



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 27, 2002

Council Session

Item G18

#2002-262 - Approving Memorandum of Agreement Relative to Participation in Grand Island Multicultural Coalition

As reported in recent editions of the City Administrator's Memorandum, the City is one of approximately 40 organizations meeting to discuss opportunities to better meet the needs of new immigrants to the community, thereby maximizing community resources and reducing duplication of efforts. These efforts resulted in a visit to Garden City, Kansas last September to learn how this community has been successful at integrating new immigrants into the community. Successful integration of new community members has many benefits, including improving school attendance and performance, increasing community norms and standards, and results, overall, in a more positive assimilation into the community.

The City has been a leading partner in these efforts. Our role has, in part, been defined by the interest expressed over the course of the last seven years to address difficult issues facing the youth of our community. Racism was one of these issues. To this end, the Mayor's Task Force on Youth, subsequently known as the Community Youth Council, was developed. Grant funding was awarded from the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to assist Grand Island with our efforts. At the March 26, 2002 City Council meeting, the Council unanimously approved Resolution #2002-79 – Agreement with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Relative to CYC activities. This grant was first awarded to the City in 1997 in the amount of \$100,000 to address youth issues such as reducing racism, strengthening families, and reducing drug and alcohol use. These objectives are met by a number of programs the CYC has been involved in including the neighborhood association program, Youth Leadership Tomorrow, and It's About Kids! Asset development program. Because racism had been identified as the number one concern by the youth and adults, special emphasis has been given to addressing this issue. The 2002 grant application (and contract award) included \$5000 to be used toward the development of a minority learning center. Discussions are continuing on how to best develop this center.

While the minority learning center is a primary goal of the Coalition, at this time, initial support has centered around formalizing the Coalition and seeking confirmation from partners relative to participation in the overall efforts at streamlining service delivery. To this end, a memorandum of understanding solidifying each partner's support of the efforts has been developed. The memorandum of understanding simply formalizes the City's participation in these efforts. It does not allocate funding for carrying out the Coalitions objectives. No budgetary impact is anticipated as a result of the memorandum of understanding.

Staff Contact: Cindy Johnson

R E S O L U T I O N 2002-262

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island is one of approximately 40 organizations who have discussed opportunities to better meet the needs of new immigrants to the community in order to maximize community resources and reduce duplication of services; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such discussions, the Grand Island Coalition for Multicultural Community Development (hereinafter "Coalition") has been formed to respond to the needs of our increasingly culturally diverse population; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to outline the goals, duties and responsibilities of the Coalition in order to obtain commitments from area partners who may be willing to support the efforts of the Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island has been a leading partner in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, a proposed Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the Memorandum of Understanding for the Grand Island Coalition for Multicultural Community Development is hereby approved establishing the City of Grand Island as a partner in the Coalition, and the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute such Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the City of Grand.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska on August 27, 2002.

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form ? _____ August 23, 2002 ? City Attorney
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