



Council Communication No. 97-317

SYNOPSIS –

In October of 1996, an application for funding of Weed and Seed activities was submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice. Funding was approved in the amount of \$125,000. Of the \$125,000, \$65,000 was identified for the coordinating and delivery of Safe Haven activities. The Community Development staff desires approval of their contract with the Human Services Coordinating Board (HSCB) who will coordinate Safe Haven activities that promote positive development of and outcomes for youth in the Weed and Seed area. The HSCB would enlist the services of these five subcontractors to fulfill its role of Safe Haven activity coordinator: Casady School, King Academy of Math and Science, Moulton Extended Learning Center, John R. Grubb YMCA and Urban Dreams.

FISCAL IMPACT –

Executive Office for Weed and Seed (EOWS) funds in the amount of \$65,000 will be utilized.

RECOMMENDATION –

Approve contract with the HSCB who will subcontract to provide activities/tasks consistent with goal two of the Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment element of the Weed and Seed Plan: To promote positive development of and outcomes for youth in the Weed and Seed area.

BACKGROUND –

On December 21, 1994, the City of Des Moines was notified that a portion of Des Moines was designated an Enterprise Community by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City received funding from HUD in the amount of \$2.9 million for the City’ s Enterprise Community Strategic Plan.

On November 20, 1995, by Roll Call No. 95-4424, the City Council approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Des Moines, the State of Iowa, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which incorporates the Enterprise Community Strategic Plan and the benchmarks which measure the progress of major projects contained in the Enterprise Community Strategic Plan.

The Department of Justice and other federal agencies are implementing Operation Weed and

Seed, a comprehensive and integrated multi-agency approach to addressing violent crime, drug abuse, and deteriorating social and economic opportunities in low-income neighborhoods.

The Weed and Seed Plan was integrated into the Enterprise Community Strategic Plan with the Weed and Seed boundaries being contiguous with those of the Enterprise Community and the Weed and Seed goals based on those of the Enterprise Community Plan.

The City of Des Moines, in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office, neighborhood representatives and associations, and community services providers, desired to implement within the community a Weed and Seed Program with the goal of obtaining federal funding to support this effort.

On September 25, 1995, by Roll Call No. 95-3692, the City of Des Moines submitted an application to be designated a Weed and Seed Site. In February 1996, the City of Des Moines was notified that a portion of the City of Des Moines had been designated a Weed and Seed Site.

On August 5, 1996, by Roll Call No. 96-2799, the City Council approved an application for \$125,000 in Weed and Seed funds from the U.S. Department of Justice. In October 1996, the City was notified that it had received the funds for which it had applied.

Since providing a safe environment for activities at the Safe Haven is identified in the Weed and Seed Plan, and the John R. Grubb Community YMCA is the designated Safe Haven identified as the provider of community policing services and recreational/cultural activities in the Enterprise Community/Weed and Seed Area, the Community Development staff requests approval of this contract designating HSCB as the coordinator of Safe Haven activities that promote positive development of and outcomes for youth in the Weed and Seed Area. The HSCB will subcontract with Casady School, King Academy of Math and Science, Moulton Extended Learning Center, John R. Grubb YMCA and Urban Dreams to provide these activities.