

## Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**01-113**

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

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

MARCH 12, 2001

**SUBJECT:**

PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES FOR  
BROWNFIELDS  
SHOWCASE  
COMMUNITY AND  
RELATED PROJECTS

On the March 12, 2001 Council agenda is a roll call to employ Spiegel & McDiarmid, a Washington, DC law firm, to assist in securing federal funds, provide legal services, and foster strategic alliances between the City and federal administration leaders to facilitate brownfields redevelopment and related projects throughout Des Moines. Key brownfields projects include redevelopment of the Agribusiness Park, Riverpoint West, and various sites in the Federal Enterprise Community.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

Spiegel & McDiarmid's specialized expertise will be used primarily to assist the City in accessing extensive capital and technical resources to effect successful redevelopment. The City Attorney concurs with the City Manager's recommendation that Spiegel & McDiarmid should be employed. Ellen Walkowiak with the City's Office of Economic Development is coordinating the City activities relative to this project.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

ERIC A. ANDERSON  
CITY MANAGER

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

Professional services are estimated not to exceed \$25,000 for a one-year period. Funding is being provided in the 2000-2001 budget.

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND -**

In October 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the City of Des Moines a national Brownfields Showcase Community. The City is one of only 28 communities nationwide with this prestigious designation. As such, it confers

special benefits, including priority for federal funding from several agencies. However, grant opportunities must still be pursued and applications submitted to secure federal investment.

The City has worked successfully with the law firm of Spiegel & McDiarmid during the last year to obtain the Brownfields Showcase Community designation. Existing relationships with federal agencies were enhanced. New partnerships are being formed. Significant untapped funding opportunities await the City for a variety of projects that will assist in brownfields redevelopment and improving the quality of life throughout the community.

By working with Spiegel & McDiarmid, the City will be able to enhance its ability to attract the capital and technical assistance needed for its projects. Local resources can be used to leverage additional investment more effectively.

The professional services to be provided by Spiegel & McDiarmid include the governmental affairs and legal services listed below.

- Developing and implementing a strategy to secure Congressional appropriations during Fiscal Year (FY) 2002. The strategy will involve identifying Congressional funding opportunities, drafting appropriations request letters, working closely with Des Moines' Congressional offices, and facilitating meetings with key decision-makers in Washington, DC.
- Identifying specific federal agency grant opportunities related to the City's various brownfields redevelopment and related projects and providing recommendations to obtain funding.
- Building relationships with the new Bush Administration leaders at EPA, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Environmental Development Association (EDA), Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal agencies to maximize funding opportunities.
- Creating opportunities to enhance Des Moines' reputation as a national leader in community revitalization in order to promote the City's objectives.
- Providing federal regulatory and legal assistance as needed to ensure successful implementation of projects.

The firm has specialized expertise. It coordinates the Brownfields Showcase Community Network for the EPA and has developed extensive networks with federal agencies. Its knowledge of federal officials and programs will be very beneficial in advancing the City's community revitalization goals.

City staff will lead the effort to pursue federal funding opportunities and to develop new strategic alliances. Spiegel & McDiarmid will provide the support needed to enhance the City's capabilities in successfully leveraging resources for brownfields redevelopment and related projects.