



# Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

**Wednesday, January 15, 2014  
Regular Meeting**

## **Item X1**

### **Mayor Request**

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

December 19, 2013

Mr. Barry Sandstrom  
Chairman, Community Redevelopment Authority  
PO Box 1009  
Grand Island, NE 68802-1009

Dear Barry,

It is imperative our community continues to explore growth opportunities and redevelopment throughout our entire community.

One area of tremendous importance to our community is the property owned by the State of Nebraska and the Grand Island Veterans Home.

In support of the retention of the Veterans Home and its revitalization, I would like to ask the Community Redevelopment Authority to explore every and all redevelopment means within your authority, beginning with a blight and substandard study of the area currently occupied by the Veterans Home.

Status of Federal funding of the State's \$130 million relocation proposal is still unknown, although we are expecting a decision in the next several weeks. An \$80 million plan to rebuild new facilities here in Grand Island has been developed. We need time to explore its relevance and redevelopment opportunities may play a part in the State's consideration of the proposal. We need to be ready to support the members of the home and our community's best interests once decisions are made affecting the Veterans Home.

Private investment opportunities, housing for homeless veterans, short term lodging for veteran family members and more affordable housing for senior citizens or newcomers in our community, in addition to new veteran facilities, may be potential ideas. It will take time to share these ideas with the State of Nebraska.

I appreciate the CRA's consideration of beginning the process of a blight and substandard area and trust the merits of redevelopment may uniquely prove to be beneficial to our community's future.

Thank you for your leadership and as always, I look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,

Jay Vavricek  
Mayor, City of Grand Island

cc: Governor Dave Heineman  
State Senator Mike Gloor  
State Senator Annette Dubas  
Hall County Board of Supervisors Chair Pam Lancaster