

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: August 29, 2011
	Agenda Item No. 52 Roll Call No. <u>11-1484</u> Communication No. <u>11-564</u> Submitted by: Douglas C. Romig, Housing Services Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 82 and 90 of the City Code transferring Community Action Agency functions.

SYNOPSIS:

Joint recommendation from the Public Housing Board (PHB) and Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) to amend Chapter 82 and 90 of the City Code transferring the Community Action Agency functions from the NRB to a newly created 12-member tripartite Housing Services Board.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

At the June 13, 2011 Council workshop, the Housing Services Director presented the concept of transferring the Board responsibilities of the Community Action Agency from the NRB to a newly established Housing Services Board which would oversee the functions of the Housing Services Department. As a part of this presentation, staff indicated that they would seek input from both the PHB and the NRB prior to making a final recommendation.

On June 15, 2011, the Housing Services Director presented this same concept to the PHB as a part of a Director’s Report. Additionally, the Housing Services Director made this presentation to the NRB at their July 6, 2011, Board meeting. The PHB members did not have a lot of comments regarding this conceptual idea. At the NRB, meeting members expressed concerns about the interaction with the programs and services provided by the Community Action Agency and felt that there needed to be a better rapport between various Boards and Commissions within the City. One suggestion provided during the NRB meeting was to have the NRB appoint one of their Board members to serve on the new Housing Services Board in order to facilitate better communication between the two Boards. Both the PHB and NRB voted to recommend approval of these changes at their meetings on July 20, 2011, and August 3, 2011, respectively.

Currently the PHB is comprised of seven members serving the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency, which is one division of the Housing Services Department. The other division is the Des Moines Community Action Agency, which currently is reporting to the NRB. With the transfer of the Des

Monies Community Action Agency from the Community Development Department to the Housing Services Department, the NRB has two Departments reporting to them for different City operational functions.

Upon review of the respective roles and responsibilities of the two City departments, staff is recommending that the board functions of the Des Moines Community Action Agency be transferred to a newly created Housing Services Board that would oversee the Housing Services Department operations.

This newly created board would need to be a Tripartite Board consisting of 12 members to meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding guidelines. The recommended board configuration and appointments are as follows:

- a. Seven members appointed by the Mayor and Des Moines City Council representing one of the following functions: financial support, home ownership counseling, provisions of rental units to low-income residents, tenant advocacy and supportive services or educational services;
- b. Three members shall be current or former low-income clients (Public Housing, Section 8, Community Action Agency) recommended by the Housing Services Director for City Council Confirmation;
- c. One member shall be appointed by the Mayor from the Neighborhood Revitalization Board; and
- d. One member shall be appointed by the Mayor from the Polk County Housing Continuum or Agency representing one of the following functions: financial support, home ownership counseling, provisions of rental units to low-income residents, tenant advocacy and supportive services or educational services.

Staff recommends approval of this recommendation to the Des Moines City Council and requests a waiver of other readings in order to receive Board appointments prior to the start of the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency Annual Agency Plan review/approval process.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Public Housing Board

Date: July 20, 2011

Action: Recommended approval to amend Chapter 90 of the City Code.

Board: Neighborhood Revitalization Board

Date: August 3, 2011

Action: Recommended approval to amend Chapter 90 of the City Code.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Additional Housing Services Board appointments.

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