

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-097**

**AGENDA:**

MARCH 10, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

WEED AND SEED  
STEERING  
COMMITTEE  
ORGANIZATION,  
MEMBERSHIP, AND  
PROCEDURAL  
RULES

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
**ORDINANCE**  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

MIKE MATTHES  
ACTING HOUSING  
SERVICES  
DIRECTOR

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

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

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**SYNOPSIS —**

Resolution to approve the organization, membership, and procedural rules for the Weed and Seed Steering Committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

The Steering Committee will be responsible for recommending to Council actions for implementing the City's Weed and Seed grant funding.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

The Weed and Seed Plan was a joint effort between the City, U.S. Attorney's Office, neighborhood associations, and community agencies to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Weed and Seed sites range in size from several neighborhood blocks to 15 square miles. The program has been traditionally administered through the City's Enterprise Community Steering Committee.

The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area; and "seeding" brings human services to the area, encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization.

A community-orientated policing component bridges weeding and seeding strategies. Officers obtain helpful information from area residents for weeding efforts while they aid residents in obtaining information about community revitalization and seeding resources.

On September 13, 2001, the Enterprise Community Steering Committee voted to segregate the Weed and Seed Committee from the Enterprise Community Steering Committee and establish it as a separate Weed and Seed Steering Committee. This move was necessary to apply for the second official recognition as a Weed and Seed site and for the anticipated expansion of the Weed and Seed area.

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On October 31, 2001, the City of Des Moines submitted a re-application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Weed and Seed, to receive its second official recognition as a Weed and Seed site. The boundary for the newly expanded Weed and Seed area is: the Des Moines River on the east, Hickman Avenue on the north, Interstate 235 (I-235) on the south, and the west boundary is 28<sup>th</sup> Street south of University and 30<sup>th</sup> Street north of University.

The proposed Weed and Seed Steering Committee membership reflects the expanded Weed and Seed area. A total of nine neighborhoods represent this geographical area:

- Riverbend
- Kirkwood Glenn
- Carpenter
- Drake
- New Vision
- King-Irving
- Chautauqua
- Drake Park
- Mondamin-Residential

Upon notification of continued recognition as a recognized Weed and Seed site, the membership of the Weed and Seed Steering Committee was determined based on required participation of the organizations and agencies within the community. The proposed membership of the new Weed and Seed Steering Committee is made up of the following representatives:

Dr. Deborah Gettys, Schools  
Pastor Denny Coon, Faith-based  
Connie Cook, Neighborhoods  
Bill Cappuccio, Neighborhoods  
Roger Thompson, Neighborhoods  
Thai Luong, Youth Representative  
Steven Colloton, US Attorney  
Vacant, Business Representative

Don Adams, Universities  
Becky Miles-Polka, Hospitals  
Bill McCarthy, Police  
Jim Favors, Neighborhoods  
Larry James, Jr., Neighborhoods  
Winston Spencer, Safe Haven  
Jackie Lloyd, City of Des Moines

Staff has developed a set of procedural rules based off of those formerly used by the Enterprise Community Steering Committee that have also been reviewed by the U.S. Department of Justice. These rules are entitled, "City of Des Moines Weed and Seed Steering Committee Procedural Rules" and propose the use of procedures consistent with the Municipal Code.

The following Weed and Seed member is not a resident of the City of Des Moines: Don Adams, Drake University. Staff recommends that Council support the selection of this Weed and Seed committee member as an exception to the residency requirements of the proposed procedural rules and Section 2-1049 of the Municipal Code.

Staff also recommends that the Weed and Seed Steering Committee organization, membership, and procedural rules be approved to ensure implementation of the Weed and Seed program.

