

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-445
SEPTEMBER 8, 1997 AGENDA

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

SYNOPSIS —

The City Council approved the City's Neighborhood Recognition Policy. This policy provides the opportunity for the City to officially recognize neighborhoods and their organizations located and functioning within the City. This policy requests 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. These groups received official recognition from the City Council on November 8, 1993. Since that time, the Chesterfield Neighborhood Association has completed an application for recognition. This application was approved by the NAB at their meeting on June 20, 1997. 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 —

Staff recommends approval of the Chesterfield Neighborhood Association as a Recognized Neighborhood.

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 strong neighborhood-based organizations able to demonstrate broad grass roots 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, Community Development Department 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 initial request was compiled and submitted to the NAB for approval. The Chesterfield Neighborhood Association has completed an application and is now eligible for official recognition with the recommendation that they modify their by-laws to describe the relationship between the neighborhood and the ACORN organization.

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."