



Agenda Item:

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## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 7/12/04  
343

Communication No.: 04-

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No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Eric A. Anderson, City Manager

### SUBJECT—

Approving Employment of Spiegel & McDiarmid to consult and perform services that will facilitate Economic Development, Community Revitalization, Homeland Security and Related Projects in the City of Des Moines

### SYNOPSIS—

Council is requested to continue to employ Spiegel & McDiarmid, a Washington, DC law firm, to assist in securing Federal funds, provide governmental affairs, legal services and strategic advice, and foster alliances between the City and Federal Administration leaders to facilitate community revitalization and related projects throughout Des Moines. Community revitalization projects include redevelopment of Riverpoint West, the Agrimergent Technology Park, and various sites especially in industrialized areas of the community as well as the Riverwalk. Related projects include the SE Connector, I-235, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), emergency service interoperability and other homeland security work. Spiegel & McDiarmid's specialized expertise will be used primarily to assist the City in accessing extensive capital and technical resources to effect successful projects. The City Attorney concurs with the City Manager's recommendation that Spiegel & McDiarmid should be employed.

**FISCAL IMPACT—**

Professional services are estimated not to exceed \$60,000, including expenses, for an 18-month contract period of July 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005. Funding is being provided from the Economic Development Enterprise Fund (SP743 CMO980717).

**RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval.

**BACKGROUND—**

The City has worked successfully with the law firm of Spiegel & McDiarmid during the last four years. In FY 2001, the firm helped the City to obtain the Brownfields Showcase Community designation and \$1.2 million in Congressional appropriations for Riverpoint West as well as the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers feasibility study. In FY 2002, it assisted the City in securing nearly \$3 million in Congressional appropriations for the Agrimergent Technology Park and I-235 storm sewer outlets. Existing relationships with Federal agencies and staff were strengthened. In FY 2003, Spiegel & McDiarmid helped the City to obtain approximately \$6 million in Congressional appropriations for MLK Jr. Parkway, the Agrimergent Technology Park, I-235 storm water infrastructure, the Riverwalk, the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers feasibility study and GIS Homeland Security. In FY 2004, it assisted the City in securing \$4.5 million in Congressional appropriations for MLK Jr. Parkway, the Riverwalk, the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers feasibility study and law enforcement technology.

Funding opportunities await the City for a variety of projects that will assist in enabling economic development, improving transportation and other infrastructure, supporting homeland security and advancing the community's quality of life. By continuing to work with Spiegel & McDiarmid, the City will enhance its ability to attract the capital and technical assistance needed. Local resources can be used to leverage additional investment more effectively.

The professional services to be provided by Spiegel & McDiarmid include the following:

- Developing and implementing a strategy to obtain Congressional appropriations during FY 2005. The strategy will involve identifying Congressional funding opportunities, drafting appropriations request letters, working closely with Des Moines' Congressional offices, facilitating meetings and following up with key decision makers. This process is well under way.
- Developing and implementing a strategy to secure funding in the transportation reauthorization bill. The firm has helped the City obtain a total of \$22 million for I-235, the SE Connector and the Riverwalk in the House version of the bill. It will continue to ensure that the maximum funding for the City's priority projects is included in the final bill.
- Developing and implementing a strategy to obtain funding in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) reauthorization bill. The firm will continue to seek authorization

in the WRDA bill for construction related to the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers Flood Prevention Project.

- Identifying specific Federal agency grant opportunities related to the City's various economic development, community revitalization, homeland security and related projects, providing recommendations to obtain funding and helping to secure the support of senior Administration and key Congressional officials for Des Moines' funding applications.
- Creating opportunities to enhance Des Moines' reputation as a national leader in community revitalization in order to promote the City's objectives.
- Monitoring national legislation of interest to the City, especially related to new brownfields-related, Homeland Security and water and sewer infrastructure funding proposals.
- Providing Federal regulatory and legal assistance as needed to ensure successful project implementation.

The firm has specialized expertise. It coordinates the new Brownfields Community Network for the EPA and has developed extensive relationships with Federal agencies. Its knowledge of Federal officials and programs will be very beneficial in advancing the City's community revitalization goals.

City staff will lead the effort to pursue Federal funding opportunities and to develop new strategic alliances. In order to minimize consultant costs, City staff will do more upfront work. Spiegel & McDiarmid will provide the support needed to enhance the City's capabilities in leveraging resources.