



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

January 8, 2007

Agenda Item No. 55

Roll Call No. 07-

Communication No. 07-020

Submitted by: Larry Hulse, Community
Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Metro Licensing Board of Examiners Agreement for the Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Trades.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of a 28E agreement with the cities of Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Carlisle, Clive, De Soto, Grimes, Indianola, Johnston, Mitchellville, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights and the unincorporated areas Dallas, Polk, and Warren Counties to establish a metropolitan licensing agreement for the electrical, mechanical and plumbing trades.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Neutral

Funding Source: The agreement contains provisions authorizing the City of Des Moines to administer the program and to collect appropriate fees to cover the administrative costs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Metro Advisory Council (MAC) indicated a desire to develop a common licensing agreement within the Greater Des Moines area to provide for contractor trade licenses recognized by participating jurisdictions. Staff members from the participating communities, in conjunction with the affected stakeholders, developed the agreement that provides for this licensing program.

At its November 14, 2006 meeting, the MAC voted unanimously to send the Metro Licensing Board of Examiners Licensing Agreement to the participating City Councils and Boards of Supervisors for adoption. The licensing agreement establishes mini-boards (one each for electrical, mechanical and plumbing trades) with 9 members each, with appointments made based on the nine state senate districts located within the agreement area. Appointments to the mini-boards are made by a selection committee comprised of the mayors in each of the district communities.

The agreement establishes a twelve-member Metro Licensing Board of Examiners, with members comprised of 3 representatives from each of the mini boards and 3 at-large members appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Dallas, Polk, and Warren Counties.

The agreement provides a mechanism to conduct examinations and provide licenses for electrical contractors, master electricians, journeyman electricians, residential electricians, and the registration of apprentice electricians and apprentice residential electricians; plumbing contractors, master plumbers, journeyman plumbers and the registration of apprentice plumbers; and heating and cooling contractors, refrigeration contractors, and comprehensive mechanical contractors.

If approved, this action will enable the affected contractors to obtain one license recognized by all the member jurisdictions. The agreement provides for the City of Des Moines to administer and issue the licenses and to collect appropriate fees to cover our administrative costs. Des Moines would, therefore, retain all of these licensing fees and would not remit a portion back to participating communities. This action does not affect the manner in which permits are issued in the respective communities or the manner in which inspections are conducted, which remain under the control of each community.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: November 9, 2006

Roll Call Number: None

Action: The Des Moines Board Licensing and Appeals Board unanimously approved a resolution recommending that the City Council approve this agreement.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

If approved, this action directs the Community Development Department to incorporate this licensing agreement into the Des Moines Building Code. It is anticipated that this action will be done in conjunction with the update to the latest editions of the adopted codes. This action is now under evaluation and is anticipated in spring 2007.

This agreement will also require the appointment of mini-board members for those districts in which Des Moines is located. Districts 31 and 33 are wholly within Des Moines, and those appointments are made by Des Moines and approved by the City Council. Districts 32 and 34 are shared with adjacent communities, and those appointments must be made jointly and coordinated.