

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ZERO HUNGER RUN/WALK REQUESTS

BACKGROUND:

The India Cultural Association (ICA) is proposing to host its second annual Zero Hunger Run/Walk 5K on Saturday, May 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This fundraising event promotes awareness of world hunger and malnutrition. Funds raised from the event will be donated to the Food at First organization. Last year, ICA held this event at Ada Hayden Park.

In order to facilitate the movement of participants, organizers are requesting the closure of State Avenue between Arbor Street and Storm Street from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 10:00 a.m.

Runners will use the paved bike trail between State Avenue and Dotson Drive. Additionally, runners will use coned off portions of the following streets, which will remain open to traffic during the event:

- Mortensen Road from Dotson Drive to Hayward Avenue
- Hayward Avenue from Mortensen Road to Knapp Street
- Knapp Street from Hayward Avenue to Sheldon Avenue
- Sheldon Avenue from Knapp Street to Arbor Street
- Arbor Street from Sheldon Avenue to State Street

The streets will reopen after runners pass through each area. The route is configured to allow traffic through the south and east legs of the State/Mortensen intersection, which will reduce the length of detouring required compared to a full intersection closure.

The Public Works Traffic Division will provide barricades and traffic cones to facilitate the road closures, and volunteers will staff them. Public Works staff will place electronic message board signs along the major routes a day prior to the race and on race day. Additionally, event organizers will canvass the area in order to notify residents of the event. Event organizers have also obtained permission from the Ames Middle School to stage the event at its facility.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the road closures as requested by the India Cultural Association.
2. Deny the requests from the India Cultural Association and direct staff to work with organizers to find an alternate location for the event.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Zero Hunger Run/Walk was successfully held last year at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Organizers have expressed a desire to expand the route to make the event more fun for racers. ICA presented several route options and the selected route reduces the number of residents affected by the race. City Council approval is necessary for this event to occur as planned.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the various road closures as requested by the India Cultural Association.



India Cultural Association of Central Iowa

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Anand Balasubramanian
Secretary
India Cultural Association of Central Iowa

February 19, 2019

Subject: 2019 ICA Zero Hunger Run/Walk

Dear Members of Ames City Council,

I'm writing on behalf of "India Cultural Association of Central Iowa" to request permissions to use city streets to conduct the 2019 ICA Zero Hunger Run/Walk 5K on May 18, 2019.

The mission of "India Cultural Association of Central Iowa" is to bridge various cultures within the Ames community. We do so by conducting several fun and educational cultural events through the course of the year. So far in 2018-2019, we have conducted several fund raising events (examples: Chai Tunes concert, 2019 new year celebration) in Ames and have raised over ~\$4,000 to support organizations such as the local food bank and the American Red Cross.

One another such event that we would like to organize on Saturday, May 18, 2019 is a 5K run with the goal of raising money (estimated \$1,000) towards the local food bank. We conducted a similar run last year at Ada Hayden and had around 30 participants. This year, we aim to have around 100 participants in the race. It is our intention to make this event an annual event.

The 5K run we aim to organize will be on the same route as the Run for the Roses 5K Run. It would start and end at the Ames Middle School on Mortenson. We have procured permissions from the school to use their facilities for the event and we have also procured insurance to cover the event.

In the interest of the safety of runners, we would also like to request permissions to close State Avenue for an hour and half from 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM. We would place barricades at 1) Mortenson & State, and at 2) Letti & State. We also plan to have cones 5 feet from edge of road at Hayward, Knapp, and Arbor.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. We look forward to the council's decision.

Thanks & Best Regards,


Anand Balasubramanian