

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

99-487

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

NOVEMBER 1, 1999

Removal of Castlerock, Good Park, and North Drake Neighborhood Associations from the list of Recognized Neighborhoods in accordance with the City's Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

SUBJECT:

REMOVAL OF
CASTLEROCK,
GOOD PARK AND
NORTH DRAKE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATIONS
FROM LIST OF
RECOGNIZED
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATIONS

FISCAL IMPACT -

None

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

BACKGROUND -

On May 24, 1993, by Roll Call No. 93-2026, the City Council approved the Neighborhood Recognition Policy as recommended by the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB). The intent of this policy was to assist citizens of Des Moines sharing common identities, goals, and concerns to form an organization which would be formally recognized by city government boards, committees and councils and would 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 a strong neighborhood based organization. The neighborhood must be able to demonstrate broad grass roots participation, provide leadership, and command respect in working with the City and other public and private interests.

SUBMITTED BY:

JIM GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

In order to implement this policy, the City developed a strategy that consisted of providing information about the policy and disseminating requested information to the proposed

neighborhood organizations. Organizations who wish to become recognized must submit the following information: 1) official name of organization; 2) detailed neighborhood boundaries; 3) a list of the organization's representatives with their addresses and telephone numbers; 4) a journal of meetings held to establish the organization; and 5) a copy of the organization's bylaws.

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. The following information is required for submittal: 1) any changes in neighborhood boundaries; 2) names, telephone numbers, and addresses of contact people and officers elected and/ or appointed at the annual election; 3) dates of neighborhood meetings held during the previous calendar year; 4) any changes to the approved by-laws; and 5) minutes from the organization's annual meeting or one regular meeting.

This year the North Drake Neighborhood Association did not respond to the annual survey despite being mailed three letters and receiving a phone call. During the survey process it was also found that Castlerock and Good Park had not held any meetings in the past year. On October 20, 1999, the NRB voted to recommend to Council that these neighborhoods no longer be formally recognized by the City because they did not meet the standards set by the recognition policy.