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Date March 24, 2008

**APPROVING RECOMMENDATION FROM THE
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION BOARD REGARDING
REMOVAL OF FAIRGROUND NEIGHBORS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
FROM LIST OF RECOGNIZED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2007 by Roll Call No. 07-2227, the City Council requested that the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) mediate a dispute between Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement (FNCI), a City of Des Moines Recognized Neighborhood Association, and certain other residents of the Fairgrounds Neighborhood regarding membership and voting privileges with respect to FNCI; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Council's request, the NRB appointed a subcommittee to find facts and attempt to mediate the conflict. The subcommittee met four times in publicly noticed meetings and drafted recommendations to Council which were approved by the entire NRB at a duly-noticed public meeting held on January 9, 2008;

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2008 by Roll Call No. 08-150, the City Council approved NRB's recommendations and determined that FNCI, as a condition of retaining its status as a Recognized Neighborhood Association, would be required to do the following:

- a. amend its bylaws to clarify membership and voting privileges;
- b. remove FNCI's requirement that its members join any other organization; and
- c. hold new elections for officers pursuant to the amended bylaws.

WHEREAS, by letter dated February 12, 2008, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, FNCI stated that it has chosen not to follow the NRB recommendations adopted by the City Council as set forth above;

WHEREAS, at its March 5, 2008 meeting, the NRB voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that FNCI be removed from the list of Recognized Neighborhood Associations because of its unwillingness to comply with the conditions for retention of Recognized Neighborhood status set forth in Roll Call No. 08-150. NRB's letter to the Mayor and Members of the City Council conveying its recommendation is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

24

Date March 24, 2008

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:

1. That because of its unwillingness to comply with the conditions for retention of Recognized Neighborhood status set forth in Roll Call No. 08-150, Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement is no longer a Recognized Neighborhood and is hereby removed from the list of Recognized Neighborhood Associations.

2. The Community Development Director is authorized and directed to take all action necessary and proper to implement this resolution.

(Council Communication No. 08-142)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Moved by _____ to adopt.

[Signature]

Michael F. Kelley
Assistant City Attorney

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Table with 5 columns: COUNCIL ACTION, YEAS, NAYS, PASS, ABSENT. Rows include COWNIE, COLEMAN, HENSLEY, KIERNAN, MAHAFFEY, MEYER, VLASSIS, and TOTAL.

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk

Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement
2005 Forest Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50311
515-255-0800

February 12, 2008

To whom it May Concern:

Members of Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement feel we have been caught in the middle of a political nightmare. The choices that we have been forced to make have not been easy or taken lightly. Our neighborhood has been very successful over the last 12 years. Our goal is to continue to improve our neighborhood with our relationship with Citizens for Community Improvement.

Fairground Neighbors have chosen not to follow the recommendations set forth by the Neighborhood Revitalization Board.

Sincerely,

Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement


Merna Scott	Virginia Moore
Audrey Latta	Robert Moore
Evelyn Allison	Ray Robinette
Wicki Quinn	Abast Jennings
Norma Stapleton	Evelyn Jennings
May Ryan	Terry Davis
Roberta Hayworth	Jane Fulton
D. Jorgensen	

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION BOARD

EXHIBIT B

Date: March 17, 2008

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Tim Hielkema, Chair 
Neighborhood Revitalization Board

Re: Removal of Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement from the list of Recognized Neighborhood Associations

At its March 5, 2008 meeting, the Neighborhood Revitalization Board voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement be removed from the list of Recognized Neighborhood Associations because of their unwillingness to comply with the stipulations set forth by Roll Call No. 08-150.

This is not a recommendation that the NRB took lightly. After several difficult months of remediation and communication, Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement decided not to comply with the stipulations required by Council to remain a Recognized Neighborhood Association.

The NRB strongly hopes that FNCI and the new organization will find a way to work together for the betterment of the entire neighborhood.