

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURES FOR PRAIRIE
KIDS TRIATHALON**

BACKGROUND:

On Saturday, June 26, an organization called Iowa Multisport is asking to hold a youth triathlon event for children ages 7 through 10 and ages 11 through 16 in Ames. The event would utilize a number of City facilities, including the Furman Aquatic Center, portions of a multi-use path and several City streets.

Set-up for the event will begin at 5:30 a.m. at the Furman Aquatic Center. Since the facility does not normally open until the afternoon, the use of the pool in the morning hours will not pose a problem. The swimming portion of the competition is first. This will be standard pool rental.

The second phase of the competition is the bike portion. For this portion, the Council is being asked to allow for the temporary suspension of parking and the closure of portions of 16th Street, 20th Street, Ridgewood Avenue, and Northwestern Avenue. The temporary closure will occur from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Barricades will be provided by the City and will be staffed by volunteers at all times. Local traffic will be facilitated as much as possible. CyRide is aware of the event, and can accommodate it for such a short time period.

The running portion of the event will involve the Ames High grounds and track, and will not require any City action.

Neighbors along the bike route will receive a communication from the organizers about the temporary street closures.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council may approve the temporary closures of the following portions of streets between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 26:

Ridgewood Avenue, 16th Street to 20th Street;
20th Street, Ridgewood Avenue to Northwestern Avenue;
Northwestern Avenue, 20th Street to 16th Street; and
16th Street, Northwestern Avenue to Ridgewood Avenue.

2. The City Council may refuse to grant the temporary closures of the above-listed streets, and direct staff to work with organizers to find an alternate route for the bike portion of the triathlon.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff from several City departments met with the event organizers and reviewed several options for the bike route. The route involving the use of portions of 20th Street, 16th Street, Northwestern Avenue, and Ridgewood Avenue appeared to be the safest for both participants and motorists. It is hoped that the early morning timeframe will inconvenience fewer residents in the area.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, and approve the temporary closures of the following portions of streets between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 26:

Ridgewood Avenue, 16th Street to 20th Street;
20th Street, Ridgewood Avenue to Northwestern Avenue;
Northwestern Avenue, 20th Street to 16th Street; and
16th Street, Northwestern Avenue to Ridgewood Avenue.