



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**00-122**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

Formal recognition of the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association (MHNA) according to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

APRIL 3, 2000

**SUBJECT:**

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

None.

RECOGNITION OF  
MERLE HAY  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**BACKGROUND -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JAMES GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

The Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) approved MHNA's application at the NRB's meeting on March 15, 2000. Since the NRB's meeting, several concerned citizens have made staff aware that the Beaverdale Neighborhood and the Merle Hay Neighborhood boundaries overlap along 48th Place between Douglas and Hickman. This overlap was not intentional and was caused by a filing error by staff. The Beaverdale Neighborhood Association's (BNA) boundaries were originally 48th Street but were changed in 1991 and extended to 48th Place. The new bylaws were submitted to staff but were not filed in the proper location. Because of this, current staff used the previous bylaws to determine BNA's western boundary when helping MHNA develop its boundaries. To rectify the situation, MHNA has agreed to change their western boundary between Douglas and Hickman to 49th Street. Also, staff will update its files to show the appropriate boundaries for BNA.

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. The intent of this policy is to assist citizens of Des Moines that share common identities, goals, and concerns in forming organizations which will be formally recognized by City government boards, committees, and councils. The neighborhood organization acts as an advisory body when dealing with decisions made by the City and its entities. The policy recognizes the fact that the long-term stability of a neighborhood depends on the existence of a strong neighborhood-based organization 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 requested information from the 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 address and telephone number, 4) a journal of meetings held to establish the organization, and 5) a copy of the organization's bylaws. The MHNA has completed an application and is now eligible for official recognition.

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 affects the identified neighborhood and the City will also seek additional coverage through other press releases." In addition, "Whenever mailed notices to adjoining property owners are required by law or by City ordinance or policy, the City will reasonably attempt to also provide notice to any affected neighborhood organizations."