



Council Communication No. 97-286

SYNOPSIS –

This ordinance incorporates the recommendations from a May 5, 1997, Council Communication establishing a permanent Citywide Strategic Planning Commission. The Citywide Strategic Plan and its priorities, Des Moines, Today and Tomorrow, was adopted by Council on December 18, 1995, by Roll Call No. 95-4610. A part of the resolution was to appoint an ongoing Citywide Strategic Planning Committee to ensure accountability, credibility and continuity.

FISCAL IMPACT –

Annually, the cost of updating the strategic plan and working with the Strategic Planning Committee will be less than \$50,000.

RECOMMENDATION –

Adopt the ordinance to establish a permanent Strategic Planning Commission. Direct the Manager to contact the listed City boards and commissions, community organizations, and governmental bodies to nominate a representative for appointment to the Strategic Planning Commission. All nominations should be made by the July 7, 1997, Council meeting.

BACKGROUND –

The ordinance establishes a strategic planning process based on a two-year cycle. In year one of the cycle, the Commission would spend a significant amount of time doing outreach with the community to determine community goals and priorities. In year two, the Commission would work more closely with City staff to ensure that the community’s goals are being implemented through the budget. The Commission would look at the annual, two-year, and five-year budgets for the City, as well as visionary ideas for the more distant future.

In this first year of the planning process, the Commission will need to update the adopted Strategic Plan and its priorities by late summer. The Commission would then begin reviewing budgets and make recommendations to City Council in the late fall and early winter.

Ordinarily, the Commission will convene in January of each year and begin its process by assessing the previous year’s implementation of the plan. By early spring, the Commission would update the Strategic Plan and set the priorities for the coming year and beyond. In July,

the Commission would present its recommendations to the City Council and to the City Manager. Department heads and the Manager would then have the priorities for preparing their annual and biannual budgets. At the end of the year, the Commission would review the department and overall City budget and recommend to Council as to its conformance and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Commission Composition

Strategic planning requires a number of talented people willing to devote their time to the effort. It must involve outside leadership with an interest in bring resources to the process, but who will work collaboratively with City government. The following composition will ensure concerns and ideas from policy-making City boards as well as downtown and other governmental entities are voiced during the strategic planning process:

- Each Council member make one appointment, considering some overlap from the previous committee.

- Additional appointments be made from the following City boards and commissions:

Airport Board

Plan and Zoning Commission

New Housing Board (two members to represent neighborhoods and low-income)

Park and Recreation Board

Urban Renewal Board

Library Board

- The following agencies and boards appoint a representative:

Downtown Partnership, Inc.

Des Moines Neighbors

Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association

Des Moines Independent School District

Polk County Board of Supervisors