

What Is A Recognized Neighborhood Association?

A neighborhood is a section of a city with a common identity. Neighborhood associations offer a place to meet friends, exchange information, create projects and priorities, propose solutions, and have fun.



A neighborhood association is formed based on the needs and desires of its residents. The association will give residents a forum to discuss common concerns and to brainstorm possible solutions. Some potential outcomes may be: improved street lighting, bike paths, sidewalks, traffic calming devices, parks and open spaces, zoning and land-use planning, park amenities, beautification projects and neighborhood clean-ups. Many neighborhood associations have summer picnics, holiday parties and other special events in order to have fun as well as to keep the lines of communication open with their neighbors.

Recognized neighborhood associations give citizens a voice and an advocate. Neighborhood associations greatly improve the two-way communication between the city and its residents. Your neighborhood will have a clear, organized way to speak to city government so that your voice will be heard by elected officials and city departments. You will be put in touch with people who live near you and share the fondness and frustrations of your area.

Organizing also opens the door to increased communications with city government. Neighborhood association leaders receive weekly mailings of what City Council is working on and what other city neighborhood associations' priorities and plans are. This increased communication can be a resource for upcoming meetings or other community opportunities.

Once the residents of your area form an association and are recognized by City Council, your neighborhood may participate at a variety of levels. The city takes pride in partnering with its' neighborhoods. Through a collaborative effort, our city becomes more economically efficient and citizens have an increased interest and trust in government.



Goals of the Office of Neighborhoods:

- ◆ **Engage citizens** in civic democracy and responsibility through officially recognized Neighborhood Associations in partnership with other community programs in order to strengthen the City and build a greater community.
- ◆ **Link neighborhood skills, ideas, and energy** with City government through responsive, coordinated services and activities which promote communication, leadership and problem-solving skills among neighbors.
- ◆ **Promote a sense of community** and a safe, secure environment in which to live.



A **homeowners' association** (abbrev. **HOA**) is the legal entity created by a real estate developer for the purpose of developing, managing and selling a community of homes. It is given the authority to enforce the covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) and to manage the common amenities of the development. It allows the developer to legally exit responsibility of the community typically by transferring ownership of the association to the homeowners after selling off a predetermined number of lots. Most homeowners' associations are non-profit corporations, and are subject to state statutes that govern non-profit corporations and homeowners' associations. *(This is information only – not to be used as legal advice.)*