

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SHELDON-MUNN HOTEL APPLICATION TO MAIN STREET IOWA CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM**

**BACKGROUND:**

The owners of the Sheldon-Munn Building (301 Main Street) have indicated intent to apply for a Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant. These grants are offered through the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Main Street Iowa program to assist with façade upgrades and restoration, upper floor rehabilitation, and remodeling of downtown structures. Several downtown Ames property owners have successfully used this program to enhance properties in the Main Street Cultural District.

As part of the application, a letter of support from the local City government is required. **Although the applicant must raise matching funds to qualify for the grant, no financial contribution from the City is expected as part of this request.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Sheldon-Munn Hotel's application to the Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant Program.
2. Do nothing.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Main Street Iowa Challenge grant program has been utilized by other downtown building owners to enhance the look and feel of their properties within the Main Street Cultural District. A letter of support from the City has been requested, and complying with the request does not obligate the City to participate in the financing for any improvements undertaken through the grant.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Sheldon-Munn Hotel's application to the Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant Program.