

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

00-120

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

Temporary ordinance allowing the refund of permit fees for specific emergency repair programs funded by the Federal Home Loan Bank - Affordable Housing Program.

APRIL 3, 2000

SUBJECT:

FISCAL IMPACT -

TEMPORARY
ORDINANCE TO
ALLOW THE
REFUND OF PERMIT
FEES

It is expected this will reduce expected revenues in building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits by an estimated \$15,000.

TYPE:

RECOMMENDATION -

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

Approval.

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND -

On March 6, 2000, the City Council received a request from the Chesterfield and Laurel Hill Neighborhoods to waive permit fees for an emergency repair program they are seeking from the Federal Home Loan Bank-Affordable Housing program for emergency repairs to qualified properties in their area. Based on the grant application, the waiver of permit fees was one preferred qualification for grant applications and consideration. The City Council requested the Legal Department to prepare an ordinance to allow this waiver.

On March 27, 2000, the City Council approved the submittal for two grant applications prepared by the Community Development Department to the Federal Home Loan Bank to provide for emergency home repairs to low-income owner-occupied housing. In addition, it was requested and approved that permit fees for these projects be waived or refunded similar to the request from the Chesterfield and Laurel Hill

Neighborhoods.

Understanding these grant program funds are required to be expended by December 31, 2001, this suggested ordinance is written to expire by July 1, 2002. This ordinance allows building, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical permit fees to be refunded when these emergency repair programs are completed. When these permits are processed and issued, the matter of where the funding resources come from are generally not available and it was recognized that it would be very difficult to identify projects in these programs during the permit issuance. It is therefore suggested that these fees be refunded following the completion of these projects. This would allow the administrators of each of these programs to coordinate the refund requests and receive refunds directly back into their program allocations.