

PROCLAMATION

“National County Government Month - April 2013” “Smart Justice: Creating Safer Communities”

WHEREAS, the nation’s 3,069 counties provide a variety of essential public services to communities serving more than 300 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County, Nebraska, and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in sensible and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, county governments are often the entity providing both direct and indirect services to enhance the lives of residents and are responsible for maintaining public safety and the efficient use of local tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, currently more than 13 million individuals are booked into county jails each year and more than 700,000 individuals are booked into state and federal prisons; and

WHEREAS, National Association of Counties President Chris Rodgers is encouraging counties to promote effective community corrections programs across the country through his 2012-13 “Smart Justice” presidential initiative; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote their own programs and services to the public they serve; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County has established innovative programs such as Drug Court and the Mental Health Diversion Program to help break the cycle of arrest and re-arrest by those suffering from addiction and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County has augmented the Juvenile Justice System with a wide array of community-based services which cost less and are more effective than incarceration and out-of-home-

placements; and


WHEREAS, the Lancaster County Community Corrections Department has helped to reduce the jail population, at an average cost of \$65 a day for each inmate, by supervising more than 1,800 adult offenders yearly in programs such as Pre-Trial Release and House Arrest, at an average cost of only \$15 per person per day; and


WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners and the Department of Corrections encourages county residents to tour the new Adult Correctional Facility during the month of April to see how funds were used to build a facility that is safe for both inmates and staff, and which is capable of housing an increasing number of inmates with complex needs today and into the future.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2013 as “National County Government Month” and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.


DATED this 2nd day of April, 2013, at the County-City Building, Lancaster County, Nebraska.


BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA












Approved as to form this
2 day of April, 2013.



Joe Kelly
Lancaster County Attorney