



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

00-066

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

FEBRUARY 21, 2000

Revisions to the City's Neighborhood Recognition Policy Requirements for Recognition.

SUBJECT:

CHANGES TO THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
RECOGNITION
POLICY
REQUIREMENTS
FOR RECOGNITION

FISCAL IMPACT -

None.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

BACKGROUND -

At the January 5, 2000, Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) meeting, Board Members questioned whether the City's Neighborhood Recognition Policy required associations to have provisions in their bylaws requiring their meetings to be open to the public. At the January 19, 2000, NRB meeting, staff determined that the policy does not clearly state that bylaws must have provisions stating that meetings must be open to the public. The policy does, however, state under "Capacity of Neighborhood Organization" that "neighborhood meetings must be open to anyone who is interested in attending."

SUBMITTED BY:

JIM GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

The NRB feels strongly that neighborhood association meetings should be open to the public because of the level of input the City gives the public on different issues such as transitional housing and zoning. The NRB feels that if the City allows associations to speak for all residents, then all residents should be able to make their positions known at all meetings on issues that affect them. Neighborhood associations do not regularly refer to the recognition policy as they do bylaws. This

is why the NRB feels that merely having it mentioned in the policy does not have the same level of accountability as requiring associations to include it in their bylaws.

The NRB approved a motion on January 19, 2000, recommending to Council that, under the Standards for the Recognition of a Neighborhood Organization section of the Recognition Policy, subsection D, a new subheading be added titled "Open Meeting Policy". This section should state, "Meetings are open to all interested persons." If these changes are approved, the NRB will send a letter to all current associations requiring them to change their bylaws at their next annual meeting.

ITEM 95
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