

Meeting Agendas/Info

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

ITEM _____

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

01-517

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

Amending the Municipal Code to allow for wildlife control on Airport property.

OCTOBER 8, 2001

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBJECT:

Wildlife hazard control measures have been a part of the operation of the Des Moines International Airport for some time. Although there will be a continuing expense to the operating budget, a significant increase in expense is not anticipated.

AMENDING
MUNICIPAL CODE
TO ALLOW FOR
WILDLIFE
CONTROL ON
AIRPORT
PROPERTY

RECOMMENDATION -

On September 5, 2001 by Resolution No. A01-277, the Des Moines International Airport Board recommended that City Council amend the City Code to allow the Airport to conduct an effective Wildlife Hazard Management Program, and that the Council waive the second and third readings of the ordinance.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

BACKGROUND-

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM F.
FLANNERY
AVIATION
DIRECTOR

Collisions between aircraft and wildlife are a concern throughout the world because they threaten passenger safety, result in loss of revenue, costly repairs to aircraft, and can erode public confidence in the air transportation industry as a whole. Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139 prescribes the certification standards for commercial service airports, and the requirement that the airport operator take the appropriate actions to address wildlife hazards on the airport. Wildlife hazard management at the Des Moines International Airport has included the construction and maintenance of chain link fencing, the elimination of wildlife habitat, trapping, hazing and other measures up to and including lethal control. These procedures have been developed in consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of

Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Management agencies have included the Aviation Department, Des Moines Police Department Animal Control Unit and USDA Wildlife Service.

For the past several years, the Airport has used the USDA Wildlife Service extensively for wildlife management and to conduct a Wildlife Hazard Assessment for the Airport. The assessment included providing baseline information on the wildlife populations on and around the Airport. The assessment also provided recommendations to address the management of the wildlife hazards on and around the Airport.

As a result of the Wildlife Assessment, and as required by FAR 139, the Airport is developing a formal Wildlife Hazard Management Plan. The Management Plan calls for review of applicable City ordinances and regulations. It was discovered that the Municipal Code restricts wildlife control procedures on all City property, including the airport, and that code amendments are necessary to enable the Airport to conduct an effective wildlife hazard control program.

Therefore, a new provision, Section 22-101, is to be added to the Municipal Code that prohibits hunting on Airport property except upon written permission of the Aviation Director. It is intended that the USDA Wildlife Services will continue to be the only entity authorized to provide wildlife control or hunting on Airport controlled property pursuant to Section 22-101 and in accordance with federal regulations and requirements. The Des Moines Police Department Animal Control Unit will continue to provide assistance when necessary. Also other sections of City Code will be amended to recognize that hunting on the Airport is prohibited, except as part of a wildlife hazard control program, as authorized by the Aviation Director pursuant to Section 22-101. The executive summary of the wildlife assessment is attached.

Attachment
