



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

July 10, 2006

Agenda Item No. 47

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-415

Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, City Manager

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving contract extension with the Ferguson Group to consult and perform services that will facilitate transportation, economic development, community revitalization, homeland security and related projects in the City of Des Moines.

SYNOPSIS:

Council is requested to extend the contract with the Ferguson Group (Kenneth A. Brown, Principal, 1130 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036) for three months to assist in securing Federal funds, provide governmental affairs services and strategic advice, and build key relationships with Federal decision-makers to facilitate community revitalization and related projects throughout Des Moines. Community revitalization projects include redevelopment of Riverpoint West, the Agrimergent Technology Park and the Riverwalk. Related projects include the SE Connector, I-235, trails, storm sewer, GIS, emergency service interoperability and other homeland security work. The Ferguson Group's specialized expertise will be used primarily to assist the City in accessing extensive capital and technical resources to effect successful projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$5,000/month plus approximately \$2,000 for expenses for a three-month contract period of July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006, not to exceed a total of \$17,000.

Funding Source: Operating Budget – Page 349
City Wide Training and Benchmarking Fund (SP720 HRS980100).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City has worked successfully with the Ferguson Group. In 2005, the firm assisted the City in securing nearly \$35 million for highway and related projects in the Transportation Reauthorization Bill as well as \$7 million in appropriations funding for transportation, storm sewer, the Riverwalk and redevelopment.

On June 30, 2006, the City's contract with the Ferguson Group ended. The City is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals for Federal government affairs consulting services. The City anticipates entering into a new contract by October 1, 2006 with either the Ferguson Group or another firm. Congress is in the process of working on FY 2007 appropriations. Consequently, it is important to retain the Ferguson Group from July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006 to continue current lobbying efforts.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 23, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-173

Action: Employment of Ferguson Group to consult and perform services to facilitate transportation, economic development, community revitalization, homeland security and related projects for a period of January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006. ([Council Communication No. 06-023](#)) Moved by Brooks to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NA

Date: NA

Roll Call Number: NA

Action: NA

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Council will be requested to enter into a long-term contract for Federal government affairs consulting services by October 1, 2006.