



# "A LITTLE BIT OF COUNTRY"

## LINDON CITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

### Mayor

James A. Dain

### City Center Offices

100 North State St/Upper Level  
785-5043

### Community Development

100 North State St/Lower Level  
785-7687

### Public Works

946 West Center Street  
796-7954

### Justice Court

100 North State Street  
Upper Level  
785-1971

### Police

100 North State Street  
Lower Level  
Emergency - 911  
Non-emergency Dispatch  
229-7070  
Police Department Offices  
769-8600

### Fire

Emergency - 911  
Non-emergency Dispatch  
229-7070  
Other Fire Services  
229-7327

### Aquatics Center

60 West 60 North  
610-4160

### Community/Senior Center

25 North Main  
769-8637/769-8625

### City Website

[www.lindoncity.org](http://www.lindoncity.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lindoncity](https://www.facebook.com/lindoncity)

## Poverty in Lindon?

Homelessness, poverty and hunger are very real issues that touch us both here in Lindon and across the state of Utah. For the past 30 years, there have been a lower percentage of people in Utah living below the poverty level than the national average. However, several counties within the state have poverty rates much higher than national averages. They are Iron, Piute, San Juan and Sanpete Counties. In 2009, statistics showed that 11.7% of all residents and 12.2% of all children living in Utah lived in poverty (Statistics provided by Community Action). People live in poverty for a number of reasons, usually because of a lack of resources, money being one of them. Other resources may include emotional and physical health, mental abilities and acquired skills, support systems, coping strategies and relationships. Hunger is a symptom of poverty as are poor nutrition, homelessness and unemployment. In this aspect, Lindon is no different than other places. Research shows that a much higher percentage of families in America are living within 2 paychecks of being homeless. There are people and families here who are cold, hungry and poor, people you know who may be scrambling financially to survive without the outward appearance of need. Here in Lindon, we daily receive calls for service regarding the homeless who may be seen "panhandling" or asking for money, usually alongside a busy intersection. Most people are calling because they truly want to help the individuals and families to achieve stability and to help them in their lives. Some people have had a bad interaction with a person who may be forceful in asking for a handout or who may be experiencing a mental health issue, or due to their appearance or behavior, cause alarm or concern. Some people, unfortunately, are just annoyed and feel that it should be illegal.

Here at the Police Department we hope to serve as a resource in providing information that will help provide lasting relief to those less fortunate. "Panhandling" or asking for money is not illegal. A recent Supreme Court decision found this to be a freedom of speech issue that must be allowed in public places. Individuals may be restricted by property owners from locating on their property, but as long as they are not blocking or interfering with traffic, or blocking a sidewalk or public thoroughfare, they may remain in a public place and solicit funds. When the police respond to a call of concern for a family with small children soliciting, or respond to minor disturbances with a homeless person, we try to also act as a resource conduit to help for them.

The holiday season is a time when it is extra hard to drive past a family with children or an individual who is obviously desperately in need of assistance. Experts however, show that even though handing them a few dollars may help in the extremely short term, it does nothing to help them to get back on their feet and improve their circumstances. Funds may instead be diverted to the useless purchase of alcohol, cigarettes or drugs. Instead it is recommended that caring individuals provide donations directly to a non-profit service resource. Funds, food or warm clothing and blankets donated will go directly to providing goods, services, education, warmth and wholesome nutrition to people in need. There are several such services in Utah and Salt Lake Counties which regularly provide outreach to individuals in need and who may serve as the vital link in literally saving those of our fellow citizens experiencing desperate times. Several of these reputable agencies are listed below (although this list is far from all-inclusive). Each agency will also be able to refer someone to the appropriate help if they cannot provide the necessary services.

We wish you all a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful 2014! Please continue to be the caring, giving, loving citizens of this great city of Lindon that we all know. Be safe and warm and keep your loved ones around you, and if you can, this holiday season, please commit random acts of kindness to others! Happy Holidays from all of the employees at Lindon City!

Cody Cullimore, Lindon City Chief of Police

- Community Action Services and Food Bank, 815 S, Freedom Blvd. Provo 801-373-8200
- UVU Student Food Pantry (for UVU Students) UVU, LC205, Orem 801-863-5335
- The Road Home, 210 S. Rio Grande St. Salt Lake City 801-355-0240
- The Rescue Mission, 468 W. 200 S. Salt Lake City 801-355-1302
- The Homeless Youth Resource Center (16 to 21) 655 S. State Street Salt Lake 801-364-0744

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Lindon City offices will close at 12:00 noon on December 24<sup>th</sup>, and will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Christmas holidays.

**Wishing you all a safe and Happy Holiday!**