

# Our County, Our City, Our Neighborhoods <sup>3/4</sup> A Plan for Action

## Agenda of the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance

*(action items are not listed in any priority order)*

**Neighborhood Services.** Whereas neighborhood services are vital to maintaining our high quality of life,

Resolved:

- Lincoln's neighborhoods should have access to the full range of community facilities, health services, open space, and playgrounds. Neighborhood parks, pools, libraries, senior centers, public transit, and trails must be a high budget priority.
- Existing neighborhood schools should be maintained and improved to a high standard. New schools should be sited and built to facilitate safe and easy walking and biking for students, safe traffic flow, and joint use of facilities.

**Sidewalks.** Whereas Lincoln is forty years behind in its sidewalk maintenance, and whereas the community has twice voted that, the city and not private owners should pay for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks,

Resolved: Lincoln should continue efforts initiated over the last two years to establish, fund, and implement a plan to rehabilitate sidewalks on a more aggressive schedule. This plan should bring Lincoln's sidewalks up to code in ten years or less.

**Infrastructure Finance.** Whereas one of the biggest challenges currently facing our city and county is how we will finance the maintenance of existing infrastructure and the development of the new infrastructure needed to support growth and development. And whereas this financing should be reasonably predictable and fair to the taxpayers in existing neighborhoods and in new developments,

Resolved:

- The maintenance of existing infrastructure should be the highest priority.
- New development should pay a significant share of the initial costs related to extending public infrastructure and services (i.e., sewer, water, streets, public power, schools, fire, and police) to that development.
- All public entities involved in building and maintaining public infrastructure within Lancaster County should cooperate to achieve the maximum efficiency (RUTS and "Build-through").

**Stormwater.** Whereas development in watershed areas upstream from neighborhoods frequently causes increased runoff during heavy rains and increased insurance costs for businesses and neighborhoods,

Resolved: The City and County should work aggressively with neighborhoods, businesses, developers, natural resources districts, and state and federal agencies to mitigate the adverse impact of development on floodplains and flooding problems.

**Neighborhood Preservation.** Whereas zoning designations and building designs that conflict with current or historical use patterns create increased density that is detrimental to character of existing neighborhoods, undermines home ownership, and is beyond the neighborhood infrastructure capacity (parking, water, sewer, etc),

Resolved:

- The city should support downzoning in neighborhoods where strong support exists.
- Neighborhood design standards should be adopted to ensure that new construction has a high level of compatibility with the character of new and existing neighborhoods throughout the city.

**Crime and Public Safety.** Whereas crime is a growing issue of concern in our community,

Resolved: The city should support and expand community-policing practices, including neighborhood police substations and neighborhood watch areas as a deterrent to neighborhood business and residential crime.

**Quality of Life.** Whereas Lincoln has codes to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

Resolved: Lincoln should strengthen and enforce the penalties regarding dilapidated buildings and exteriors, junk cars, trash, disorderly households, and criminal activity. Lincoln should also maintain and enforce the "no more than three unrelated persons per household" ordinance and maintain or strengthen spacing requirements for alcohol sales.

**Neighborhood Business Districts.** Whereas our neighbors and neighborhoods are an integral part of and dependent upon our local economy, and whereas businesses must be sensitive to the character and needs of the surrounding neighborhood,

Resolved: The city should actively support Lincoln neighborhood businesses in neighborhood business districts and regulations should be revised to better integrate new and old businesses with adjacent uses. Areas to examine should include screening, lighting, signage, set backs, noise, traffic, and permitted uses.

**Transportation.** Whereas street design in neighborhoods has a significant impact on safety and quality of life, and whereas widening arterial streets in existing neighborhoods with narrow rights-of-way result in lower property values, loss of neighborhood character, and blight,

Resolved:

- Widening beyond two lanes plus a center turn lane (2+1) in established neighborhoods should not be done. 2+1 arterial streets in established neighborhoods provide smooth and safe traffic flow with less impact
- The City and County should aggressively plan for, invest in, and develop public policies that support alternative modes of transportation such as public transit, trails and sidewalks as a means to improve our overall quality of life and reduce the burdens of traffic and on-going street development.

**Public Officials.** Elected and appointed public officials can have a profound impact on the quality of life of neighbors and neighborhoods, and it is therefore important that officials elected or appointed to these offices are knowledgeable about and sensitive to neighborhood concerns.

Resolved:

- Neighborhood associations should recruit individuals knowledgeable about and concerned with neighborhood issues and advocate for their appointment to public policy bodies such as the Lincoln – Lancaster County Planning Commission, the LES Board, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Neighborhood associations should work together to organize public forums; testimony in public hearings; letters, surveys and questionnaires; and other means to insure that public officials are aware of neighborhood concerns and that citizens are aware of the positions of elected officials and candidates on neighborhood concerns.
- The Lancaster County Board should have some members elected by district instead of the current structure, which has candidates nominated by district, but elected by the county at-large. The Lancaster County Board is one of only two counties (Saryp County the other) in Nebraska which does not include some district elected members.

**Overhead Power Lines.** Whereas overhead power lines are a visual blight, a safety hazard, and are more susceptible to power outages due to wind, snow, or ice storms,

Resolved: LES and city officials should develop and implement a fiscally-sound, phased program to bury Lincoln's neighborhood power lines.

**Trees.** Whereas Lincoln has been nationally recognized as a Tree City USA community,

Resolved: Lincoln should replace a tree for every tree that is lost or removed and enforce tree-planting standards in new developments. Lincoln should also be diligent about replacing the trees lost over the last twenty years and in planting trees in the area between sidewalks and curbs on arterial and residential streets.

## **Lincoln Neighborhoods Associations Who Have Endorsed the Our County, Our City, Our Neighborhoods <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> A Plan for Action as of 5-3-05**

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| 1. Antelope Park Neighborhood Association  | 10. Irvingdale Neighborhood Association        |
| 2. Arnold Heights Neighborhood Association | 11. Landon's Neighborhood Association          |
| 3. Clinton Neighborhood Organization       | 12. Lincoln Tri-Court Neighborhood Association |
| 4. Country Club Neighborhood Association   | 13. Near South Neighborhood Association        |
| 5. East Campus Community Organization      | 14. North Bottoms Neighborhood Association     |
| 6. Eastridge Neighborhood Association      | 15. South 48th Street Preservation Association |
| 7. Everett Neighborhood Association        | 16. University Place Community Organization    |
| 8. Hartley Neighborhood Association        | 17. Witherbee Neighborhood Association         |
| 9. Hawley Area Association                 | 18. Woods Park Neighborhood Association        |