Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Public Works

Date: October 19, 2008

To: Honorable Scott Benson, Chair - Health Energy and Environment Committee

Referral: Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair - Ways & Means Committee

Subject: **Request for Proposals – Solar Development and Solar Services**

Recommendation:

The proper City officials are authorized to issue a Request for Proposals for Solar Development and Solar Services at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 2nd Avenue South.

Previous Directives:

June 26, 2009 – Council directed staff to formally request the Renewable Development Fund Board and the Public Utilities Commission to re-designate the grant award to the City as a sole recipient. Further, that staff be directed to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to qualified parties. The issuance of the RFP will be subject to review and approval by the Permanent Review Committee.

Prepared by: Greg Goeke, Director of Property Services 673-2706

Approved by:

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Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Greg Goeke, Director of Property Services

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval **_X_**	Date **_10/08/2009_**
Civil Rights Approval	Approval **_NA_**	Date _____
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval **_NA_**	Date _____

Financial Impact

Other financial impact – Drafting of the RFP and evaluating the Proposals will require the use of consultants. Costs will be paid out of existing funding in Fund 6200 Department 6800330 (Energy Management).

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification:
City Goals: **Enriched Environment**
Comprehensive Plan:
Zoning Code:

Background/Supporting Information

The proposed project is envisioned to install up to 600 kW of direct current (DC) solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof of the Minneapolis Convention Center and will be the largest PV installation in the state of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region. The system will have the potential to produce 800,000 Kw of renewable electric energy on a yearly basis.

The PV systems would be owned and operated by the developer and privately financed. The City would purchase the energy and related solar services.

The City has formally requested being re-designated as the sole recipient of $2,000,000 in grant funding from the Renewable Development Fund (RDF) to offset the capital costs for this project and has received permission (September 14, 2009 from the RDF Board) to seek a solar developer through this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The re-designation and approval of the grant are subject to the review and approval from the Office of Energy Security and the Public Utilities Commission. The grant, as well as the existing Federal Tax Incentives for renewable energy, was envisioned to make the project financially feasible without any capital investment by the City.

Therefore, staff recommends that proper City officers are authorized to issue a RFP for this project.

Cc: Chris Larson
Emily Stern
Brian Millberg
Corey Conover