

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

98-579

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

AGENDA:

SYNOPSIS -

Propose Council action to accept sole bidder for veterinary services at the Blank Park Zoo.

DECEMBER 21, 1998

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBJECT:

The base bid amount is \$1,250 per month for an annual cost of \$15,000 which is an increase of \$3,000 per year over last year. The additional cost for FY98-99 of \$1,750 will be absorbed in the currently approved budget.

BID FOR VETERINARY
SERVICES AT THE BLANK
PARK ZOO

TYPE:

RECOMMENDATION -

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

The duration of the contract is for one year and renewable for two additional years. The sole bidder is Dr. Dennis Riordan, who has been the Zoo's consulting veterinarian since 1987. The Purchasing Department sent letters to 13 local veterinarians inquiring why they did not respond to the bid. Their response was that they did not have the clinical experience for the specialized veterinary care required for exotic and native animals.

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARKS AND
RECREATION DIRECTOR

It requires many years of experience to maintain an effective exotic animal veterinary practice. Zoos customarily employ a staff veterinarian. However, the size of the Blank Park Zoo's animal collection does not warrant a full-time staff position which would cost in excess of \$100,000 per year.

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