

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: July 11, 2016
	Agenda Item No. 34 Roll Call No. <u>16-1135</u> Communication No. <u>16-382</u> Submitted by: Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Professional Services Agreement with Vital Neighborhoods Consulting, LLC to provide technical assistance on strategies for addressing vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Vital Neighborhoods Consulting, LLC, James J. Kelly Jr., Principal, 132 Marquette Avenue, South Bend, IN, for a total cost not to exceed \$14,675, based on hourly rates, to provide technical assistance on more effectively addressing vacant and blighted properties in Des Moines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$14,675

Funding Source: Operating Budget, Page 57, Grants, Community Development Block Grants, Monitoring

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties are a serious issue that threaten the health of many of Des Moines’ neighborhoods. Taking a more proactive and coordinated approach to addressing this issue has been recommended by the Capital Crossroads Neighborhood Improvement Plan, PlanDSM, and GuideDSM.
- On May 27, 2016, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services was issued to identify a qualified consultant to provide technical assistance to more effectively address vacant and blighted properties on a citywide scale as well as through targeted neighborhood revitalization efforts. One (1) proposal was received in response to the RFP. A selection committee composed of staff from the Neighborhood Development Division and Neighborhood Inspection Division reviewed the proposal and determined that Vital Neighborhoods Consulting, LLC has the appropriate qualifications and expertise, approach to the project, and prior experience working with communities on this issue.
- The scope of services will include a site visit and meetings with elected officials and staff from the City of Des Moines and Polk County as well as other relevant stakeholders to determine the root causes leading to vacant and blighted properties in our community, inform elected officials

and City/county staff on the direct and indirect costs associated with the problem, assess current local policies, systems and practices, and recommend an implementation plan. A return visit is included to present findings and the final report recommendations.

- Staff has negotiated a Professional Services Agreement with Vital Neighborhoods Consulting, LLC for a total cost not to exceed \$14,675, based on hourly rates and travel expenses, to provide technical assistance resulting in a cohesive set of strategies for proactively addressing the issues of vacancy and blight.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Receive and file final report.

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