

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: JINGLE BELL RUN/WALK FOR ARTHRITIS

BACKGROUND:

The Arthritis Foundation is proposing to hold the 4th annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk on Saturday, December 6, 2014, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding by noon. The event includes a 5K run and a fun run/walk. Organizers anticipate between 250 and 500 participants, and an increase in volunteers is planned to handle coordination of street closures. For the second year, the event will take place near 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 Mortensen Road will be reopened as soon as the last participant is through. Roadway surfaces will be used on Hayward Avenue, Knapp Street, Sheldon Avenue, and Arbor Street, requiring the temporary closure of those streets until runners have passed. State Avenue will be closed from Arbor to Mortensen until the last runner has crossed State on the return leg back to the Middle School.

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 and cones for the race.

Event organizers plan to mail notification letters to residents along the streets that will be closed for the race. Additionally, Public Works staff will place a message board on Mortensen Road announcing the closure during the week prior to the race.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve the closure of Mortensen Road, Hayward Avenue, Knapp Street, Sheldon Avenue, and Arbor Street as detailed above.
2. The City Council can deny the request.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Previous Jingle Bell Runs have been successful events. Last year was the first year the event was moved out of Downtown, in an effort to eliminate the disruption to Downtown businesses and residents. This new route minimizes the number of residents affected by street closures.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the street closures for the Jingle Bell Run/Walk as outlined above.