

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-578**

**AGENDA:**

DECEMBER 8, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

RECOGNITION OF  
ARBOR PEAKS  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**

ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

LARRY HULSE  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

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

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

**SYNOPSIS —**

Formal recognition of the Arbor Peaks Neighborhood Association according to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

None.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

On May 24, 1993, by Roll Call No. 93-2026, the City Council approved the Neighborhood Recognition Policy as recommended by the Neighborhood Advisory Board. The intent of this policy is to assist citizens of Des Moines sharing common identity, goals, and concerns to form an organization formally recognized by City government boards, committees, and councils, able to act as an advisory body when dealing with decisions made by the City and its entities. The policy recognizes the fact that the long-term stability of a neighborhood depends on the existence of a strong neighborhood based organization. Further, these groups should be able to demonstrate broad grass roots participation and the ability to provide leadership and to command respect when working with the City and other public and private interests.

In order to implement this policy, Planning staff developed a strategy to provide information to the neighborhood organizations about the policy and in response to requests for information. Organizations wishing to become recognized must submit the following information: 1) official name of organization; 2) detailed neighborhood boundaries; 3) a list of the organization's representatives with their address and telephone number; 4) the location and time of their membership meetings; and 5) a copy of the organization's bylaws.

According to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy, "Upon official recognition of a neighborhood organization by the City Council, the Mayor shall formally proclaim the recognized neighborhood as an important entity to be utilized by the Council in seeking direction on actions which effects the identified neighborhood, and the City will also

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seek additional coverage through other press releases.” In addition, “Whenever mailed notices to adjoining property owners is required by law or by City ordinance or policy, the City will reasonably attempt to also provide notice to any effected neighborhood organizations.”

In accordance with the City’s Neighborhood Recognition Policy, the Arbor Peaks Neighborhood Association has submitted an application. The Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) reviewed their application on April 2, 2003. At that time, the NRB was concerned that the Association had not recruited enough members from the neighborhood. Arbor Peaks agreed to mail everyone in the neighborhood and hold a neighborhood-wide meeting. The NRB agreed to recommend to the Council that their application be approved after they held the neighborhood-wide meeting. Arbor Peaks held a neighborhood-wide meeting on September 29, 2003, at the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation office at 1915 Grand Avenue. The meeting was a success and the neighborhood is now ready to proceed with the recognition process.

