

# City Council hears views on Lincoln General

**HOSPITAL** from page 1

HCA, the much maligned for-profit hospital corporation, or another for-profit hospital, or an affiliation with an Omaha hospital.

Lee Schroder, the vice chairman of the Bryan Memorial Hospital board, said the deal would not change healthcare in Lincoln much.

"It assures that health services that are important for Lincoln will be

available in the future," he said.

Opponents, however, said the deal does not allow enough public control, and that the sale was not in the public's interest.

"You appear to be selling out that public trust," Lou Kirk of Lincoln told the council. "LGH is a public trust."

Many members of the opposition asked the council to delay a vote for 90 days, and allow other options to be examined.

"We need more time," said 82-year-old Dan Williams of Lincoln.

Other proposals included opening the hospital to a revocable lease, considering sale to a for-profit corporation and just doing nothing.

Many people on both sides raised concerns for quality care, and for continued care for indigents, which Lincoln General now does the majority.

Supporters of the sale said those

had been taken into account, and that care for those who can't afford it would continue.

Joel Gajardo, the executive director of the Hispanic Community Center and member of the Lincoln General Board of Trustees, told the council that he was sensitive to poverty issues, and supported the sale.

"Change is never easy," he said. "But we must always be transformed to remain true to our calling in life."

## Daily Nebraskan

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