

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

03-068

AGENDA:

FEBRUARY 10, 2003

SUBJECT:

WEED AND SEED
CATEGORICAL
ASSISTANCE
PROGRESS
REPORT

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

MIKE MATTHES
ACTING HOUSING
SERVICES
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS —

Approval of Categorical Assistance Progress Report for the period of July 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002 to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice/Executive Office for Weed and Seed.

FISCAL IMPACT —

None.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

On August 23, 1999, by Roll Call No. 99-2648, the City Council accepted a \$175,000 grant award from the Executive Office for Weed and Seed and on March 26, 2001, by Roll Call No. 01-853, the City Council accepted an additional \$175,000 grant award from the Executive Office for Weed and Seed.

The Department of Justice and other federal agencies are implementing Operation Weed and Seed, a comprehensive and integrated multi-agency approach to addressing violent crime, drug abuse, and deteriorating social and economic opportunities in low-income neighborhoods.

The Des Moines Weed and Seed site continues to move forward to implement the strategic plan that was developed by the community. The Des Moines Enterprise Community Steering Committee (ECSC) continues to serve as the advisory committee for Weed and Seed. Citizen involvement in the Weed and Seed strategy has been and will continue to be extensive.

The following report documents Weed and Seed activities during reporting period July 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002. The categorical assistance progress report is organized into four Weed and Seed elements: (1) Law Enforcement; (2) Community Policing; (3) Neighborhood Restoration; and (4) Prevention, Intervention and Treatment.

Law Enforcement

The Police Department assigns 4-6 officers per watch in marked vehicles

answering calls for service.

The Narcotics Section continues to work with state and federal agencies on drug complaints in the area. Two drug task forces formed earlier this year have been disbanded and are no longer a part of the drug effort in the Weed and Seed area.

Community Policing

The Police Department did not assign off-duty police officers to the primary safe haven, Grubb YMCA. Since the City of Des Moines was not awarded Weed and Seed funding in 2001, the off-duty police officers program was suspended. It is hoped that the program will be reinstated in the future.

The Police Department also continues the part-time Bicycle-Mounted Patrol program that was initiated in 1997. The Bicycle-Mounted Patrol operates during the warm weather and is a valuable asset to the community.

Neighborhood Restoration Element Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Element

From July through December of 2002, no Weed and Seed activities occurred or were implemented. During this time, the City of Des Moines has been working with the Steering Committee and the U.S. Attorney's Office to establish committee procedural rules and prepare a council communication to formalize, through resolution, the establishment of the Weed and Seed Committee.

Staff recommends the City of Des Moines, in its capacity as a recipient of Weed and Seed funding, approve the required Categorical Assistance Progress Report for submittal to the U.S. Department of Justice.

