


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>24-057</b>	Meeting:	<b>February 5, 2024</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>17</b>	Roll Call:	<b>24-0179</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director; Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer; and Cody Christensen, Development Services Director</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Set hearing for approval of documents for the vacation of a portion of the Masonic Temple Cemetery, located southwest and interior to the intersection of 48th Street and Franklin Avenue, and conveyance to ChildServe Habilitation Center, Inc. for the purchase price of \$600,000.

## SYNOPSIS:

The City of Des Moines took title and possession of the Des Moines Masonic Cemetery in January 2024 through a process of voluntary transfer. Staff recommends approval of these actions to vacate and convey approximately 5 acres of the recently acquired 40 acre cemetery to ChildServe Habilitation Center, Inc. (ChildServe). The area to be vacated and conveyed is located in an unused portion of the cemetery at the north end of the property.

ChildServe is proposing the construction of a 20,000 square-foot facility to provide childcare, outpatient services, and related services to children with special healthcare needs. Proceeds from the sale will fund improvements and maintenance of the cemetery.

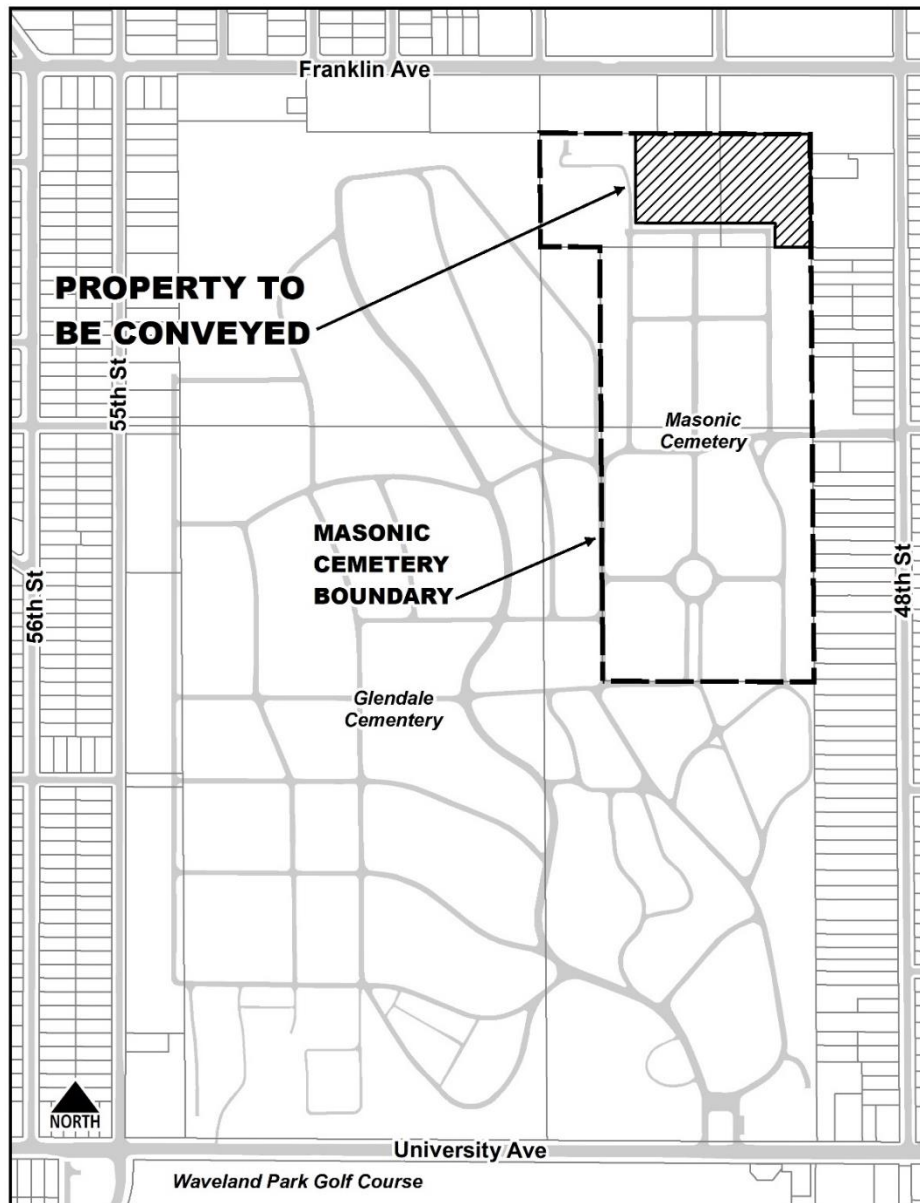
## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$600,000 (Revenue)

Funding Source: Land sale proceeds will be deposited into the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 75, Cemetery Infrastructure and Improvements, PK138

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In 2023, the Masonic Cemetery Association requested transfer of ownership, management, and assets to the City through a voluntary transfer, a process recommended by the Iowa Insurance Division which oversees Perpetual Care Cemeteries through the Iowa Cemetery Act.
- The portion of the cemetery proposed for vacation and conveyance is considered to be excess land that is not needed for future cemetery operations.



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: July 17, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0982](#)

Action: [Accepting](#) transfer of ownership and control of Des Moines Masonic Cemetery from Cemetery Board of Directors and dedication of the property located at 1550 48th Street as Cemetery. ([Council Communication No. 23-335](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Hold Public Hearing on Vacation of Parkland and Conveyance.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).