



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**00-533**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

NOVEMBER 20, 2000

**SUBJECT:**

RE-APPLICATION  
FOR WEED & SEED  
RECOGNITION

A re-application has been prepared for submission to the Department of Justice for recognition as a Weed and Seed community with the potential of future grant funds being awarded. The Weed and Seed plan and application is a joint effort between the City, U.S. Attorney's Office, neighborhood associations, and community agencies. The plan is a comprehensive, multi-agency approach to addressing violent crime, drug abuse, and deteriorating social and economic opportunities in low-income neighborhoods. The new Weed and Seed boundaries will be extended beyond the Enterprise Community (EC) to include Drake, Drake Park, Kirkwood Glen, and Carpenter Neighborhood Associations.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

If the City's application is recognized, the City will become eligible for future funding opportunities through the Department of Justice.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JAMES GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND -**

On September 25, 1995, by Roll Call No. 95-3692, the City submitted an application to be designated a Weed and Seed site. In February 1996, the City was notified that a portion of the City of Des Moines had been designated a Weed and Seed site. Since 1996, the City has received \$650,000 in Weed and Seed grants excluding Asset Forfeiture funding, which has been used to fund various agencies and events in an effort to implement the Weed and Seed Strategic Plan.

The Weed and Seed program has a dual purpose. First is weeding, which coordinates local, state, and federal law enforcement,

prosecution, adjudication, and supervision to remove violent criminals and drug traffickers from the targeted area. Second is seeding, which focuses on restoring a selected area through coordination of existing social, educational, recreational, substance abuse, housing, neighborhood and economic revitalization services.

The original Weed and Seed boundaries comprise the EC Census Tracts (49, 50, and 12). The new Weed and Seed boundaries will be comprised of the three previous census tracts and two additional census tracts (11 and 26). The new boundaries for the Weed and Seed initiative are the Des Moines River on the east, Hickman Avenue on the north, I-235 on the south, and the west boundary is 28th Street south of University and 30th Street north of University.

Participation of particular community agencies and organizations has been sought to facilitate the Weed and Seed effort. These agencies have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City and the Department of Justice to define what services will be provided to the Weed and Seed community. The agencies include:

- Des Moines Public Schools
- John R. Grubb YMCA
- Healthy Polk 2010
- Visiting Nurse Services
- Drake Park Neighborhood Association
- King Irving Park Neighborhood Association
- Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Association
- River Bend Neighborhood Association
- New Vision Neighborhood Association
- Chatauqua Park Neighborhood Association
- Drake Neighborhood Association
- Kirkwood Glen Neighborhood Association
- Carpenter Neighborhood Association
- Employee & Family Resources
- Children and Families of Iowa
- Urban Dreams
- Polk County Health Department

Additionally, the City has entered into an MOA with the Department of Justice to support the following services:

- Support Spring Clean-up and Removal of Urban Blight (SCRUB) programs in the Weed and Seed area.
- Support efforts to improve neighborhood restoration.
- Funding for two part-time staff members for Weed and Seed - 1 part-time coordinator and 1 part-time aid.

The final draft of the Weed and Seed application has been completed and was approved by the EC/Weed and Seed Committee on November 2, 2000.

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