

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT FOR VISTA COST SHARE**

**BACKGROUND:**

As a result of the Inclusiveness Task Force formed by the Mayor during 2008, an effort called Ames Community Conversations on Diversity evolved. Citizens and representatives of various businesses and governmental bodies have been meeting and accomplishing projects which have furthered the goals of acceptance and inclusiveness in our community. Among the projects accomplished are Strengthening Neighborhoods' acquisition and debut of the Street'N'Greet block party trailer, the One Community United Ames "Youth Motto and Logo Competition," the Welcome Fest, and the coordination of AmeZone.

All of these efforts have been facilitated by AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers provided through the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. Adam Cotton and Laura Logsdon have been the VISTA volunteers assigned to the Community Conversation's efforts. In order to receive the services of the VISTA volunteers, a commitment of \$2,000 was made to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission out of the 2008-09 City Manager's Office budget. The work of the VISTA volunteers has occurred over portions of two fiscal years. As the 2008/09 budget has expired, the City Council is being asked to amend the current year's City Manager's budget by \$2,000 and to approve payment to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for the services by the VISTA volunteers over the past several months. It should be noted that this \$2,000 is only a small percentage of the total cost of the Ames VISTA program, and that the bulk of the funding has been provided by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. Our thanks go to Ralph Rosenberg and his staff.

These interns will continue with us into the fall and have provided outstanding support to the various subcommittees of the Community Conversations on Diversity.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council can authorize an amendment to the City Manager's Office budget for 2009-2010 by adding \$2,000, and approve the payment to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for the services by the VISTA volunteers.
2. The City Council can not authorize the amendment of the City Manager's Office budget for 2009-2010 and direct staff to identify other sources of funding for the current year.

**MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION:**

These VISTA interns have provided an invaluable service in support of the City Council’s goals to promote “One community” and strengthen our neighborhoods. The value of their contributions far exceeds the dollar amount invested by the City.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1, amending the City Manager’s budget for 2009-2010 by increasing it \$2,000 and approving the payment to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for the services by the VISTA volunteers. This will fulfill the City’s commitment to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in securing the assistance of the VISTA volunteers for our community.