



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**02-383**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**AGENDA:**

JULY 22, 2002

**SYNOPSIS -**

Approve Categorical Assistance Progress Report for the period of January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002 to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice/Executive Office for Weed and Seed.

**SUBJECT:**

WEED AND SEED  
CATEGORICAL  
ASSISTANCE  
PROGRESS REPORT

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

None.

**TYPE:**

**Approval.**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**BACKGROUND -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JAMES GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

On August 23, 1999, by Roll Call No. 99-2648, the City Council accepted a \$175,000 grant award from the Executive Office for Weed and Seed. On March 26, 2001, by Roll Call No. 01-853, the City Council accepted an additional \$175,000 grant award from the Executive Office for Weed and Seed.

The Department of Justice, and other federal agencies, has implemented Operation Weed and Seed, a comprehensive and integrated multi-agency approach to addressing violent crime, drug abuse, and deteriorating social and economic opportunities in low-income neighborhoods.

The following report documents Weed and Seed activities during the reporting period January 1, 2002 - June 30, 2002. This report is organized into the four Weed and Seed elements: (1) Law Enforcement, (2) Community Policing, (3) Neighborhood Restoration, and (4) Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment.

Law Enforcement

The Police Department operates 4-6 officers per watch in marked vehicles answering calls for service.

The Narcotics Section continues to work with state and federal agencies on drug complaints in the area. Two drug task forces that had been formed, as of this year, have been disbanded and are no longer a part of the drug effort in the Weed and Seed area.

#### Community Policing

The Police Department did not assign off-duty police officers to the primary safe haven, Grubb YMCA. Since the City of Des Moines was not awarded Weed and Seed funding in 2001, the off-duty police officer program was suspended. It is hoped that the program will be reinstated in the Fall of 2002.

The Police Department also continues the part-time Bicycle Mounted Patrol program that was initiated in 1997. The Bicycle Mounted Patrol operates during the warm weather and is a valuable asset to the community.

#### Neighborhood Restoration, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Elements

From January through June of this year, no Weed and Seed activities occurred or were implemented. During this time, the U.S. Attorney and the City of Des Moines have been in the process of reorganizing and restructuring the Weed and Seed Steering Committee in an effort to meet the expectations outlined by the Executive Office for Weed and Seed.

The restructuring of the committee was needed to further encourage the community to take ownership of the Weed and Seed program and take a more active role in the initiation and implementation of the strategies. This new approach will also allow the City of Des Moines to assume the role of liaison, technical assistant, and fiscal and monitoring agent.

The U.S. Attorney and the City of Des Moines have recently completed the establishment of the new Weed and Seed Steering Committee and will begin the task of developing and implementing various programs and projects that are needed in the community.

Staff recommends the City of Des Moines, in its capacity as a recipient of Weed and Seed funding, approve the required Categorical

Assistance Progress Report for submittal to the U.S. Department of Justice.

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