CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:	**ITEM _____**
02-256	**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER** **CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

02-256

AGENDA:

MAY 20, 2002

SUBJECT:

CERTIFICATIONS OF CONSISTENCY - DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HOME OPPORTUNITIES MADE EASY, INC.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA

SYNOPSIS -

The Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) and Home Opportunities Made Easy, Inc. (HOME, Inc.) have submitted Certifications of Consistency with the City's 2002 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan and Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) Strategic Plan which require Council's approval. The aforementioned certifications are required as part of their application to HUD for Youth Build funding to provide youth with training in leadership development and construction trades.

FISCAL IMPACT -

None.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

DMACC and HOME, Inc. will apply for a Youth Build Grant from HUD to provide 50 low-income youth with training in leadership development and construction trades. DMACC will sponsor and administer the grant. In addition, DMACC will fulfill the education and leadership training component for the Youth Build Grant. DMACC will contract with HOME, Inc. to provide carpentry skills training. Utilizing Youth Build trainees, HOME, Inc. will build two homes, which will be sold to low-income families.

Youth Build is a comprehensive youth and community development program. Youth Build simultaneously addresses several core issues facing low-income communities: education, housing, jobs, and leadership development. It uniquely addresses the status of

unemployed young men and women who have dropped out of school and have no apparent path to a productive future. It allows them to simultaneously serve their communities and build their own future.

Because it is comprehensive in its approach, the Youth Build program is a number of things at once.

§ It is a community service program, in which young people build housing for homeless and other low-income people, providing the most valuable and visible commodity for their hard-pressed communities: affordable housing.

§ It is an alternative school, in which participants spend 50 percent of their program time pursuing academic goals, which may include vocational and remedial education, study toward a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma, and preparation for higher education.

§ It is a job training and pre-apprenticeship program, in which young people receive on-site training in construction skills during 50 percent of their time in the program from qualified instructors who are often union journeymen, and then get placed in construction-related jobs or apprenticeships.

§ It is a leadership development program, in which young people share in the governance of their own program and participate actively in community affairs, learning the values and the life-long commitment needed by effective and ethical community leaders.

§ It is a youth development program in which young people participate in personal counseling, peer support groups, and life-planning processes that assist them in healing from past hurts, overcoming negative habits and attitudes, and pursuing achievable goals that will establish a productive life, sustaining themselves and their immediate families.

§ It is a long-term mini-community, in which young people make new friends committed to a positive lifestyle, may pursue cultural and recreational activities together, and can continue to participate through follow-up services and a graduate program.

§ It is a community development program, in which community organizations obtain the resources to tackle several key community issues at once, strengthening their capacity to build and manage housing for their residents, educate and inspire their youth, create leadership for the future, and generally take responsibility for their

neighborhoods.