



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**00-197**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

MAY 1, 2000

Acceptance of an in-kind donation from Mid-Iowa Environmental Corporation (Lucille Leopold, President, 3009 S.W. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50315) to remove the asbestos in the basement of the Drake Municipal Observatory.

**SUBJECT:**

ASBESTOS  
REMOVAL FOR  
DRAKE MUNICIPAL  
OBSERVATORY

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

No fiscal impact for the City. Value of the donation is estimated at \$3,500.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD M. TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

**BACKGROUND -**

The Drake Municipal Observatory is owned by the City and operated by Drake University as a learning environment for students and the public. It was built in 1921 and is located at the west end of Observatory Road on the Waveland Park Golf Course (see Attachment A). In the past, the City has had the responsibility of maintaining the building's infrastructure while the University performed minor maintenance, supplied equipment, and provided an astronomer for public lectures and demonstrations.

In late summer of 1999, RDG Bussard Dikis, a local architectural design and planning firm, was commissioned by the City, in cooperation with Drake University, to record the building's history and current conditions, and recommend options for continued use of the structure. In an in-depth report called the Historic Structures Report, RDG Bussard Dikis identified, among other things, the presence of asbestos, a

hazardous material, within the boiler and related piping in the basement of the building. An Observatory Committee of Drake University employees, neighborhood activists, and City staff unanimously agreed that a first step toward the renovation of this locally designated landmark was to have the asbestos removed.

At the request of a citizen member of the Observatory Committee, Mid-Iowa Environmental Corporation (MIEC) proposed to donate the cost of removing the asbestos (see Attachment B). MIEC will furnish all labor, materials, disposal, and all required state and federal notifications, with copies furnished to the City at the completion of this project, at no charge to the City. MIEC will maintain, in effect during the period of time it is performing work under this proposal, the insurance coverage and required endorsements as required by the City's Risk Management Division (see Attachment C). MIEC is licensed by the State of Iowa and insured for hazardous material abatement.

Attachments