

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

03-301

AGENDA:

JUNE 23, 2003

SUBJECT:

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES FOR
COMMUNITY
REVITALIZATION
AND RELATED
PROJECTS

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

ERIC A. ANDERSON
CITY MANAGER

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS —

On the June 23, 2003 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 community revitalization and related projects throughout Des Moines. Community revitalization projects include redevelopment of the Agrimergent Technology Park, Riverpoint West, and various sites, especially in industrialized areas of the community as well as the Riverwalk. Related projects include Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Parkway, downtown sanitary sewer, Graphic Information System (GIS), and homeland security work.

Spiegel & McDiarmid's specialized expertise will be used primarily to assist the City in accessing extensive capital and technical resources to effect successful projects. 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.

FISCAL IMPACT —

Professional services are estimated not to exceed \$20,000, including expenses, for a six-month period. Funding is being provided from the benchmarking and training fund.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

The City has worked successfully with the law firm of Spiegel & McDiarmid during the last three 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 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 Interstate 235 (I-235) storm sewer outlets. Existing relationships with federal agencies and staff were strengthened. In FY2003, Spiegel & McDiarmid helped the City to obtain approximately \$6 million in

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Congressional appropriations for the MLK Parkway, Agrimergent Technology Park, I-235 storm water infrastructure, the Riverwalk, the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers feasibility study, and GIS Homeland Security.

Significant untapped funding opportunities await the City for a variety of projects that will assist in economic development, installing transportation and other infrastructure, homeland security, 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 FY2004. 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. This process is well under way.
- Developing and implementing a strategy to secure funding in the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill. The strategy will include follow-up related to the detailed project funding requests the City submitted to ensure that Des Moines' priorities are included in the final bill.
- Identifying specific federal agency grant opportunities related to the City's various economic development, community revitalization, homeland security 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 Administration leaders at the Environmental Protection Agency (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.
- Monitoring national legislation especially related to shaping the new Water Resources Development Act, which will authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct studies and build projects; and to influencing reauthorization of the new transportation bill, which will fund road and transit projects.
- 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 community revitalization, homeland security, and related projects.