Council Communication

Department: Community Development Case/Project No.: N/A	Resolution No.: 22-	City Council: 7/11/2022

Subject/Title

Authorization to designate an alternative signatory for Environmental Review Records.

Background/Discussion

Under 24 CFR Parts 35 and 58, as the "responsible entity" (RE) receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Council Bluffs must complete an environmental review process prior to obligating HUD funds.

The purpose of the environmental review process is to analyze the effect a proposed project will have on the people and the natural environment within a designated project area and the effect the material and social environment may have on a project. The RE is responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Federal laws and authorities has been achieved, for issuing the public notification, for submitting the request for release of funds and certification, when required, and for ensuring the Environmental Review Record is complete.

The responsible entity must designate a Certifying Officer - the "responsible Federal official" - to ensure compliance with NEPA and the Federal laws and authorities cited at section 58.5 has been achieved. This person is the chief elected official, chief executive official, or other official designated by formal resolution of the governing body. The certifying officer must have the authority to assume legal responsibility for certifying that all environmental requirements have been followed. The Certifying Officer for the City of Council Bluffs is the mayor. Previously former Director of Community Development, Brandon Garrett, was also an alternative signatory.

Community Development seeks authorization to designate Courtney Harter, current Director of Community Development, as an alternative signatory for Environmental Review Records.

Recommendation

The Community Development Department recommends approval of the resolution.