

## Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**01-529**

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

**AGENDA:**

OCTOBER 22, 2001

**SUBJECT:**

RE-APPLICATION  
FOR WEED AND  
SEED  
RECOGNITION

**SYNOPSIS -**

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 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 and in February 1996, the City was notified that a portion of the City 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, that 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 targeted areas. 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 Enterprise Community, 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 have 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 and Family Resources
- Children and Families of Iowa
- Urban Dreams
- Polk County Health Department

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

- Support 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 Enterprise Community (EC)/Weed and Seed Committee on November 2, 2000.

Additionally, with the submission of the new strategy and a new five-year funding cycle, the Enterprise Community Steering Committee (ECSC) approved at their September 13, 2001 meeting to solicit Request for Proposals (RFP) from non-profit organizations who would be interested in administering and implementing the "seeding" side of the Weed and Seed strategy.

The purpose of sub-contracting the "seeding" portion of the Weed and Seed grant is to increase community involvement and to eliminate the program being seen as a City program and not a community program, thus allowing the community to take a more active role in the decision and implementation of the program.

The non-profit organizations will also have the responsibility of administering and implementing current uncommitted and future Weed and Seed funds.

The City of Des Moines will still maintain the role of fiscal agent and monitoring of the grant program.

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