

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-312  
JULY 22, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
FORMAL RECOGNITION— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JIM GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Neighborhood Association has completed an application for neighborhood recognition. The boundaries of Martin Luther King, Jr. Park are I-235 on the south, the railroad tracks on the east, south side of East Washington on the north, and the east side of East 14th Street on the west. This application was approved by the NAB at their meeting on July 3, 1996. The application is now being forwarded to the City Council for their final recognition approval.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Approval.

**BACKGROUND —**

On May 24, 1993, by Roll Call No. 93-2026, the City Council approved the Neighborhood Recognition Policy as recommended by the NAB. The intent of this policy is to assist citizens of Des Moines sharing common identity, goals, and concerns to form an organization which will be formally recognized by city government boards, committees and councils and will act as an advisory body when dealing with decisions made by the City and its entities. The policy wishes to recognize the fact that the long term stability of a neighborhood depends on the existence of strong neighborhood based organizations able to demonstrate broad grass roots participation and the ability to provide leadership and command respect in working with the City and other public and private interests.

In order to implement this policy, Planning Staff developed a strategy that consisted of providing information about the policy and requesting information from neighborhood organizations. Organizations who wish to become recognized must submit the following information: 1) official name of the organization, 2) detailed neighborhood boundaries, 3) a list of the organization's representatives with their address and telephone number, 4) a journal of meetings held to establish the organization, and 5) a copy of the organization's by-laws. A list of the neighborhoods responding to the request was compiled and submitted to the NAB for approval. The 25 neighborhood organizations received their formal recognition on November 8, 1993. Since that time, the Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement has completed an application and is now eligible for official recognition.

According to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy, "Upon official recognition of a neighborhood organization by the City Council, the Mayor shall formally proclaim the recognized neighborhood as an important entity to be utilized by the Council in seeking direction on actions which affect the identified neighborhood and the City will also seek additional coverage through other press releases." In addition, "Whenever mailed notices to adjoining property owners is required by law or by City ordinance or policy, the City will reasonably attempt to also provide notice to any affected neighborhood organization."