

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: GREEK WEEK 2009 REQUESTS

BACKGROUND:

Again this year, the Greek Week Central Committee has requested that streets be closed periodically for activities in observance of Greek Week. The closures would be around the "Sorority Circle Triangle" and include Sunset Drive, from just west of Beach to Ash Avenue; Ash Avenue, from Gable Lane to Knapp Street; Gray Avenue, from Gable Lane to Greeley; Greeley Street; Pearson Avenue, from Sunset to Greeley; and Lynn Avenue, from Chamberlain to Knapp. Lynn Avenue would be closed only on Saturday, April 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m., to facilitate the Greek Olympics activities. All of the other street areas will be closed on the 4th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. also to facilitate the Greek Olympics. Lastly, on Thursday, April 2 a Kick-Off concert is planned for the area of Sunset between Gray and Pearson. This area is nearly entirely fronted by Greek houses. Music will be played from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and the speakers will be aimed to the north and east (toward other Greek residences). A noise permit will be obtained from the Police Department for this event.

It should be noted that parking will be temporarily prohibited on Sunset, between Gray and Pearson, from Thursday afternoon (at approximately 2:00 p.m.) until the conclusion of the Greek Week events on Saturday evening. While traffic will be allowed to drive on the street on Friday, by restricting parking, the Saturday morning set-up for the Greek Olympics will be facilitated. Organizers will post "No Parking, Violators Will Be Towed" signs stating the restricted time on late Wednesday afternoon or early Thursday morning.

Plans for a Saturday evening concert are still under discussion, but it would also be in this general location, and would end by around 10:00 p.m.

Several residential homes are located along the closed streets, and the organizers have agreed to notify the affected residents about the closures and to notify the South Campus Area Neighborhood Association.

In addition, event organizers have requested parking to be prohibited on both sides of Gray Avenue, Greeley Street, portions of Pearson Avenue, portions of Lynn Avenue, and all of Sunset Drive from 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, to 10:30 p.m. Staff has informed the event organizers that they will be responsible for posting the temporary, City-furnished "No Parking" signs along the involved streets by Friday morning. Towing is not anticipated to be necessary in these additional locations.

Staff is recommending is that this request be approved with the following stipulations:

- Affected residents and representatives of the South Campus Area Neighborhood shall be contacted about the street closures, parking prohibitions, and planned activities.

- Noise permits shall be obtained from the Ames Police Department for the band(s).
- No alcohol shall be served or consumed on streets or other public property during the event.
- Greek Week organizers or participating organizations will be responsible for picking up trash in the area during and at the conclusion of the event.
- Organizers will reimburse the City for any ruined or stolen City-owned barricades.
- A Temporary Obstruction Permit shall be obtained for placement of tables, trash cans, tents, or other items on public property.
- Food served and/or sold at private residences becomes the liability of the residence.

Public Works staff will drop off the appropriate barricades on Wednesday, April 1, to the Farm House Fraternity, 311 Ash Avenue, where they will be stored until needed and put in place by event organizers.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the request to close streets and enact temporary parking prohibitions for the 2009 Greek Week activities scheduled from Thursday, April 2 to Saturday, April 4, 2009, subject to the above-listed stipulations.
2. Deny the request.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Greek Week is an annual student-run event at Iowa State that highlights the fraternities and sororities and their contributions to student life. It is highly dependent upon City assistance through the allowance of street closures and parking prohibitions so that it may occur in a safe and smooth manner.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby approving the request to close streets and enact temporary parking prohibitions for the 2009 Greek Week activities scheduled from Thursday, April 2, to Saturday, April 4, 2009, subject to the above-listed stipulations.