



Agenda Item:

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## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 05/23/05  
287

Communication No.: 05-

Agenda Item Type: Resolution  
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

### SUBJECT—

Making Connections/Annie E. Casey Foundation Memorandum of Agreement

### SYNOPSIS—

Approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Making Connections, Des Moines, an initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, for the purpose of providing staff support for the Neighborhood Grants for Growth Program and participation in the Community Building engagement strategies.

### FISCAL IMPACT—

Lump sum grant of \$7,000 received as payment toward a portion of staff time to assist with administration of the Making Connections, Des Moines project.

### RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

### BACKGROUND—

The Park and Recreation Department Community Gardening Program (Des Moines Community Gardening Coalition) supports grassroots community green efforts through education and resources. Among the areas of focus are low-income populations and neighborhoods, schools,

shelters and youth programs. The Des Moines Community Gardening Coalition's program participants closely align with those of Making Connections, which is sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and partners with individuals and organizations to work together to improve results for families and transform neighborhoods into family supportive environments.

The Neighborhood Grants For Growth Program of Making Connections provides funding to community-based groups located within the City limits of Des Moines, with priority given to groups within neighborhoods eligible for Community Development Block Grant funds. It supports projects that build neighborhood relationships, encourage people to participate in their community and strengthen and create new community leaders. In addition to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, funding partners in the Neighborhood Grants For Growth Program include United Way of Central Iowa, The Greater Des Moines Community Foundation and the Human Service Planning Alliance.

Making Connections' Community Builder Committee works to increase resident participation in neighborhoods and identify program participants while enhancing neighborhood connections.

Synergism involving Making Connections and the City's Des Moines Community Gardening Coalition strengthens both programs and produces positive benefits including financial and other resources, education and networks to the neighborhood groups both serve.

Making Connections has requested City Park and Recreation Community Gardening staff support specifically for their Neighborhood Grants For Growth Small Grants Program administration in promoting, reviewing and monitoring the grants and for participation in the community building engagement strategies, including the Community Builder Committee. They propose to provide compensation to the City of Des Moines Park and Recreation Department in the form of a lump sum grant in the amount of \$7,000 for assistance, as needed, to perform these tasks during fiscal year 2004-05 and have provided a memorandum of agreement addressing the arrangement.