

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

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-389
SEPTEMBER 16, 1996 AGENDA**

| SUBJECT: | TYPE: | SUBMITTED BY: |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| REMOVAL OF FOUR MILE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN. FROM LIST OF RECOGNIZED NEIGHBORHOODS | ◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE | JAMES GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR |

SYNOPSIS —

On May 24, 1993, the Des Moines City Council approved the City of Des Moines Neighborhood Recognition Policy. In summary, this policy provides the opportunity for the City to officially recognize neighborhoods and their organizations located and functioning within the City. This policy requested that any neighborhood asking to be recognized submit specific information. The Four Mile Neighborhood Association has not responded to repeated requests for updated information. The policy also requests that this information be updated on an annual basis and states that if the requested information is not received, the neighborhood organization will no longer be listed as a recognized neighborhood.

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 Neighborhood Action Board (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 a strong neighborhood-based organization able to demonstrate broad grassroots 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 and forwarded to the City Council for approval.

The policy also requires the submission of annual information. Each year the Community Development Department sends requests for updated information to all of the recognized neighborhoods. This year, two written requests followed by phone calls to non-respondents were made to all recognized neighborhoods. On September 4, 1996, a list of the neighborhoods who did not respond was submitted to the NAB and is now being forwarded to the City Council. As an additional followup, the Four Mile Neighborhood Association received a letter informing them that a recommendation that they be removed from the Recognized Neighborhood List would be sent to City Council if they did not respond by September 13, 1996. As the remaining neighborhood has not responded to attempts to contact them, staff recommends that the Four Mile Neighborhood Association be removed from the list of recognized neighborhoods.