

1A 11/9/08

# Council Approves Tyler 21

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Tyler City Council members approved every item on their first agenda for 2008, including an amendment to the Tyler Blueprint that adds the final version of Tyler 21.

The Tyler 21 plan became the 10th tenet of the Blueprint, which serves as an outline of best practices for the city's operations. Wednesday's vote to approve the amendment was unanimous.

City Manager Bob Turner said this plan could become known nationwide for its effectiveness in local government operations, and Mayor Joey Seeber said the plan was unprecedented in its amount of community support.

"I think it's a great step," he said.

District 6 Councilman Charles Ashworth echoed the mayor's enthusiasm.

"I'm pleased for this to happen, because effectively, this means the council re-approves the blueprint ... and I think that's a good move," he said. "It just confirms our dedication to the master plan."

The amendment reads as follows:

"Pursue the Tyler 21 Vision to become nationally known for a commitment to community, a robust business environment and the beauty of public places."

City Council members adopted the final draft of the Tyler 21 comprehensive plan in November 2007. Officials described the 480-page document as an all-inclusive guide for planning the city's growth over the next 20 years. The plan reflects widely-held opinions of city residents that were gathered over an 18-month period.

The plan covers the long-term and short-term city goals through 2030 and is subject to a yearly review. It will also undergo a complete comprehensive analysis every five years.

Tyler 21 covers issues of population and land use, north end revitalization, historic preservation, parks and open spaces, housing and community identity, business and economics, transportation, public facilities, future land use and includes a downtown master plan.

More information on the plan is available at [www.tyler21.com](http://www.tyler21.com).

Council members addressed several items related to the Tyler 21 plan on Wednesday, including the results of a traffic study that focused on congestion within the city.

Traffic Engineer Kirk Houser recommended the city implement new signals that use a flashing yellow arrow to signal drivers in a left-handed turn lane to yield to oncoming traffic.

Currently, drivers wanting to make a left-

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December, Rice spent on medical bills, including a therapist who charges \$175 per visit, and lost her \$60,000 per year job because of the incident.

Rice said she thought she was being car-jacked when an SUV, driven by Lohan, pursued them at high speed, putting her and Peck "at extreme risk of death or injury," until they arrived at the police station and were met by officers with guns drawn.

Calls to Lohan's attorneys after business hours Tuesday were not immediately returned.

Lohan served 84 minutes in jail on Nov. 15 as part of a plea deal on misdemeanor drunken-driving and cocaine possession charges.

Lohan is facing another

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handed turn have to wait for a green arrow or yield to traffic with a solid green light. Houser cited a national study that showed drivers react better if they see a flashing yellow arrow that signals them to yield when they don't have a green arrow.

The study, compiled by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program,

found that cities using a flashing yellow arrow to signal a yield for left-handed turns have lower rates of crashes because of decreased driver confusion, Houser said.

The new signal system will work the following way:

- Green arrow — Safe to make a left-handed turn.
- Flashing yellow arrow — Yield to oncoming traffic.

□ Solid yellow arrow — Prepare to stop.

□ Red light — Stop.

The first intersection to receive a flashing yellow arrow will be Donnybrook / Chimneyrock and Broadway.

More intersections will receive the signal change within the next few months, city officials said.