

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

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-419  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
BUDGET AMENDMENT—STAFF SUPPORT FOR COURT AVENUE DISTRICT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JAMES M. GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

A temporary, full-time Project Manager is requested for a period of two years to assist the Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department with economic development activities, including the Court Avenue District and other issues related to historic preservation. This staff person will also resolve historic clearance issues for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway Project and CDBG-funded projects. A budget adjustment is required.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Funding for this position is not included in the budget approved by Council on March 4, 1996. The estimated total cost for the Project Manager for a two-year period is \$126,600 (salary and benefits). Recommended funding for this position includes: \$80,000 in excess Hotel/Motel Tax revenues, \$42,000 federally-funded or CIP-budgeted revenues for historic clearance projects, and the balance from UDAG repayment.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Approval.

**BACKGROUND —**

The City Manager and Community Development Director recommend utilizing a temporary, full-time Project Manager to address a number of concerns existing staff cannot adequately cover. The Project Manager will assist the Economic Development Division with issues related to historic preservation, improvement and development of the Court Avenue District, and economic development activities. In addition, the Project Manager will resolve historic clearance issues associated with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway Project and with CDBG-funded projects. This action will require a budget adjustment.

On May 21, 1996, three members of the City Council met with the Court Avenue District Association to discuss several issues in the Court Avenue District which needed City attention. Issues ranged from improvements to the streetscape, amendments to the sign ordinance, and assigning a City employee as liaison to Court Avenue. Staff has begun working more closely with the Court Avenue District Association to solve short-term problems, but longer term planning and development issues are still outstanding in the District. The Project Manager will focus on these longer term issues to enable Court Avenue to become a vibrant residential/entertainment district.

One-time historic clearance issues have also arisen linked to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway Project. Documentation of structures, efforts toward house moving, and amendments to the Memorandum of Agreement need to be resolved in order for the highway project to continue. These are short-term and can be addressed in the next two years.