

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: JINGLE BELL RUN/WALK FOR ARTHRITIS

BACKGROUND:

The Arthritis Foundation is proposing to hold the 3rd annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk on Sunday, December 7, 2013, beginning at 9:15 a.m. and concluding by noon. The event includes a 5K run and a fun run/walk. This year, the event will take place around the Ames Middle School, utilizing the same route as Run for the Roses.

In order to facilitate the race, organizers are requesting the closure of the westbound lane of Mortensen Road, from State Avenue to Dotson Drive, from approximately 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Runners will transition to the shared use path just east of the Middle School, and the road will be reopened as soon as the last participant is through.

The CyRide red route enters the Middle School turnaround at 9:06 and leaves on the westbound lane of Mortensen at approximately 9:11. Organizers will move the barricades for the bus to ensure that it remains on schedule, and the race will begin shortly after CyRide is through.

The Police Department has reviewed the race plans and is not requiring any off-duty officers for this event. Public Works will provide barricades, cones, and message boards for the race.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the request to close Mortensen Road as detailed above.
2. Direct staff to find an alternate location for the event.
3. Do not approve the request.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The 2011 and 2012 Jingle Bell Runs were both successful events Downtown. By moving the event to the new location, the race can grow in size while affecting fewer adjacent businesses.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the designated street closure for the 3rd annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk.