

ITEM#: 15  
DATE: 10/09/07

### COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT:** ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (NIP)  
GRANT FOR 2007/08

**BACKGROUND:**

On August 14, 2007, three Neighborhood Improvement Grants were approved by the City Council totaling \$8,595.03. The State Avenue/Arbor Street Tree Planting NIP was approved in the amount of \$5,000 by the Council on August 28, 2007. Two grant applications are still pending approval, one of which is the Sapphire Circle Landscaping Project.

As you will recall, there are two main goals of the NIP: (1) to strengthen a neighborhood's appearance with the addition of permanent physical improvements, and (2) to promote a greater sense of community through resident participation in a neighborhood project.

Each project application is rated on the following 100-point system. A project must achieve at least 50 points to be considered:

*Resident Involvement* (30 points maximum):\*

...the number of residents donating their time and/or labor to accomplish the project

...the number of residents donating funds to the project

\*10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-50 people; 30 points over 50 people

*Project Impact* (30 points maximum):\*\*

...the number of residents who will be positively affected by the improvement

\*\*10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-100 people; 30 points over 100 people

*Safety* (10 points maximum):

...enhancement of safety in the neighborhood

*Public Space* (10 points maximum):

...promotion of social interaction by utilizing public space

*Improved Housing* (10 points maximum)

*Environment* (10 points maximum):

...support for the environment

After follow-up discussions with the applicant and minor revisions to the grant application, the City Review Panel now recommends that the following grant application be approved for funding.

**SAPPHIRE CIRCLE LANDSCAPING PROJECT:**

The families of this cul-de-sac want to work together to beautify Sapphire Circle. Currently, it is unsightly with overgrown weeds and bare dirt. Residents of Sapphire Circle, Turquoise Circle, Crystal Street, and Onyx Street, wish to plant a tree, bushes, and perennials in the Circle. A bench will also be located in the Circle to promote the space as a gathering place.

The total amount of this Project is \$1,378. Requested City funding is \$689. Neighborhood residents are providing \$120 in cash and in-kind contributions in the amount of \$569.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council can approve the expenditure of \$689 to fund the Sapphire Circle Neighborhood Improvement Project.
2. The City Council can reject funding the Sapphire Circle Neighborhood Improvement Project at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Supporting projects that strengthen neighborhoods is in keeping with one of the City Council's goals. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby approving the expenditure of \$689 to fund the Sapphire Circle Neighborhood Improvement Project. Funding in the amount of \$10,716 remains in this year's allocation, which is adequate to fund the pending grant application should Council approval be requested at a later date.