



Agenda Item:

57

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 1/9/06
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 06-009
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Richard Clark, Acting City Manager

SUBJECT—

Approval of and authorization to execute federal documents to apply for an EPA Grant related to the promotion and implementation of best practices for auto salvage yards

SYNOPSIS—

This action will authorize the Mayor to execute federal documents to access a \$30,000 EPA grant to identify and disseminate best practices for auto salvage yards to Des Moines owners/operators and to those within a 60-mile radius of Des Moines. The City anticipates partnering with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, auto salvage yard businesses and others to reduce the long-term potential for environmental contamination and to improve community beautification.

FISCAL IMPACT—

EPA requires that the City contribute at least 10% of the total project cost of \$33,000. City staff will provide \$3,000 of in-kind services.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

BACKGROUND—

On December 1, 2005, EPA Region VII in Kansas City held a conference call to discuss the application process for Regional Environmental Priorities Project EPA grants in amounts up to \$30,000. Applications were due by December 23, 2005. On December 21, 2005, the City of Des Moines submitted a \$30,000 EPA grant application for a program to identify and disseminate best practices for auto salvage yards to Des Moines owners/operators and to those within a 60-mile radius of Des Moines.

EPA staff with expertise in its community-based environmental protection program is in process of reviewing the grant applications. EPA will make the final funding decision by January 10, 2006.

Addressing environmental issues associated with auto salvage yards is a national issue. Code compliance is and has been the most commonly used method to resolve these concerns, but its effectiveness has been limited. With this funding the City of Des Moines and its partners would create a new business model to protect the environment. This new approach would demonstrate that environmental stewardship and business competitiveness are mutually beneficial.