

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

98-302

SYNOPSIS –

AGENDA:

JULY 13, 1998

Status report to the City Council on a program to assist low-income residents on clearance of tree debris caused by the June 29, 1998, high wind event and requesting a two week delay.

SUBJECT:

CLEAN-UP OF
STORM DAMAGE
TREE DEBRIS FOR
LOW-INCOME
RESIDENTS

FISCAL IMPACT –

Unknown at this time due to requests for definitive answers from State and Federal Emergency Management Agencies.

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

RECOMMENDATION –

Defer action and grant a two week delay for development of a program and related funding sources.

SUBMITTED BY:

JOHN BELLIZZI
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND –

At a special Council meeting on July 1, 1998, by Roll Call No. 98-2105, the City Manager was asked to use City and/or contracted work crews and equipment for cleanup of storm-damaged tree debris that has fallen on homes of persons who qualify under Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) standards for low- and moderate-income assistance. The Council deferred action and asked for City Manager review and recommendation by the July 13, 1998 Council meeting.

Prior to recommendation or commitment of CDBG funds to operate this proposed program, City staff is querying State and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials on individual assistance programs and related funding. With certain restrictions, FEMA funds in the form of grants or low interest loans may be available for individuals who received structural damage to homes due to trees felled by the windstorm of June 29, 1998. Trees leaning or which have the

status of imminent failure might also qualify for Federal and State Assistance for removal. State and Federal officials are also studying the eligibility of funding for trees on private property that were either felled or in a status of imminent failure which have not, or would not, endanger structures or other fixed private property. It is hoped that definitive answers can be obtained prior to the City developing an independently funded program. Final determination on availability of State and Federal funds is of utmost importance prior to diversion of CDBG funds from other important programs.

Under President Clinton's disaster declaration, which covers individual assistance in Polk County, individual damage reports should be directed to FEMA at telephone 1-800-462-9029. This telephone number is answered between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central Daylight Savings Time, seven days a week. All requests received by the City from residents inquiring about assistance for existing or potential damage caused by the windstorm event of June 29, 1998, need to be referred to FEMA at the above referenced telephone number for proper reporting and subsequent investigation and possible funding.