

Report to the NRP Policy Board

FROM: Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager
DATE: March 13, 2012
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 5A – Neighborhood Newsletter Policy**

Action Requested:

The Policy Board is requested to provide direction on a process for review of the NRP policy regarding neighborhood publications.

Background

At the February meeting the Policy Board adopted NRP policies which had been approved by the previous board. Direction to staff was also given to review the policies and, where necessary, return with recommendations for revisions to the policies. The Board also indicated that the first policy to be reviewed is that involving neighborhood newsletters.

This policy dates to 1994 when the Policy Board established a prohibition on neighborhoods using NRP funding for newsletter for which paid advertising was accepted. The purpose of this policy was to prevent publicly subsidized neighborhood newsletters from competing with private newspapers for advertising revenue. Although NRP funds could not be used newsletters with ads, this was an allowable expense under the Community Participation Program and the former Citizen Participation Program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that prior to the Policy Board taking formal action on the policy, staff hold discussions with operators or private local newspapers and neighborhood organizations to determine if the issues identified in 1994 continue to exist.