

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA

ITEM 55

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-494
OCTOBER 6, 1997 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
HAVENS TO AMOS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—REMOVAL FROM RECOGNIZED NEIGHBORHOOD LIST	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JAMES GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS —

Removal of the Havens to Amos Neighborhood Association from the list of Recognized Neighborhoods according to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

FISCAL IMPACT —

N/A

RECOMMENDATION —

Staff recommends approval of the Neighborhood Revitalization Board's recommendation to remove the Havens to Amos Neighborhood Association from the list of Recognized Neighborhoods.

BACKGROUND —

On May 24, 1993, by Roll Call No. 93-2026, the City Council approved the Neighborhood Recognition Policy as recommended by the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB). The intent of this policy is to assist citizens of Des Moines sharing common identities, goals, and concerns to form an organization which will be formally recognized by City government boards, committees and councils, and will act as an advisory body when dealing with decisions made by the City and its entities. The policy recognizes the fact that the long-term stability of a neighborhood depends on the existence of strong neighborhood-based organizations able to demonstrate broad grass roots participation, and the ability to provide leadership and command respect in working with the City and other public and private interests.

To implement this policy, Planning staff developed a strategy that provides information about the policy and requested information from neighborhood organizations. Organizations who wish to become recognized must submit the following information: 1) official name of the organization, 2) detailed neighborhood boundaries, 3) a list of the organization's representatives with their address and telephone number, 4) a journal of meetings held to establish the organization, and 5) a copy of the organization's by-laws. A list of the neighborhoods responding to the request was compiled and submitted to the NAB and forwarded to the City Council for approval.

The policy also requires the submission of annual information. Each year the Community Development Department sends requests for updated information to all recognized neighborhoods. This year, two written requests followed by phone calls to nonrespondents were made to all recognized neighborhoods. On September 17, a list of the neighborhoods who did not respond was submitted to the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) for recommendation, and that recommendation is now being forwarded to the City Council. As an additional follow-up, the Havens to Amos Neighborhood Association received a letter informing them that a recommendation that they be removed from the

Recognized Neighborhood List would be sent to City Council if they did not respond. The current President of the Havens to Amos Neighborhood contacted staff and communicated that Havens to Amos was no longer able to remain an active neighborhood and would agree to be removed from the recognized listing. As a result of these communications, staff recommends that Havens to Amos Neighborhood Association be removed from the list of recognized neighborhoods.

Staff will forward a complete listing of the Recognized Neighborhoods to City Council within 30 days.