

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**00-277**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

JUNE 26, 2000

**SUBJECT:**

EPA BROWNFIELDS  
SHOWCASE  
COMMUNITY  
DESIGNATION

On the June 26, 2000 Council agenda is a roll call to reaffirm the City's commitment to pursue U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Showcase Community designation. This national award will empower the City to attract significant Federal resources for brownfields redevelopment projects. The City's Showcase Initiative proposes to focus on revitalization of the Riverpoint West area, continued redevelopment of the Des Moines Agribusiness Park and reinvestment on infill sites in the Enterprise Community. Each area is located in an Enterprise Zone and has excellent redevelopment potential. Ellen Walkowiak with the City's Office of Economic Development is coordinating the City activities relative to this project.

**TYPE:**

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

N/A.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

ERIC A. ANDERSON  
CITY MANAGER

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND -**

On April 17, 2000, by Roll Call No. 00-150, the City Council authorized staff to pursue EPA Brownfields Showcase Community designation, which submitted an application for consideration. On June 7, 2000, EPA informed the City that it successfully competed with 112 communities nationwide and is one of 32 finalists in the national Brownfields Showcase Communities competition.

The Brownfields Showcase Communities designation is extremely important in advancing the City's redevelopment efforts. Benefits

include:

- National visibility for Des Moines' brownfields redevelopment activities;

- Coordinated delivery of technical and financial support from approximately 21 Federal agencies;

- Priority for Federal financial assistance including loans and grants to facilitate brownfields redevelopment projects; and

- Staff support in the form of a Federal employee assigned to the City to assist with brownfields project coordination and implementation activities.

The City is required to submit a detailed application by July 10, 2000 to EPA. Ten (10) Brownfields Showcase Communities will be added to the 16 existing ones on October 11, 2000 at the Brownfields 2000 Conference. Des Moines has excellent potential of being selected.