spark

**\$3-6 donated to SunShares**

Receive the LES SunShares updates and invites to exclusive project events.

#### Sunburst

**\$7-10 donated to SunShares**

Receive a decal, public listing + Spark benefits.

#### Solar Flare

**I want to write in my own donation.**

If more than \$10, receive Sunburst benefits + VIP invite to the ribbon cutting.

**I'm a business** - Visit [www.les.com](http://www.les.com) or call

402.475.4211 to enroll.

Window clings, news kit & recognition.

### Circle or fill in your monthly contribution to LES SunShares:

\$3 \$4 \$5 \$6 \$7 \$8 \$9 \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$3 minimum required

*Write in your own*

*(Please print)*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Attachment 2

## Point-in-Time Summary Homeless Populations Summary for NE-502 - Lincoln CoC

Date of PIT Count: 1/22/2014

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

### Total Households and Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	267	292	0	45	604
Total Number of Persons	340	450	0	46	836
Number of Children (under age 18)	77	151		0	228
Number of Persons (18 to 24)	30	64	0	2	96
Number of Persons (over age 24)	233	235	0	44	512

### Gender

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	131	204	0	4	339
Male	209	246	0	42	497
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0

### Ethnicity

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	317	409	0	43	769
Hispanic/Latino	23	41	0	3	67

### Race

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
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Point In Time Summary for NE-502 - Lincoln CoC

	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
White	221	283	0	40	<b>544</b>
Black or African-American	90	89	0	5	<b>184</b>
Asian	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	9	18	0	0	<b>27</b>
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
Multiple Races	17	60	0	0	<b>77</b>

# Point-in-Time Subpopulations Summary for NE-502 - Lincoln CoC

Date of PIT Count: 1/22/2014

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

## Chronically Homeless Subpopulations

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelters	Safe Havens		
Chronically Homeless Individuals	82	0	13	<b>95</b>
Chronically Homeless Families (Total Number of Families)	4		0	<b>4</b>
Chronically Homeless Families (Total Persons in Household)	11		0	<b>11</b>

## Other Homeless Subpopulations

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Persons in emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe havens			
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	177		14	<b>191</b>
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	167		13	<b>180</b>
Adults with HIV/AIDS	0		0	<b>0</b>
Victims of Domestic Violence	169		0	<b>169</b>

# Point In Time Summary (Veterans) for NE-502 - Lincoln CoC

Date of PIT Count: 1/22/2014

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

## Persons in Households with at least one Adult and one Child

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total Number of Households	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Persons	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Veterans	0	0	0	0
Average Household Size				n.a.

## Persons in Households without Children

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	14	61	0	6	81
Total Number of Persons	14	61	0	6	81
Total Number of Veterans	14	61	0	6	81
Average Household Size					1.0

## Total Households and Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	14	61	0	6	81
Total Number of Persons	14	61	0	6	81
Total Number of Veterans	14	61	0	6	81
Average Household Size					1.0

## Lincoln 2014 Homeless Point in Time Count Summary

**836** homeless persons were identified as homeless on the night of the count in 604 households.

An additional 155 persons were in permanent supportive housing and 35 persons in Rapid Rehousing. Persons in other permanent and permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing programs are not counted as homeless in the HUD Point in Time Count.

Lincoln Point in Time Count – January 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2014					Not counted homeless for the HUD Point in Time Count			
Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Unsheltered	Permanent Housing (PSH & OPH)		Rapid Rehousing RRH	
Households	Persons	Households	Persons	Persons	Households	Persons	Households	Persons
267	340	292	450	46	114	155	30	35

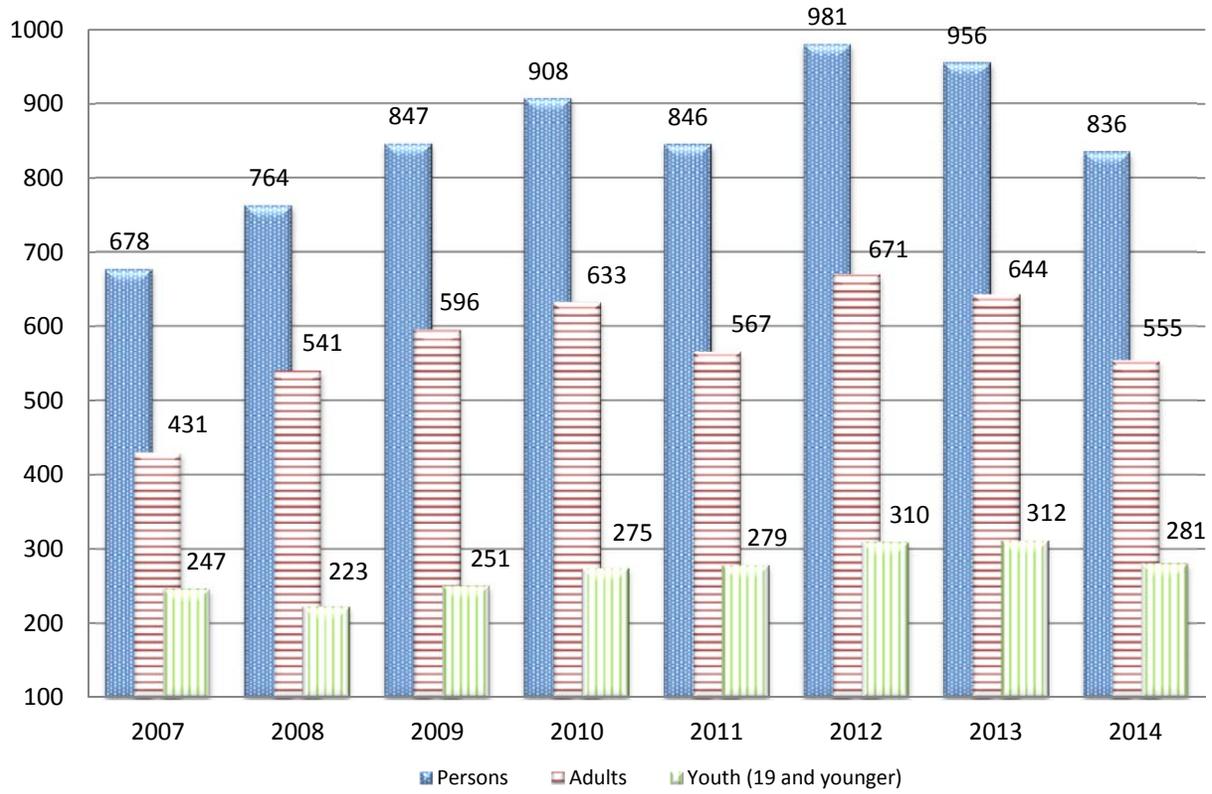
The decrease in Homeless numbers in the point in time count from 2013 to 2014 is in part the result of the planned work of the Lincoln Continuum of Care and member agencies increasing the amount of other permanent housing available in the community. Ninety-three (93) persons were in permanent supportive housing (PSH) on evening of the PIT in both 2013 and 2014 but in 2014 an additional 62 persons were in beds designated as Other Permanent Housing (OPH) that were previously transitional housing units. In addition two new rapid rehousing programs (RRH) were housing 35 persons on the evening of the 2014 PIT count.

The 2014 PIT count also indicated a decrease by over 50% in the number of unsheltered homeless on the night of the count. Persons in emergency shelter and transitional housing also decreased on the evening of the 2014 PIT count.

The 2014 Homeless Point in Time count data is a single evening's data point that suggests the Lincoln Continuum of Care and member agencies are making significant progress in their work to end homelessness in our community. A single night's count of the homeless is not a definitive measurement of the degree to which homelessness exist in our community and the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and Continuum of Care provide the community with additional data and information on the homeless situation in our community throughout the year including the Annual Homeless Assessment Report which looks at homelessness over the course of year. However, the PIT count is a very good, single point in time assessment of homelessness in Lincoln. The decrease in homelessness identified in the 2014 PIT count is the first significant decrease in the PIT homeless counts since 2011 when the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) was operating at full funding in our community to house and prevent homelessness. The HPRP program ended in Lincoln in the fall of 2011. The number of homeless identified for the 2014 PIT count has decreased to the lowest number of persons counted since January of 2008 count when 764 persons were identified.

# Lincoln Homeless Point in Time Count Homeless Persons 2007 - 2014

2014 PIT conducted  
January 22nd, 2014



## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

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If you are a victim of aggressive solicitation or if a violation is reported to you:

- 1) The best way to impact the problem is to call the police **402-441-6000**, and provide enough information so the police can issue a citation.
- 2) Do not confront the violator.
- 3) Obtain the name and phone number of the person reporting the violation so they can be contacted by police and an arrest can be made.
- 4) If you witness a violation provide a detailed description in case the violator leaves before police arrive.

**Thank you for your assistance in helping us impact the enforcement of panhandling violations.**



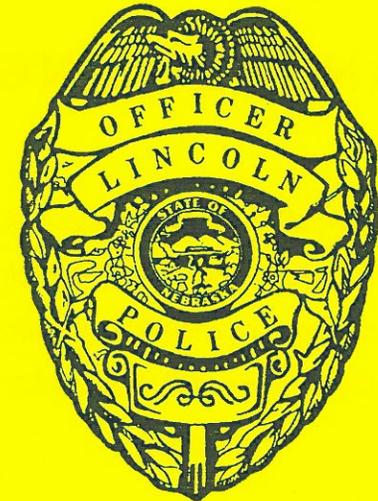
The Lincoln Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency.

# Attachment 3

## PANHANDLING

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**Lincoln Police Department**



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Helping to make Downtown Lincoln a better experience for everyone.



## PANHANDLING:

*Any solicitation made upon any street, public place or park in the city, in which a person requests an immediate donation of money or other gratuity from another person.*

LINCOLN  
**P O L I C E**

Leadership Performance Dedication

## LINCOLN MUNICIPAL CODE 9.20.080

### It is unlawful for any person to:

- \* Engage in an act of panhandling on any day after sunset, or before sunrise.
- \* Engage in an act of panhandling when either the panhandler or the person being solicited is located:
  - at a bus stop;
  - in any public transportation vehicle or facility;
  - in a vehicle which is parked or stopped on a public street or alley;
  - in a sidewalk café;
  - within 20 feet in any direction from an ATM or entrance to a bank.
- \* Panhandle in a group of two (2) or more persons.

IT shall be UNLAWFUL to panhandle by aggressive solicitation.

### EXAMPLES:

- \* Touching a solicited person without their consent.
- \* Panhandling a person while they are standing in line and waiting to be admitted to a commercial establishment.
- \* Blocking the path of a person being solicited, or the entrance to any building or vehicle.
- \* Following a person who walks away from the panhandler after being solicited if that conduct causes the person to be fearful of imminent bodily harm or to feel intimidated to make a donation.
- \* Using profane or abusive language, either during the solicitation or following a refusal to make a donation.
- \* Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly making any statement, gesture, or other communication which would cause a reasonable person to be fearful of imminent bodily harm or to feel intimidated to make a donation.

Donation Meters



Donation Meters



Lawrence is the latest community to address issues related to panhandling in downtown areas with donation meters. Lawrence now offers donation meters at 6 locations in downtown Lawrence to allow visitors the opportunity to give to established, non-profit organizations that work to support the homeless population and provide services that range from emergency shelter, healthy meals for families, job assistance and, ultimately, a way out of poverty and panhandling.

Look for green donation meters in downtown Lawrence on Massachusetts Street in the 700, 800 and 900 blocks (7<sup>th</sup> Street to 10<sup>th</sup> Street). The donation meters are located near the mid-block crossing or breezeway in each block.

The donation meter program is another way of helping. Instead of giving loose change directly to panhandlers, place your contribution in the donation meter instead. The City of Lawrence will collect the funds and provide them to the Lawrence Community Shelter to support homeless programs. The meters only accept COINS. The city does not collect or retain any fees from this program and donation meters are paid for by the City of Lawrence.

For more information on the Donation Meter program, contact the City Manager's Office at (785) 832-3400 or email [cityhall@lawrenceks.org](mailto:cityhall@lawrenceks.org).



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# Memorandum

## City of Lawrence

### City Manager's Office

**TO:** David L. Corliss, City Manager

**FROM:** Jonathan Douglass, Assistant to the City Manager / City Clerk  
Kelly Unger, Management Intern  
Megan Gilliland, Communications Manager

**CC:** Tarik Khatib, Chief of Police  
Charles Soules, Director of Public Works  
Scott McCullough, Director of Planning and Development Services

**DATE:** March 8, 2012

**RE:** Donation Meters Implementation Plan

#### **Background**

On 07/19/11, the City Commission received information and discussed the implementation of donation meters in Downtown Lawrence. Donation meters are parking meters that have been repurposed to accept donations, which donations are then utilized to serve the homeless. The purpose of such programs is to redirect giving from panhandlers to programs which more effectively serve the homeless.

#### **Implementation overview**

Pursuant to City Commission direction, staff has prepared the draft implementation plan below. The general outline of the program follows:

1. To kick off the program, the city will pay for and install donation meters at six locations. Each location is either near a midblock crossing or a breezeway. Staff proposes locating the donation meters near the benches at the midblock crossings (see sample [photo](#)) or the planters in the breezeways (see sample [photo](#)). Exact locations will depend on the location of other above ground and underground infrastructure. The proposed locations are:
  - a. 700 block of Massachusetts, west side, near midblock crossing
  - b. 700 block of Massachusetts, east side, near breezeway
  - c. 800 block of Massachusetts, west side, near midblock crossing
  - d. 800 block of Massachusetts, east side, near breezeway
  - e. 900 block of Massachusetts, west side, near midblock crossing
  - f. 900 block of Massachusetts, east side, near midblock crossing
2. A year after the initial installation staff will report back to the City Commission regarding the success of the program. If experience indicates that the program should be expanded to the rest of downtown (including off-Massachusetts Street locations) sponsorships could be considered and meters installed at locations suggested by sponsors, subject to city approval. Sponsors would have to deliver a set amount of money to the city to cover the actual costs of retrofitting, painting, decorating and installing the meters.

3. Parking control officers will collect donations from the meters and the city will separately account for the donations and deliver a check in that amount to the Lawrence Community Shelter on a regular basis. Frequency of collection and distribution of funds will be determined based on experience once the program is up and running. The City Commission will annually reconfirm the recipient(s) of the donations.
4. Downtown Lawrence Inc. will support the program through their own marketing efforts to members and customers.
5. The meters will be installed as weather and workload allow in spring 2012.

### **Implementation details**

Various aspects of the donation meter program will be implemented as outlined below.

1. Design/decoration/branding of meters
  - a. Staff recommends "Cents of Community" as the name for the program.
  - b. Staff recommends that the meters be painted green to distinguish them from standard meters (grey or brown), 15 minute meters (yellow) and handicap accessible signage (blue).
  - c. The meters will include stickers identifying the meters as donation meters and providing information on the program. See attached [sample](#) mock up of a meter.
2. Public awareness campaign
  - a. Initial public awareness campaign
    - i. The city will create a webpage for the program with information about the purposes of the program and the timeline for implementation.
    - ii. City staff will create a brochure for the program. An electronic version of the brochure will be placed on the donation meters program website and can be downloaded and printed by downtown merchants who would like to distribute the brochures in their businesses.
    - iii. City staff will manage appropriate media releases and related efforts, including communications to downtown merchants.
  - b. Ongoing public awareness campaign
    - i. The city will maintain the webpage for the program and the meters themselves, and will update any promotional materials (including brochures) as appropriate.
    - ii. City staff will include information about the program in materials distributed to incoming university students each school year/semester.
    - iii. The recipient(s) of the funds, as well as downtown interests, will be responsible for any further public awareness programs they wish to undertake.
3. Sponsorship program
  - a. A year after the initial installation staff can report back to the City Commission regarding the success of the program. If experience indicates that the program should be expanded to the rest of downtown (including off-Massachusetts Street locations) sponsorships could be considered and meters installed at locations chosen by sponsors, subject to city approval. Sponsors would have to deliver a set amount of money to the city to cover the actual costs of retrofitting, painting, decorating and installing the meters.
  - b. If the City Commission decides to expand the program beyond the initial installations, additional meters would only be placed once sponsorships funds are received.
  - c. Sponsors would request locations to have the meters installed, which would have to be approved by the city.
  - d. Sponsors would be listed on the program's website but would not have their names on the meter installations themselves, in order to minimize visual clutter on the meters.

e. Multiple entities could pool resources and sponsor one meter.

4. Collection and distribution of funds

- a. Parking control officers would collect donations from the meters and the city would separately account for the donations and deliver a check in that amount to the chosen recipient(s) on a regular basis. Frequency of collection and distribution of funds will be determined based on experience once the program is up and running.
- b. The initial recipient of all donations will be the Lawrence Community Shelter. The City Commission will annually confirm or re-designate the recipient(s) of the donations.
- c. Donation meters will only accept coins. During the 07/19/11 City Commission meeting it was suggested that special envelopes be provided to downtown merchants, which patrons could use to submit dollar bill donations via the yellow parking fine collection boxes downtown. The cost to purchase 10,000 or 20,000 envelopes of similar size, but lighter weight and different color than the parking ticket envelopes, would be approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000. Staff recommends that the envelopes be made available to downtown merchants at the Municipal Court and the City Clerk's Office, and merchants that want to have a small supply of the envelopes in their store could pick them up as needed from the city. Then envelopes could be dropped in the fine collection boxes or mailed in to the city.
- d. The website created by the city for the program can link to the recipient agency's website, and if the recipient agency accepts online donations people can utilize that method of giving also.

On March 7, 2012, Jonathan Douglass personally contacted each business directly adjacent to the proposed locations to find out if they had any concerns with locating a donation meter nearby. At most of the businesses he spoke with an owner or manager, and at the few where neither an owner or manager were available he explained the program to an employee of the business and left a business card for the owner or manager to contact him if they had any questions or concerns. All of the people he spoke with were either ambivalent or positive toward the program; no negative feedback was received.

Staff will proceed with the implementation of a donation meters program according to this plan, unless directed otherwise by the City Commission.

## Lawrence, Kansas installed donation meters for the homeless to discourage panhandling!

Posted Oct 16, by Bruno



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Kansas installed donation meters for the homeless to discourage panhandling!



(7)

The donation meter program is another way to help the homeless. Instead of giving change directly to the homeless, the money in the meters is taken by the city to the Lawrence Community Shelter to help fund and support homeless programs. The meters only accept coins and the city doesn't hold back any fees from the meters.

Lawrence is the latest city to institute the donation meters. There are six donation meters throughout the downtown area of Lawrence that allow people to give money to help support programs that assist the homeless. The hope is to ultimately get the homeless up and off the street and to stop panhandling.

The meters are for safety, too. Panhandlers are often harmless, but at times they can get aggressive and grabby. The shelter uses the money to fund the emergency shelter, healthy meals for families, job assistance, and a way out of poverty.

(Source) ([http://www.lawrenceks.org/donation\\_meter](http://www.lawrenceks.org/donation_meter))





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## Mayor Michael B. Hancock

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### Mayor Hickenlooper Creates Commission on Homelessness

#### Mayor Hickenlooper Creates Commission on Homelessness

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10/29/2003

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Wednesday, October 29, 2003

**CONTACT:**  
Lindy Eichenbaum Lent  
720-865-9016  
[lindy.e.lent@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:lindy.e.lent@ci.denver.co.us)

#### Mayor Hickenlooper Creates Commission on Homelessness

Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper announced Wednesday a broad-based community commission to develop and implement a 10-year plan to end homelessness in Denver. With support from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, cities across the country - including Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, and Atlanta - are creating and implementing these 10-year plans. Roxane White, manager of the Denver Department of Human Services, will chair the commission for the Mayor.

The creation of the 36-member Denver Commission on Homelessness follows up on a campaign promise by Hickenlooper to mobilize a coalition of key players from City agencies, non-profits, foundations, businesses, the faith community and homeless services providers to develop strategies for addressing the many challenges of homelessness.

"This commission brings together people who have the experience, the skills, the knowledge and, most importantly, the heart, to tackle the challenges surrounding homelessness in Denver," Hickenlooper said.

Noting that the number of homeless persons in the metro area has increased nearly 80 percent since 1990, Hickenlooper added, "If we are to consider ourselves a truly great city, we must make every effort to confront the multiple complex issues that underlie homelessness. The people I've named to this commission are already respected leaders in this effort, and I offer them the full support of the City as we move forward together."

Hickenlooper said the Commission will begin working immediately to support efforts already in progress to ensure adequate emergency shelter for the winter months. The concerns surrounding aggressive panhandling and the need for a safe environment for Denver businesses, visitors and residents are also top priorities.

Additionally, Hickenlooper praised the homeless-provider community for its recently published Blueprint to Address Homelessness in Denver and said the Commission will look to that document as a starting point in the effort to develop and implement a plan for the City of Denver.

In creating a plan to end homelessness, the Commission will consider the needs of the many special populations included among the homeless: veterans, families with children, youth on their own, undocumented immigrants, women, people with HIV/AIDS, and seniors. The Commission will collaborate with state and regional governments, businesses, neighborhood groups and the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative to address a broad range of policy and practical issues including:

#### Housing

- Preservation of existing housing
- Development of new affordable housing

# DENVER'S ROAD HOME DONATION METER PROGRAM

## Be the Change: Give a Better Way

“Every time someone makes a donation at a Denver’s Road Home meter, they give someone hope. The meters give people the opportunity to make a change, while knowing their gift is going directly to provide services for the homeless.”

– Bennie L. Milliner, Denver’s Road Home Executive Director

Denver’s Road Home is our community effort to end homelessness. Our organization is working hard to ensure that every homeless child, woman and man has an alternative to living on the streets.

### OVERVIEW

Denver’s Road Home, in partnership with multiple organizations, launched the Give a Better Way, Donation Meter program in the Spring of 2007. The meters give people the opportunity to drop spare change into a meter and know their money is given back to homeless service providers who are part of the solution to ending homelessness. The meters serve as a way to educate our community about homelessness, while also generating resources for the homeless community.

### IMPACT

Denver’s Road Home has raised more than \$200,000 through the donation meter program. Even more, the Give a Better Way campaign has reached thousands of people educating them about alternative ways to help the homeless. Additionally, the meters are linked to helping reduce panhandling along the 16th Street Mall by 83%, according to the Downtown Denver Partnership.

Denver’s Road Home Donation Meter Program has been locally and nationally spotlighted through various media outlets including *USA Today*, *Reader’s Digest* and *CNN Money*.

### NEW FOR 2013

Starting in May 2013, Denver Public Works and Denver’s Road Home are replacing existing donation meters with new donation meters capable of accepting both credit cards and coins. The money raised will be allocated specifically towards mental health and substance abuse treatment services for the homeless. There will be 60 meters placed throughout Denver, most near the Downtown corridor



## HOW IT WORKS

The Give a Better Way, Donation Meters are located along established meter collection routes, so meters can be easily maintained by Denver Public Works. One-hundred percent of donations go to Denver's Road Home to benefit homeless services.\*

## SPONSORSHIPS

Businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, social groups and individuals have the opportunity to support the homeless by sponsoring a meter on an annual basis. Sponsors receive the following recognition:

- Metal name plate on meter
- Name recognition on meter digital screen
- Exposure to thousands of people that walk by and donate
- Recognition on Denver's Road Home website and Facebook page
- Opportunity to cross promote and encourage other people to give at your meter
- Satisfaction that you are making a difference for the homeless

## JOIN THE CAUSE

Here's how to get started:

1. Fill out the Give a Better Way, Donation Meter Sponsorship Agreement Form
2. Choose a Donation Meter to sponsor. Meters are available in specific locations and we may be able to accommodate other location requests.
3. Decide the name that will appear on your meter nameplate (limited to 28 characters).
4. Send your sponsorship payment by check or credit card
5. Alert your fellow employees, friends and family that you are now a proud sponsor of a Denver's Road Home Donation Meter. Consider spreading the word via social media outlets, such as Twitter and Facebook.

For more information on how to sponsor a meter or how your sponsorship and/or donations help the homeless, please contact Melanie Lewis Dickerson at 720-944-2884 or [Melanie.Lewis-Dickerson@denvergov.org](mailto:Melanie.Lewis-Dickerson@denvergov.org).



\*Credit card processing fee's are deducted from donations paid via a credit card.

## DENVER'S ROAD HOME DONATION METER SPONSORSHIP FORM

Thank you for supporting Denver's Road Home, our community's plan to help the homeless. Please fill out this form to sponsor a Denver's Road Home Donation Meter.

Business/Organization Name (as you want to be recognized):

CEO/Executive (if appropriate):

Contact Person:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Marketing Contact Name:

Email:

Web Site Address:



Address:

Requested Meter Location (to be confirmed by Denver's Road Home Staff):

Please make check payable to "Denver's Road Home" and mail to:  
Denver's Road Home  
1200 Federal Boulevard  
Denver, Colorado 80204  
Attention: Melanie Lewis-Dickerson

**By electronically signing this form, I, or my company, hereby agrees to sponsor a Denver's Road Home Donation Meter at \$1,000 for one-year.**

Signature

Date

**Submit Sponsorship Form**

Note: Your name/company name may be used for promotional purposes  
Questions: Melanie Lewis-Dickerson, 720-944-2884





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### Denver's Road Home launches new blue, donation smart meters

#### Denver's Road Home launches new blue, donation smart meters

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Community members looking for an opportunity to help the homeless will be able to easily make a donation by swiping their debit or credit card or dropping spare change at any of the Better Way to Give donation smart meters located throughout the city.

Denver's Road Home, in partnership with [IPS Group](#), [Wyles](#), [Arrow Electronics](#) and [Denver Public Works](#), will replace the existing red donation meters with new, light blue donation smart meters capable of accepting both debit and credit card and change donations.

"What's unique about the Better the Way to Give campaign is the opportunity it offers every person in our community to support some of the most vulnerable people in our community," Mayor Michael B. Hancock said. "Each person walking by a donation meter has the ability to make a change for someone in need by making a simple donation. By donating at a meter, you will be helping to provide direct services that help the homeless."

"We selected the color blue because of its symbolic nature. Blue symbolizes strength, new beginnings and optimism – all qualities the homeless must embrace on their journey to self-sufficiency," said Mayor Hancock.

As part of the launch, Denver's Road Home announced it would designate all meter donations for the next year towards mental health services and substance abuse treatment.

"There are over 5,000 homeless people living in the City and County of Denver who desperately need our help," Mayor Hancock said. "With 21 percent of the homeless self-reporting a mental health matter and 18 percent self-reporting a substance abuse issue, we feel it is important to allocate specific funding towards these services."

The 85 donation smart meters and technology were generously donated by IPS Group, Wyles and Arrow Electronics. "As a longstanding partner with the City and County of Denver, IPS is honored to provide donation meter stations to Denver's Road Home to help end homelessness" said Dave King, President and CEO of IPS Group. "We hope that the additional payment flexibility the meters provide will lead to more frequent and larger donations to help further the City's humanitarian initiatives."

[Jones International](#), a first-time sponsor of the Better Way to Give donation smart meter campaign, joined Mayor Hancock to unveil the new smart donation meters. "Just as Jones International University is committed to changing lives through the enabling power of education, we're excited to be part of the Better Way to Give smart donation meter launch and the quest to make a difference in our local Denver community," said JIU Chancellor, Dr. Milton Goldberg. "We believe funds collected by the Better Way to Give campaign will enrich lives and assist in the continued effort to build a better tomorrow." [Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti PC](#) and [rabble + rouser](#) are also first-time sponsors of the Better Way to Give donation meter campaign.

Denver's Road Home Executive Director Bennie Milliner discussed the importance of collaboration. "We are incredibly grateful to IPS Group for donating 85 smart meters to help our cause. And, I want to thank Denver Public Works and our

### Media Inquiries

720-944-1422  
 720-944-2034  
[DHSmedia@denvergov.org](mailto:DHSmedia@denvergov.org)

### CORA Requests

[Citywide CORA Policy](#)

Please submit Denver Human Services CORA requests via email to [John Beckman](#).

### Services at DHS

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**720-944-3000**

Adult Protection Hotline  
**720-944-2994**

DHS Customer Service  
**720-944-3666**

Colorado Relay/TDD  
**711**

Child Support Services  
**720-944-2960**

Foster Care  
**720-944-4000**

GIVE Denver  
**720-944-GIVE (4483)**

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sponsors for their ongoing commitment to support the Better Way campaign. It's this type of collaborative spirit that helps to advance our efforts to end homelessness in our community."

The [Downtown Denver Partnership](#) showed its support during the unveiling. "We are pleased to join the City and Denver's Road Home in re-launching this important effort by making it even easier for individuals to make direct contributions to Denver's Road Home," said Tami Door, Downtown Denver Partnership CEO & President. "We are proud to be home to the majority of the donation meters in Denver as they provide high visibility for the entire program as well as an ongoing opportunity for people to give to those in need."

Denver Public Works will replace the existing Denver's Road Home donation meters with the new blue, donation meters over the next few weeks. The meters will be located in and around the downtown corridor and placed along existing meter routes for easy change collection.

Businesses, community groups and individuals are invited to sponsor a donation meter for \$1,000 a year. The donation smart meters accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards in increments of one-dollar to one-hundred dollars. And, donors can continue to drop spare change into the meters.

The Better Way to Give campaign began in 2007. Since this time, the program has raised more than \$200,000 for Denver's Road Home. The Better Way to Give campaign shows the public that there is a better way to give to help the homeless by providing an alternative to giving to panhandlers. In turn, donors can rest assured that their donation is going towards services that directly benefit the homeless.

To learn more about the Better Way to Give campaign and Denver's Road Home, visit [www.denversroadhome.org](http://www.denversroadhome.org).

Posted on May 30 2013 (Archive on Jun 29 2013)

Posted by JGlennon Contributed by JGlennon

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