



Agenda Item:

Ex Item 2

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 9/26/05  
Agenda Item Type: Receive/File

Communication No.:05-522  
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Richard Clark, Acting City Manager

### SUBJECT—

Recognition of Des Moines as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.

### SYNOPSIS—

This action would receive and file information from the City's Youth Advisory Board that the City of Des Moines has been named by America's Promise as one of the Nation's "100 Best Communities for Young People".

### FISCAL IMPACT—

Receipt of \$2,000 travel stipend

### RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

### BACKGROUND—

At its July 5, 2005 meeting, the Youth Advisory Board voted to complete an application through America's Promise to allow the City of Des Moines to be considered for a designation as one of the Nation's "100 Best Communities for Young People." The Youth Advisory Board invited community stakeholders including the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Des Moines Public Schools, the Human Service Planning Alliance and the Greater Des Moines Youth Leadership Initiative to participate on the application team. The Youth Advisory Board facilitated meetings with these partnering organizations in order to complete the competition's lengthy application and submitted it for consideration on July 22, 2005.

A copy of the Des Moines' application is attached to the Roll Call. The application illustrated how the City of Des Moines has fulfilled the five promises of America's Promise: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start and future, effective education, and opportunities to help others by identifying model programs in Des Moines and statistics that quantified youth success in Des Moines. One of the principal

characteristics of the City of Des Moines cited by America's Promise in their decision to choose Des Moines was the City's emphasis on providing youth with leadership roles in the community and collaborative work to improve the lives of children and youth. Specifically cited by America's Promise was the City's Youth Advisory Board and the United Way's Emerging Leader's Initiative.

Information promoting the winners of the "100 Best Communities for Young People" is going to be included in Newsweek Magazine, US Today, and on NBC's Today Show. The accomplishments of all 100-award recipients will be celebrated at a special event on November 2, 2005 in Washington, DC. As an award recipient, the City of Des Moines will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 for travel expenses to attend the event. In addition to the celebration in Washington D.C., America's Promise will be sponsoring a special celebration in each of the winning cities and regional forums across the nation to allow communities to share success stories and learn effective strategies from other winners to further enrich the lives of young people.

This receipt of this award applauds the hard work that all agencies in Des Moines do to make this a wonderful place for young people. Youth members of this year's Youth Advisory Board include: Liz Cooney, Roosevelt High School; Stephanie Schulze, North High School; Jeff Rost, North High School; Michael Hickman, East High School; Carey McGhee, Roosevelt High School; Amanda Bellis, East High School; Grant Harvey, Hoover High School; Madison Sconiers, Hoover High School; and Linh Huynh, Roosevelt High School. Liz Cooney, Jeff Rost, and Stephanie Schulze were responsible for consolidating community information and drafting the application.