



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

98-418

SYNOPSIS —

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 28, 1998

Removal of the Ewing Trace, Grandview Park Triangle, and Southern Knolls Neighborhood Associations from the list of Recognized Neighborhoods in accordance with the City’s Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

SUBJECT:

REMOVAL OF
NEIGHBORHOODS FROM
LIST OF RECOGNIZED
NEIGHBORHOODS

FISCAL IMPACT —

None.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION —

Staff recommends approval of the Neighborhood Revitalization Board’s recommendation to remove the Ewing Trace, Grandview Park Triangle, and Southern Knolls Neighborhood Associations from the list of Recognized Neighborhoods.

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND —

On May 24, 1993, by Roll Call No. 93-2026, the City Council approved the Neighborhood Recognition Policy as recommended by the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (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, Planning 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 request was compiled and submitted to the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) and forwarded to the City Council for approval.

The policy also requires the submission of annual information. Each year the Community Development Department sends requests for updated information to all of the recognized neighborhoods. This year, two written requests followed by phone calls to nonrespondents were made to all recognized neighborhoods.

Three neighborhoods failed to submit the required report and are subsequently in violation of the City's Neighborhood Recognition Policy. The Ewing Trace, Grandview Park Triangle, and Southern Knolls Neighborhood Associations were sent certified mail indicating that they were in violation of the policy and that the NRB would recommend that City Council remove them from the list of recognized neighborhoods. The only neighborhood to respond to this letter was the Southern Knolls Neighborhood who indicated that their group was no longer active and wished to be removed from the list of Recognized Neighborhoods.

On September 2, 1998, a list of the neighborhoods who did not respond was submitted to the NRB for recommendation. The NRB recommended that these neighborhoods no longer be formally recognized by the City and that recommendation is now being forwarded to the City Council.

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