

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

02-258

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

AGENDA:

MAY 20, 2002

SYNOPSIS -

SUBJECT:

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES FOR
BROWNFIELDS
SHOWCASE
COMMUNITY AND
RELATED
PROJECTS

On the May 20, 2002 Council agenda is a resolution to continue 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. Brownfields projects include redevelopment of the Agrimergent Technology Park, Riverpoint West, and various sites especially in industrialized areas of the community. Related projects include Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Parkway and Interstate 235 (I-235) storm sewer work.

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 \$40,000 for a one-year period. Funding is being provided in the 2001-2002 budget from a variety of sources including sanitary sewer, storm sewer, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and economic development.

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, Congressional appropriations and 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 two years. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, the firm helped the City to obtain the Brownfields Showcase Community designation and \$1.2 million in Congressional appropriations for the Riverpoint West, as well as the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, feasibility study. In FY2002, it assisted the City in securing nearly \$3 million in Congressional appropriations for the Agrimergent Technology Park and I-235 storm sewer outlets. Existing relationships with federal agencies and staff were strengthened. 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 continuing to work with Spiegel & McDiarmid, the City will 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 FY2003. 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, providing recommendations to obtain funding, and helping to secure the support of senior Administration and key Congressional officials for Des Moines' funding applications.
- “ Building stronger relationships with the new 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.
- “ 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 project implementation.

The firm has specialized expertise. It coordinates the Brownfields Showcase Community Network for the EPA and has developed extensive relationships 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.
