

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**98-382**

**SYNOPSIS —**

**AGENDA:**  
AUGUST 24, 1998

Approving Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Des Moines, Iowa, USA, and the City of Cherkasy, Ukraine; Establishing a US-Ukraine Community Partnership.

**SUBJECT:**

APPROVING  
MEMORANDUM OF  
UNDERSTANDING,  
ESTABLISHING A  
US-UKRAINE  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP

**FISCAL IMPACT –**

Unknown. The City of Des Moines agrees to provide ten days of paid leave for municipal employees involved in the program. Up to eight employees are expected to participate.

**TYPE:**  
**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**RECOMMENDATION –**

**Approval**

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
ERIC ANDERSON  
CITY MANAGER

**BACKGROUND –**

The City of Des Moines has been selected as one of only eighteen cities in the US to participate in the US/Ukraine Community Partnership program. The City is partnered with the Iowa Council for International Understanding (ICIU) who will administer the grant while the City will provide local government technical assistance.

**Purpose of the Program:**

To provide Cherkasy with a resource (our staff's expertise) to help them in their efforts to build and maintain democratic institutions in the new field of local government. Ukraine has been a sovereign nation for six years but only allowed local government for the last 12 months.

Our task is to provide technical assistance in the fields of:

- Budgeting
- Housing
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Citizen Participation

This program will mean traveling to the Ukraine for ten days, and, using a curriculum designed by the University of Texas at Tyler, brief our hosts on various American approaches to the areas mentioned above.

### **Flexible Itinerary:**

The first trip to Ukraine will be a planning expedition to map out the two-year program. This trip will include myself as the City's Chief Administrative Officer, Ann Schodde, Director of the ICIU, as the program administrator, and Mike Matthes, Management Analyst, acting as the program coordinator for the City.

The result of this first trip should be an outline of topic areas identified by Cherkasy, and, a general timeline for the appropriate technical assistance trips. The specific technical assistance trips will occur over the course of the next two years.

### **Highlights:**

All costs are paid for by ICIU through US/Ukraine Foundation. Staff is expected to receive normal pay when in Ukraine. Trips last ten days.

### **Benefits for Des Moines:**

The City of Des Moines will benefit mainly through the professional development inherent in international technical assistance exchanges. These experiences will provide a perspective on local government service provision unavailable in the United States.

A less tangible benefit is the stability this exchange may be able to provide to the very young democracy in Ukraine. This technical assistance is predicated on the belief that early technical assistance will create and stabilize democratic institutions. By providing this aid, we help build a lasting, peaceful relationship, and benefit from increased national security, and increased access to Europe's fourth largest

market.

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