



Agenda Item:

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## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agenda Date: March 22, 2004

Communication

No.: 04-140

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call

No.:

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Director, Park and Recreation Department

### **SUBJECT—**

Pocket Park Naming in Honor of Edna Griffin

### **SYNOPSIS—**

The King/Irving Park Neighborhood Association and a group of citizens led by Carolyn Uhlenhake Walker who lives at 1612 13<sup>th</sup> Street have requested that the Pocket Park located on 13<sup>th</sup> Street between Washington and College Streets be named in honor of Edna Griffin. The Park Board approved the request at their November 25, 2003 meeting.

### **FISCAL IMPACT—**

\$200 for a Park sign. Funding is available in PKS070100 GE001 532140.

### **RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval

### **BACKGROUND—**

Both the King/Irving Neighborhood Association and a group of neighborhood citizens led by Carolyn Uhlenhake Walker have requested that the Pocket Park located on 13<sup>th</sup> between Washington and College Streets be named in honor of Edna Griffin.

Ms. Griffin was a civil rights leader who played a prominent role in the desegregation of restaurants in Des Moines in the late 1940's. In the 1960's, Edna Griffin organized the local chapter of the Congress on Racial Equality. In the 1980's, Ms. Griffin penned a weekly column, "Strokes and Folks" for *The Iowa Bystander*, a statewide African-American newspaper published in Des Moines from 1884 to the mid-1980's. In 1985, Edna Griffin was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

In their letter of support, the King/Irving Neighborhood Association stated, "Naming the park after Edna Griffin would remind us to continue the fight for even a better and safer neighborhood for our children and will remind our children to take pride in their neighborhood."

In his support of the proposal, Floyd Jones, Director of the Human Rights Commission stated that "My impression of Ms. Griffin was that she was well respected and considered a community leader by many in the inner City. I believe that the naming of the Park in her name will be respected as deserving this honor."