



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Communications

Date: October 7, 2009

To: Council Member Robert Lilligren, Chair, Committee of the Whole

Referral to: Committee of the Whole

Subject: Status of the establishment of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Recommendation: Receive and File

Previous Directives: On September 26, 2008, the City Council approved the creation of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) and [Resolution 2008R-402](#) establishing the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) to provide overall direction to the next phase of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

Department Information

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| Prepared by: David M Rubedor, Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) Approved by: Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator Presenter in Committee: David M Rubedor, Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) |
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Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Supporting Information

Details related to establishing the department continue to be developed. A report on the work completed thus far focuses on the following areas.

- *Components of the Department:* In addition to providing support to neighborhood organizations, the new department has an expanded role from the existing NRP program. The department will also focus on increasing outreach and meaningful access for all residents, supporting the principles of community engagement throughout the City enterprise, developing new and dynamic ways to incorporate community engagement into City departments, and building broader support for this work.
- *Community Input and Outreach:* One of the City's principles of community engagement states "Public participation is based on the belief that those affected by

a decision have a right to be involved in the decision making process". As a guiding element to this new department, public input has been sought in a variety of ways.

- *NCEC Election Process:* The establishing resolution for the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) did not outline a process for the election of the 8 neighborhood representatives. Through a collaboration with NRP, an election process was developed resulting in all 8 neighborhood representatives being elected on June 16, 2009.
- *NCEC Meetings and Progress:* The NCEC has met four times since its first meeting on June 23rd. The commission has focused on developing both operating and leadership structures, as well as beginning discussions about some programmatic components. The commission has elected to pilot a consensus-seeking model of decision-making with rotating facilitators.
- *Integration Aspects for NRP Phases I and II:* The department will eventually be providing staffing support for the remaining portions of NRP Phases I and II. A working committee, composed of NCR, NRP and Development Finance staff have been meeting to detail the integration of the existing NRP program into the new department.
- *Staffing Concepts:* The department is being developed from existing staff resources. These resources have been redefined to match the outcomes and expectations for the new department.
- *Next Steps:* Upcoming work to fully establish the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department includes department staffing, development of a neighborhood program, transitioning between programs, etc.

For additional information please refer to the corresponding PowerPoint for the [October 15, 2009 Committee of the Whole](#) meeting.