

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA

ITEM 59

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-169  
APRIL 7, 1997 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIANOLA HILLS NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JAMES GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

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 organization asking to be recognized submit specific information. A list of the 25 neighborhood organizations who responded to the original request was prepared and approved by the NAB, and these groups received official recognition from the City Council on November 8, 1993. Since that time, the Indianola Hills Neighbors Association has completed an application for recognition.

This application was approved by the NAB at their meeting on April 2, 1997, under the condition that the association amend its by-laws in accordance with their recommendations. The primary concern of the NAB was the affiliation of the Indianola Hills Neighbors with CCI, and how this relationship was reflected in the association's by-laws by giving the association the right to eject a person from their meetings if that person did not agree with the mission and objectives of CCI. The current Neighborhood Recognition Policy is silent on the issue of how to treat the relationship between a neighborhood association and a "parent" organization.

The Indianola Hills Neighbors have complied with the NAB's specific request, but not their overall intent. The application is now being forwarded to the City Council for their final recognition approval. In accordance with the policy, each recognized neighborhood and its organization will receive a proclamation from the Mayor and the City Council.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

N/A.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Approval of the Indianola Hills Neighbors as a Recognized Neighborhood; however, the NAB should review the current Neighborhood Recognition Policy regarding a neighborhood's affiliation with another association and what the rights should be of each organization.

**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 a strong neighborhood-based organization's ability 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 for approval. The 25 neighborhood organizations received their formal recognition on November 8, 1993. Since that time, the Indianola Hills Neighbors Association has completed an application and is now eligible for official recognition with the recommendation that they increase the number of board members to include members from all sections of the neighborhood.

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."