



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

November 20, 2006

Agenda Item No. 28

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-720

Submitted by: Larry Hulse, Community
Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) Grant to the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and SHOP grant determinations for land acquisition by the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity. The Community Development Department performs the environmental review as the HUD-designated Responsible Entity (RE).

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Since 1996, Habitat for Humanity International, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have collaborated on the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP). Through the program, 1,331 Habitat affiliates throughout the United States have been awarded SHOP grants totaling \$107.6 million. Habitat affiliates apply for SHOP funds through Habitat for Humanity International.

The Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity Affiliate has applied for approximately \$85,000 in SHOP funds for land acquisition for the construction of single-family new homes. The primary location of these homes will be in the King Irving and Mondamin Presidential Neighborhoods. The value of these homes is anticipated to range between \$115,000 and \$125,000.

HUD grantees must comply with a prohibition on the expenditure of any HUD or nonfederal funds on program activities until HUD has completed its environmental review or approved the release of funds. For SHOP grant recipients in Des Moines, the City of Des Moines is the Responsible Entity (RE) for performing the environmental review. The City has determined that the project is Categorical Excluded, subject to Section 58.5 of the federal environmental review procedures under 24CFR Part 58.35.

Staff recommends that the Mayor, as the designated certifying official, sign the Environmental Certification and the Request for Release of Funds.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE