

Our County, Our City, Our Neighborhoods - A Neighborhood Plan for Action

(action items are not listed in any priority order)

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

Resolved:

- The City'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.
- Schools, Community Learning Centers (CLC's), and neighborhood associations should work together to improve both school and surrounding neighborhoods. 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:

- The city should continue efforts 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 (e.g. sewer, water, sidewalks, streets, public power, schools, fire, and police) should be the highest priority.
- New development should pay a significant share of the initial costs related to extending public infrastructure and services to that development.
- Impact fees remain a significant revenue source for infrastructure finance. All public entities involved in building and maintaining public infrastructure within Lancaster County should cooperate to achieve the maximum efficiency (e.g. Rural to Urban Transportation System (RUTS) and "Build-through").

Stormwater. Whereas development in watershed areas upstream from neighborhoods causes increased localized flooding, stream bank instability and pollutant loads to businesses and neighborhoods, as well as downstream streams and lakes,

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 flooding and pollutant issues.
- The City and County should work with property owners to promote water conservation through the use of stormwater best management practices such as rain gardens, native and naturalized grasses for lawns, and other similar type practices, which all assist in reducing the impact of development.

Neighborhood Promotion and Preservation. Whereas Lincoln's wide variety of neighborhoods not only provide a safe and appealing place to live for Lincoln residents, but also are a huge asset that should be recognized and utilized to promote what's great about our community,

Resolved:

- Neighborhood marketing should be better integrated into Lincoln's community marketing strategies.
- The city should support down-zoning in neighborhoods where strong support exists. Zoning designations 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.).
- Neighborhood design standards should be enforced to ensure that new construction has a high level of compatibility with the character of new and existing neighborhoods throughout the city.
- Clearly defined and easily accessible rehab standards for older structures should be adopted or amended into current codes.
- The City should promote green practices in all neighborhoods.
- The City and its partners should develop a marketing plan to promote all Lincoln neighborhoods.
- The City should promote and encourage active neighborhood associations.

Crime and Public Safety. Whereas crime is an issue of concern in our community,

Resolved:

- The City should support community-policing and solution-oriented practices including neighborhood police substations and neighborhood watch areas as a deterrent to neighborhood business and residential crime.
- Neighborhood revitalization programs and services that remove blight and provide safe environments should be funded as important parts of our community crime-reduction strategy.

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

Resolved:

- The City should strengthen and enforce procedures and ordinances regarding neglected and abandoned buildings, dilapidated exteriors, junk cars, trash, disorderly households, and criminal activity.
- The City's Housing Code and Health Inspectors should adopt solution-oriented code enforcement similar to Lincoln Police Department's model. This would broaden their mission from one which solely emphasizes violations and criminal penalties to a mission which emphasizes identifying and solving the issues causing the property to be a problem in the first place. This could include pro-active contacts with owners, identification of repeat issues and involving additional departments or community resources to solve the problem and eliminate repeat calls.
- The City should also maintain and enforce the "no more than three unrelated persons per household" ordinance and maintain or strengthen spacing requirements for alcohol sales.
- The Citizen Action reporting center should be improved to increase feedback to citizens and to promote increased transparency in the process.
- The City should promote the health of its citizens by maximizing walkability.

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 neighborhood businesses in neighborhood business districts and regulations should be revised to better integrate new and existing businesses with adjacent uses—ie. parks, residential areas. Areas to examine should include: incentives for small businesses, screening, lighting, signage, set-backs, noise, traffic, maintenance 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. Existing lane widths should be preserved in areas where widening would negatively impact adjacent homes, street trees and other neighborhood facilities.
- The City and County should aggressively plan for, invest in and develop public policies that support alternative and public modes of transportation. Modes such as biking, public transit, trails and sidewalks improve our overall quality of life and reduce the burdens of traffic and on-going street development.

Public Officials. Whereas 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 seek out 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.
- The City and County should notify neighborhood associations of vacancies and request nominees.
- Neighborhood associations should work together to organize public forums, testimony in public hearings, letters, questionnaires as well as other means to ensure that public officials are aware of neighborhood concerns and that citizens are aware of the positions of elected officials and candidates..

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 maintain a fiscally-sound, phased program to bury Lincoln's older residential neighborhood power lines and transmission lines.
- The City should promote green practices and renewable energy when feasible.

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

Resolved:

- The City should promptly replace trees in established neighborhoods that die or are removed including those in the area between the sidewalks and curbs on arterial and residential streets.
- The City should budget funds to replace the trees lost over the last twenty years and to ensure regular trimming and maintenance.
- The City should enforce tree-planting standards in new developments.

**Lincoln Neighborhoods Associations Who Have Endorsed the
Our County, Our City, Our Neighborhoods - A Plan for Action 2013**

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Arnold Heights Neighborhood Association2. Belmont Neighborhood Association3. Capital View Neighborhood Association4. Clinton Neighborhood Association5. Country Club Neighborhood Association6. East Campus Community Organization7. Eastridge Neighborhood Association8. Everett Neighborhood Association9. 40th and A Neighborhood Association10. Greater South Neighborhood Association11. Hartley Neighborhood Association12. Havelock Neighborhood Association13. Hawley Area Association	<ol style="list-style-type: none">14. Highlands Neighborhood Association15. Indian Village Neighborhood Association16. Irvingdale Neighborhood Association17. Meadowlane Neighborhood Association18. Near South Neighborhood Association19. North Bottoms Neighborhood Association20. South Salt Creek Community Organization21. Taylor Park Neighborhood Association22. University Place Community Organization23. West A Neighborhood Association24. West Haymarket Neighborhood Association25. Witherbee Neighborhood Association26. Woods Park Neighborhood Association27. College View Neighborhood Association
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Resolution for endorsement of
Our County, Our City, Our Neighborhood - A Plan for Action 2013

Whereas established neighborhoods in Lincoln share many common concerns and past experience has shown that by working together we are more likely to ensure that those common concerns are addressed. Therefore to establish a foundation for these joint efforts, the _____ Neighborhood Association endorses the "Our County, Our City, Our Neighborhoods - A Plan for Action" as a document which identifies many of those shared concerns and goals related to those concerns. Furthermore, our neighborhood association states its intent to work with other neighborhood associations in pursuit of those goals, while reserving the right to determine the appropriate level of support and/or participation in any particular joint effort.