



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 11/08/04
570

Communication No.: 04-

Agenda Item Type: Resolution
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Larry Hulse, Director, Community Development

SUBJECT—

Neighborhood Sign Fee Waiver for Neighborhood Groups.

SYNOPSIS—

This action has two impacts:

- 1) Authorizes the City Manager to develop a process for the City to give credits or funds in an amount not to exceed \$500 to Des Moines Neighbors for the purpose of dispersing funds to recognized neighborhood associations to help offset the costs of sign permit fees.
- 2) Approves an ordinance amendment to increase the time period for special event signs from 10 days per year to 30 days maximum per year.

The current policy will remain to exempt fees for special event signage over public property when allowed by resolution of the City Council pursuant to Section 102-621 of the City Code.

FISCAL IMPACT—

\$500 annually to come in the form of credits, subject to annual Council budget approval.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

At the September 13, 2004 City Council meeting, Robert Mickle, 1711 Woodland, requested that the City Council consider a waiver of permit fees for banners and special events signs upon the

request of recognized neighborhood associations and to increase the time limit allowed for special event signs from ten (10) days to twenty (20) or thirty (30) days. The Council further discussed this issue at the September 29, 2004 Council Workshop.

The Schedule of Fees currently imposes a fee on "grand opening or special event signs" of \$35.00 plus \$10.00 per day of the event. Thus a 10-day permit would cost \$135.00. The proposed 30-day permit would cost \$335.00.

Currently, the City Code does not exempt recognized neighborhood associations or non-profit 501(c)3 organizations from paying a fee to the City for special event signage over any private property.

Recognized neighborhood associations or non-profit 501(c)3 organizations are currently exempt from paying a fee to the City for special event signage over any public property if allowed by resolution of the City Council pursuant to Section 102-621 of the City Code.

Staff recommends that the Council authorize the City Manager to develop a process to award monies on a yearly basis to a group that has the ability to disperse and oversee the funds. A suggested process would include: The Council would budget an amount; initially \$500 per year, in the form of credits to be used for certain neighborhood activities and the associated fees for signs. Des Moines Neighbors would be the agency that coordinates and disperses the credits accordingly to the organizations. The Neighborhood Planning Division of Community Development would assist the Des Moines Neighbors with developing necessary criteria and methods of accountability to manage the review and distribution of credits or funds.