

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AMES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR \$1,000 TO FUND SENATOR CHARLES GRASSLEY'S 2009 AMBASSADOR TOUR OF AMES

BACKGROUND:

On June 16, 2009, the City Council referred to staff the request from the Ames Chamber of Commerce for a \$1,000 contribution to help sponsor Senator Grassley's 2009 Ambassador Tour. According to a Chamber representative, this event involves Senator Grassley bringing a number of international representatives to tour a number of cities in the State. As a part of this tour, there is an overnight stay planned in Ames along with a reception and the participation of local families hosting the international visitors. City staff has been informed that the sponsorship will help the Chamber defray the costs of a dinner for those participating in the tour. Staff has been informed that the Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Iowa State University have each committed to contribute \$1,000 for this dinner event.

As you know, Section 68A of the Iowa Code prohibits the governing body of a city to expend any public monies for political purposes and the City of Ames Purchasing Policy forbids the use of City funds to purchase alcoholic beverages. Organizers of the event have assured staff that the \$1,000 contribution will be used only to defray the cost of the evening meal for the international representatives who visit Ames.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve a \$1,000 contribution to offset the cost of hosting a dinner for the international ambassadors contingent upon the Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Iowa State University each contributing \$1,000 to this event. Under this option, the contribution will come out of the Council's Contingency Account.
2. The City Council can deny the request to contribute \$1,000 to offset the cost of hosting a dinner for the international ambassadors.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

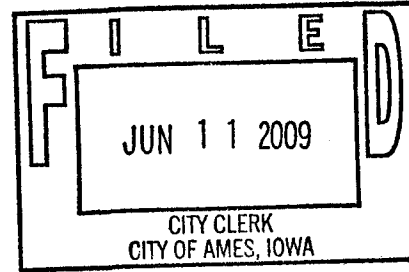
This event provides the City with an opportunity to promote our community to influential international leaders, and therefore appears to be a worthwhile component of our economic development marketing strategy.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 and approve a \$1,000 contribution to offset the cost of hosting a dinner for the international ambassadors contingent upon the Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Iowa State University each contributing \$1,000 to this event. Under this option, the City's contribution will come out of the Council's Contingency Account.

Photo. 6-12-09

Wednesday June 10, 2009

Mayor Ann Campbell
City of Ames
515 Clark Street
Ames IA 50010



RE: Senator Charles Grassley's 2009 Ambassador Tour

Dear Mayor Campbell,

The Ames Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to inform you that Senator Charles Grassley will be bringing his bi-annual ambassador tour to Ames for an overnight stop in August. This is the first time in a handful of years since the event made Ames an overnight stop and I am grateful that you and Steve Schainker have been part of the planning for this great opportunity to showcase the Ames community to over 60 foreign ambassadors from around the world.

As you know the Senator has conducted this program for a number of years to familiarize Washington, DC-based embassy leaders with Iowa as a place to do business as well as showcase Iowa's people and communities.

We are planning a dinner and short program for the evening of August 19th (beginning at 5:00 PM) at Reiman Gardens, which will feature internationally acclaimed bass-baritone singer Simon Estes performing at the conclusion of the evening. To help us underwrite this event we are seeking sponsorships to offset the costs and I am respectfully requesting that the City of Ames consider a contribution of \$1000. Other groups that have committed to a \$1000 sponsorship are the Ames Chamber of Commerce, the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Iowa State University. We are also seeking sponsorships from several local businesses to cover all of the costs of the dinner and things associated with the event.

If the City Council approves this request please provide us with the City of Ames logo and write up (electronically please) for the event program. Please submit your information to me at dan@ameschamber.com at your earliest convenience.

You are welcome to call me at 232-2310 if you have any questions or need any clarification.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Culhane, CEcD
President & CEO

