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NEWS RELEASE

March 12, 2012 – For Immediate Release

Dubuque Honored Nationally for Cultural Diversity Efforts

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The National League of Cities’ National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials has awarded the City of Dubuque second-place honors in its 2012 City Cultural Diversity Awards. The award was presented to Dubuque City Council members Karla Braig, Joyce Connors, and Lynn Sutton at the National League of Cities Celebrate Diversity Breakfast held in Washington, DC today.

The City Cultural Diversity Awards Program has been developed to showcase examples of how cities achieve excellence in diversity. The City of Dubuque received second place honors specifically for a community engagement program that is a collaborative effort between City staff, leaders, and residents designed to ensure that: 1) City staff and programs are effectively meeting the needs of a growing multicultural community, 2) residents of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are acknowledged and engaged in community life, and 3) City policy decisions include the perspectives of the range of cultures represented in our community. Over the past three years in particular, the City has allocated staff and resources to expand cultural programming in the community, to bring people of various cultural backgrounds together to solve community problems, and to develop cultural community groups to enhance involvement and communication between residents and staff.

“We appreciate this national recognition of the hard work we, as a community, have done toward creating a more inclusive city,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “We continue to see demographic changes and growth in our community, and we acknowledge that there is an ever-present need to continue in our efforts.”

The awards honor community leadership in developing creative and effective programs to improve cultural diversity through a collaborative process with city officials, community leaders and residents. They also promote the positive results of “a total community collaboration.” This award program was founded by the National Black Caucus of

Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) and is implemented in cooperation with the National League of Cities to: 1) encourage citizen involvement in local government-sponsored activities; and 2) enhance and show the appreciation of cultural diversity as a way of life in our municipalities.

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