

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	20-456	Meeting:	October 19, 2020
	Agenda Item:	17	Roll Call:	20-1653
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Temporary amendment to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

SYNOPSIS:

The Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) and City staff evaluated challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on neighborhood associations. The NRB approved the temporary easing of requirements for annual member and Board meetings set forth in the City's Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City's Neighborhood Recognition Policy (NRP) defines neighborhoods and neighborhood associations that are recognized by the City of Des Moines. It lays down specific requirements for efficient functioning of the neighborhood associations.
- The Neighborhood Recognition Policy was last updated in February 2020 based on direction from Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB).
- The proposed temporary amendment is based on the recognition of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on holding in-person member or Board meetings by neighborhood associations.
- On August 5, 2020, the NRB discussed the issue and voted temporary easing of the requirements as listed below:

Until the World Health Organization has stated that the COVID-19 pandemic is over, and in person meetings are deemed safe, the following changes to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy shall be in effect:

1. The minimum of four (4) general neighborhood association meetings per year shall be waived. If neighborhood associations can continue to meet via video/audio conferencing, such as Zoom, they are free to do so.

2. Election and/or appointment of officers shall be suspended, and current officers shall continue in their board positions, thus temporarily waiving any and all term limit requirements.
3. Any changes and/or expansions to neighborhood boundaries are temporarily suspended.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 10, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-0235](#)

Action: [Amendment](#) to the Neighborhood Recognition Policy ([Council Communication No. 20-048](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Neighborhood Revitalization Board

Date: August 5, 2020

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Approved the temporary amendment to Neighborhood Recognition policy and forward a recommendation to the City Council to approve the amended Neighborhood Recognition Policy.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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