



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

02-054

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JANUARY 28, 2002

Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Society of Iowa detailing how the City will mitigate adverse effects of the demolition of 401 SE 6th -- Irwin Chemical, on historic, architectural and archaeologically significant properties.

SUBJECT:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR HISTORIC RESOURCES ON DEMOLITION OF 401 SE 6TH -- IRWIN CHEMICAL BUILDING

FISCAL IMPACT -

Implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement for the property will cost \$4,999 using Community Development Block Grant dollars.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement.

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

BACKGROUND -

The use of federal funds for demolition requires an historic/architectural evaluation of the property to be demolished and its impact on historic and architecturally resources. This is generically referred to as a Section 106 review, named after the section of the federal code that details the review process. Section 106 was approved as a part of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The entire process is included in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800.

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

As a part of the evaluation process, the building at 401 SE 6th Street was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The building was originally Curtis School first built in 1874 with additions added in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. The school was historically significant because of its contribution to the development of the East Side of Des Moines and its school district. The building is also the oldest extant school in Des Moines.

Because of the building's condition, there is no feasible or prudent alternative to demolition. City staff has met with the staff of the State Historic Society of Iowa to develop measures that will mitigate any adverse impacts the demolition of the building will have. The mitigation measures in the Memorandum of Agreement attached to the Roll Call between the City of Des Moines and State Historic Society of Iowa include:

- Record the exterior of the property at 401 SE 6th Street to the Iowa Historic Property Standards, Appendix C Commercial Buildings. Because of the condition of this building, an interior survey can not be allowed.
- Produce a reproducible report on the history and development of the East Side School District.
- If the City of Des Moines takes ownership of the building and site, decorative gingerbread work in the front gable and at least one cast iron lintel from the original building should be salvaged during the demolition.

Executing the Memorandum of Agreement and implementing each of the steps will insure that the city has satisfied federal requirements on protecting historic, architectural and archaeologically significant properties.
