



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

April 10, 2006

Agenda Item No. 48

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-194

Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, City Manager

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Memorandum of Understanding continuing the partnership between the Cities of Des Moines, Iowa, USA, and Cherkasy, Ukraine.

SYNOPSIS:

Since 1998, the City of Des Moines has participated in a program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which endeavors to create partnerships between U.S. and Ukrainian cities. This action would reaffirm the partnership between Des Moines and Cherkasy, Ukraine through the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Unknown cost elements include:

- paid leave for employees selected to travel to Ukraine
- local transportation for visiting officials of Cherkasy
- all other costs will be paid by outside sources

Funding Source: No additional direct costs will be incurred. Costs of paid leave for participating employees will be covered by individual departmental 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 Operating Budgets.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Memorandum of Understanding continues the partnership between the City of Des Moines, Iowa, USA and the City of Cherkasy, Ukraine, for two years. If approved, the City of Des Moines and the City of Cherkasy would explore the following areas of public policy:

- Public Health
- Housing and Communal Services
- Economic Development
- Environment
- Energy Conservation
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Education

- Culture

Each City would agree to:

- Provide paid release time and institutional support for municipal officials selected by the respective City Managers to participate in the training and educational activities.
- Encourage the achievement of the objectives outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement.
- Welcome visitors from the partner city, providing local transportation and training sites.
- Provide an open and supportive training environment for visitors.
- Provide open and free access to municipal activities in the visitors' areas of interest.

Travel and related expenses would be paid for by grant programs or other outside sources under the auspices of the US/Ukraine Foundation.

All decisions relating to receiving visitors or traveling to Ukraine are placed in the purview of the City Manager, using current travel policies. The City Manager will consider, among other things, the costs of local transportation and employee time and materials involved in training activities, safety of employees, and the public purpose served, as the work of the partnership proceeds. This partnership does not obligate the City of Des Moines, or the City Manager to any course of action, or expense.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 24, 1998

Roll Call Number: 98-2741

Action: Memorandum of Understanding with City of Cherkasy, Ukraine, establishing a US-Ukraine Community Partnership. (Council Communication No. 98-382). Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Daniels.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

Date:

Roll Call Number:

Action:

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

The term of this agreement lasts for two years. It is anticipated that, should the partnership be fruitful, reaffirmation of the agreement would be sought.