

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF AMES REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND FIREWORKS PERMIT

BACKGROUND:

The Young Professionals of Ames (YPA) plans to host the community's Independence Day fireworks display on July 3, 2014. The fireworks will be fired from ISU Lot G7 near the ISU intramural softball fields beginning at dusk (approximately 9:00 p.m.). YPA has identified July 5 as a rain date. J&M Displays, the display operator for the past several years, has again been contracted to conduct the shoot. This is the second year YPA has organized this activity.

The City Council will recall that, by contract, the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) must use a portion of its Hotel/Motel Tax revenues to finance certain activities, specifically including the Fourth of July fireworks display. In previous years, this event was not reviewed by City staff's Special Events Committee, but was instead brought directly to the City Council for approval of the fireworks permit.

During the fireworks display, thousands of residents and visitors gather in the Jack Trice Stadium parking lots across from the fireworks launch site. ISU has neither encouraged nor prohibited the public from using these lots as a viewing area. Following the 2013 fireworks display, the City received complaints from residents regarding the lack of traffic control at the conclusion of the fireworks display. Because of these complaints, and due to the anticipated larger crowd for the sesquicentennial activities, City staff and ISU staff met with YPA on April 2.

City staff relayed the complaints that have been received and requested that YPA manage the fireworks as a comprehensive event, including making provisions for traffic control. ISU staff indicated that it has had challenges with trash, alcohol consumption, and use of illegal fireworks in the lots during the display. **City staff requested that YPA pay for two community safety officers to help with traffic control on City streets after the event at a cost of \$200. ISU Police requested that YPA pay for four ISU patrol officers and two community safety officers at a cost of \$1,000 to patrol the lots before, during, and after the display and to control traffic on ISU roads at the conclusion of the fireworks. Additionally, YPA was asked to consider renting portable toilets to place in the lots, since the only available restrooms in the area are located in Reiman Gardens. City staff estimates eight to ten portable toilets dispersed throughout the lots would cost \$500.**

At that time, the YPA representative felt that these requests could be accommodated. However, staff was subsequently informed that YPA would not pay for the requested police staffing. At staff's request, the YPA provided the attached letter explaining why they were not in a position to provide this funding. In short, the YPA was not aware of

these traffic control and portable toilet expenses at the time it applied for and received funding from the ACVB. When they approached the ACVB for additional funds to cover these costs; they learned that the ACVB's allocation of grant funds available for such activities had already been exhausted. City staff has been told that the ACVB would have considered the request to fund traffic control and toilets if it had come with YPA's original request to fund the fireworks.

Regardless of the City Council's decision regarding the upcoming Fourth of July display, City staff believes that there would be benefit in having staff meet with YPA, ISU, and the ACVB to develop a plan for funding these services at future Fourth of July celebrations.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve a fireworks permit for the Young Professionals of Ames for July 3, 2014, with a rain date of July 5, 2014, and approve using funds from the 2014/15 Council Contingency Fund to pay for portable toilets (\$500) and the City portion of police costs (\$200).

This option would address the immediate issues for the upcoming fireworks display and allow the event to occur as scheduled with traffic support and portable toilets. ISU has indicated that due to the long-standing cooperation between Ames and ISU, it does not want to establish a precedent where the City pays for ISU officers during an event. Therefore, ISU has agreed to provide patrol efforts as needed to maintain safety in the lots for the 2014 display. Since providing officers for this event has a real cost to ISU, however, this need should be discussed prior to the 2015 fireworks display.

2. The City Council can approve a fireworks permit for the Young Professionals of Ames for July 3, 2014, with a rain date of July 5, 2014, and pay for no additional services.

Under this option, City staff would work to inform spectators that there are no additional restroom facilities, and that they should expect delays leaving the ISU athletic lots at the conclusion of the display.

3. The City Council can approve a fireworks permit for the Young Professionals of Ames for July 3, 2014, with a rain date of July 5, 2014, contingent upon YPA paying for traffic control and portable restrooms.

Under this option, YPA would need to either fundraise or seek additional funds from ACVB to secure police services and portable toilets.

4. The City Council can deny the fireworks permit

This option would prohibit the fireworks display from taking place.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is clear from complaints received after last year's fireworks display that there is a community expectation of orderly traffic control following the display. Providing portable toilets would also be very appropriate for an event of this size. However, these needs and the extra demands of the sesquicentennial celebration were not anticipated when YPA received its fireworks grant funding from the ACVB. In order for this year's fireworks display to have the benefit of portable toilets and traffic control, another funding source is needed.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving a fireworks permit for the Young Professionals of Ames for July 3, 2014, with a rain date of July 5, 2014; and approving use of funds from the 2014/15 Council Contingency Fund to pay for portable toilets (\$500) and City police costs (\$200).

This option will address the immediate issues for the upcoming fireworks display and allow the event to occur as scheduled with traffic support and portable toilets. City staff will work with ISU, ACVB and YPA to solidify arrangements for funding these services in future years.

Dear Brian & Emily,

The Young Professionals of Ames have agreed to facilitate and provide the volunteer hours to execute the City of Ames 4th of July Fireworks for three years ('13-'15) with funding kindly provided by the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau grant program.

On April 4th I attended a meeting with City of Ames Staff, Ames Police and the ISU Police. The main items discussed were; 1) Not enough adequate bathrooms for such a large community event, 2) The majority of calls are for illegal shooting of fireworks, inappropriate alcohol consumption, long traffic lines and safety issues with in the lots. This could be alleviated by hiring police and CSO staff.

It was suggested that YPA do the following:

- Hire 2 CSO officers from the City of Ames for 7pm-11pm @\$20: \$200
- Hire 4 police officers from ISU Police for 7pm-11pm @ \$50 an hour:\$800
- Hire 2 CSO officers from ISU Police for 7pm-11pm @\$20: \$200
- Rent Porta-Pots for the lots : \$500

Total: \$1700

The Young Professionals of Ames supports these suggestions and would be willing to organize the above mentioned efforts so the fireworks display is a safe and enjoyable event for everyone in attendance. However we would like to ask that the City of Ames cover the above mentioned costs. As you may guess, the plan of work for the fireworks is extensive and cumbersome, at this time YPA can only support the volunteer efforts that goes into this event and we hope the City of Ames will partner with us to provide adequate safety measures.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Respectfully,
Sarah Buss

Sarah Buss
Director of Membership and Events

**Fireworks, Pyrotechnics or Flame Effects Application
Iowa State University of Science and Technology**

Applicant Information

Name of Event: 4th of July
 Name of Organization Sponsoring Event: Young Professionals of Ames
 Address of Organization: 1600 304 Main • Ames IA • 50010
 Name of Applicant: Sarah Buss
 Phone: 515-232-2310 Fax: 232-6716 E-Mail: sarah@ameschamber.com

Event Information

Event Location: Iowa State Lot # G7 Estimated attendance: 10,000
 Event Date: July 3rd Time: 9ish a.m./p.m. Alternate Date (rain date) for event: July 5th
 Organization's on-site manager or contact for day of Display: Leo Munson
 Phone: 641-990-6760 Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Firework Display Information: Attach a copy of the Display Operator credentials and applicable U.S. DOT requirement information for transportation with this application

Display Operator (company name): J&M Displays
 Address: 1806 4 1702 Ave
 City: Parmauth State: IA Zip Code: 52666-9722
 Work-week Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Operator Name for day of Display: Leo Munson Cell Phone: 641-990-6760
 Other Contact for day of Display: _____ Cell Phone: _____

NOTE: Electronic firing ONLY

Type of Fireworks: 1.3G Attach Display Program
 Length of Display: 20min
 Fireworks Supplier: J&M Displays
 Exact Location of Display: _____ Attach Diagram of Display/Shoot Location

Insurance Requirements: Insurance coverage and certificate requirements are on the back of this form.

Student Organizations Only: Submit an Event Authorization and Notification Form with other event documents (including this application) at least 6 weeks prior to the event.

The display operator, EH&S and ISU Police will monitor weather conditions prior to and during the display event. EH&S, ISU Police or the Ames Fire Department have the authority to cancel or postpone any display if they determine there is not strict adherence to the approved application; or there is lightning, wind gusts or inclement weather that will cause risks to the crowd or surrounding property.

5.16.14
Date

Sarah Buss
Sponsoring Organization Representative Signature

I have read and agree to the responsibilities stated in the ISU Fireworks, Pyrotechnics and Flame Effects Procedures and also agree that I will meet all insurance requirements listed on this application and that this insurance will be primary.

5-20-14
Date

Leo Munson
Display Operator Representative Signature

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

6/5/14
Date
6/17/14
Date

Angela
Environmental Health and Safety
John
ISU Police

6/17/14
Date

Susan K Johnson
City of Ames Fire Inspector
Office of Risk Management

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Iowa State University of Science and Technology**

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 Name of Applicant: Sarah Buss
 Phone: 515-232-2310 Fax: 232-6716 E-Mail: sarah@ameschamber.com

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 Address: 18064 170th Ave
 City: Parmouth State: IA Zip Code: 52660-9772
 Work-week Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Operator Name for day of Display: Lee Munson Cell Phone: 641-990-6760
 Other Contact for day of Display: _____ Cell Phone: _____

NOTE: Electronic firing ONLY

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5-20-14
Date

James Denmark
Display Operator Representative Signature

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Date

Environmental Health and Safety

5-28-14
Date

Tom Hennulsen
ISU Police
City of Ames Fire Inspector

Date

Office of Risk Management