


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	24-040	Meeting:	February 5, 2024
	Agenda Item:	43	Roll Call:	24-0213
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of the City of Des Moines Street Naming and Addressing Policy.

SYNOPSIS:

Adoption of a Street Naming and Addressing Policy is in an effort to provide a standardized methodology across the departments of the City for determining necessary addressing for existing and newly developed properties.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Under the direction of the City Manager’s Office, an addressing policy team consisting of employee representation across relevant departments of the City, has collaborated to pull together fragmented addressing practices and draft a unified addressing policy. This proposed policy is intended to provide consistency and predictability with the way addresses get assigned to new development as well as adaptive reuse of existing buildings.
- Since a policy drafted in 2004 was put into practice, there have been significant advances in the Information Technology systems used in City delivery of service for public safety, permitting, mapping, and development review. A more consistent approach to assignment of addresses is necessary to reduce errors in the critical use of addressing for emergency response. Other economic functions for the public that will benefit from a more uniform approach to addressing are wayfinding for the high volume of GPS navigation uses, and for mailing, delivery and shipping of household and business goods that has become more reliant on GPS based systems.
- The draft policy is largely based on best practices researched from sources such as the U.S. Postal Service and professional literature in the professions of public safety, urban planning, GIS, infrastructure design, and logistics. These practices were applied to provide a policy that updates the long-standing practice of assigning addresses.
- At the conclusion of their work session on May 22, 2023, the Council provided general direction during the Council work session to the Addressing Policy Committee to complete their work and bring forward a final draft of the Street Naming & Addressing Policy along with any necessary Ordinances for revision of the Municipal Code in furtherance of the policy.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Adoption of Street Naming and Addressing Policy with associated ordinance revisions to its applications within the Municipal Code.

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