



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**02-077**

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

**AGENDA:**

FEBRUARY 4, 2002

**SYNOPSIS -**

An application nominating the following buildings for local landmark status was submitted for consideration by the City of Des Moines: Investment Building (AIB), 1004 Grand Avenue; Masonic Temple, 1011 Locust Street; Public Library of Des Moines, 100 Locust Street; Western Truck and Auto Company Building (The Dive Shop), 1213 Locust Street; Mutual Telephone Company of Des Moines (the Door of Faith), 1006 Grand. As defined by City ordinance, the process for consideration of local landmark status for a building involves a recommendation from the Historic District Commission and the Plan and Zoning Commission to the City Council who makes the final decision.

**SUBJECT**

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION - INVESTMENT BUILDING (AIB), MASONIC TEMPLE, PUBLIC LIBRARY OF DES MOINES, WESTERN TRUCK AND AUTO COMPANY BUILDING, MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF DES MOINES

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

N/A

**TYPE:**

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Staff recommends denial of local landmark designation for the Western Truck and Auto Company Building, the Mutual Telephone Company of Des Moines, and the Investment Building (AIB) based upon inconsistency with the Gateway West Framework Plan and on the City Council's decision to issue a contract for demolition for the Investment Building.**

**RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE**

**Staff recommends denial of the local landmark designation for the Masonic Temple and for the Public Library of Des Moines based upon the contract provisions between the City of Des Moines and the owner of the Masonic Temple and future owner of the Public Library of Des Moines which provides for a greater level of review and protection than would local landmark status. The City has indicated its intent to offer the Public Library for sale subject to a number of requirements to protect the integrity of the building and its riverfront location. These requirements will obligate the**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JAMES GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

**successful bidder to make a minimum \$5 million investment and that the renovation and rehabilitation work meet the U.S. Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, also referred to as the Standards for the Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.**

**The current development of the Masonic Temple is required to follow the U.S. Secretary of Interior's standards for the Treatment of the Historic Properties as overseen by the State Historic Preservation Office.**

**The architectural plans of the Masonic Temple and the Public Library of Des Moines are also reviewed by the Urban Renewal Board and the Architectural Advisory Committee. The Masonic Temple will additionally be reviewed by the Gateway Steering Committee. Adding another layer of review by the Historic District Commission would make the process unduly complicated and redundant.**

**Historic District Commission and Plan and Zoning Commission letters are attached to the roll calls.**

#### **BACKGROUND -**

On November 28, 2001, the Historic District Commission recommended in favor of local landmark status for the Investment Building (AIB).

On December 19, 2001, the Historic District Commission recommended in favor of local landmark status for the Public Library of Des Moines, the Western Truck and Auto Company Building, the Mutual Telephone Company, and the Masonic Temple.

On January 17, 2002, the Plan and Zoning Commission recommended in favor of local landmark status for the Investment Building, the Masonic Temple, and the Public Library of Des Moines. They recommended against local landmark status for the Mutual Telephone Company of Des Moines and the Western Truck and Auto Company Building.

On January 18, 2002, the City Council, by Roll Call No. 02-145 voted to deny a reconsideration of the demolition of the AIB Building.

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