



Council Communication No. 97-295

SYNOPSIS –

Revisions to the City’ s Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

FISCAL IMPACT –

N/A.

RECOMMENDATION –

Approve the revisions to the City’ s Neighborhood Recognition Policy and authorize the Community Development Director to administer the policy.

BACKGROUND –

In 1992, the City Plan and Zoning Commission requested that a policy be developed to address the recognition of neighborhood associations located within the City. On November 18, 1992, the Neighborhood Advisory Board recommended approval of the Neighborhood Recognition Policy. On May 24, 1993, by Roll Call No. 93-2026, the City Council of Des Moines, Iowa approved the Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

In April 1996, the Neighborhood Advisory Board formed a committee to work with staff to review and revise the policy. The committee made recommended revisions to the policy to provide more clarity and to address the following points:

- *Definitions of neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations*
The NAB added these definitions to distinguish the difference between neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations. Additionally, the definitions define the role of the neighborhood organization and who the organization represents
- *Capacity of neighborhood organizations*
The NAB added language to ensure that neighborhood organizations conduct outreach to all residents and to reinforce that neighborhood meetings must be open to anyone who wants to attend.
- *Membership privileges*
The policy now require that neighborhood organizations charging membership dues describe their voting requirements in their by-laws. The policy also encourages voting to be as inclusive as possible.

- *Changes to the annual reporting requirements*

The policy now has more defined annual reporting requirements. These requirements were developed to ensure that neighborhood organizations were meeting the requirements for recognition. The policy now provides for the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) and City Council to re-evaluate recognition status of neighborhoods

On May 7, 1997, the NAB approved the revisions to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy which are consistent with the original intent of the policy

Community Development Department staff has worked closely with the NAB and supports the revisions to the policy.