


**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-023
JANUARY 15, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
CEMETERY VANDALISM REPORT	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	DONALD TRIPP PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT	 ERIC A. ANDERSON CITY MANAGER

SYNOPSIS —

The Park and Recreation Board presents its recommendations for minimizing vandalism in the City's cemeteries, with specific attention to Woodland Cemetery.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The damage to the City's cemeteries from vandalism has not been historically charted. But, over the past three to five years, an annual value of approximately \$10,000 of materials and labor have been spent to re-position and repair upset monuments and other similar damage; additional concerns have been theft, fence tears, and graffiti. These and other expense issues could potentially be eliminated or greatly reduced if the recommendations are approved.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approve the recommendations of the vandalism report as presented.

BACKGROUND —

On May 15, 1995, following a costly act of vandalism at Woodland Cemetery, the City Council requested a comprehensive review of security issues in Woodland Cemetery. On June 16, 1995, the City Council received a staff report on Woodland Cemetery security in the form of a Council Letter presented by Acting City Manager Richard Clark. In that letter, Mr. Clark recommended that the matter be referred to the appropriate committees of the Park and Recreation Board, with a final recommendation to the City Council from the full Board.

The Park Board asked two committees (the standing Cemetery Committee and the ad hoc Cemetery Evaluation Committee) to review the staff document and report back to the full Board. Both committees met several times over the past six months on this and other cemetery-related business. By Resolution #11647, dated December 12, 1995, the Park Board received and approved the committees' reports. Attached to the roll call is an outline summary of the committees' comments and recommendations.