

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF SUPPORT FOR VEISHEA 2011: STREET CLOSURES
AND PARKING LOT CLOSURE**

BACKGROUND:

During its February budget hearing, the City Council approved \$8,000 out of the 2010/11 General Fund to assist in funding various VEISHEA activities. VEISHEA will occur from April 11-17, 2011, and City funding will assist with the costs of the Pancake Feed and late-night entertainment. Pancakes will be served beginning at midnight on both Friday and Saturday, and serving will continue until approximately 3:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and Sunday morning.

Over 5,000 students are expected to attend each evening. The Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau has confirmed that rather than funding the Pancake Feed, it is providing \$1,000 as a support for the Campus maps VEISHEA prepares for those attending the various activities.

City staff and University representatives have spent a good deal of time working with the student organizers to work toward a safe and fun VEISHEA for the entire community. A successful and safe VEISHEA benefits the entire Ames community.

The City Council is also being asked to approve the temporary closure of various streets in the area south of campus to facilitate the movement of parade entries to the staging area on the west side of campus. Ames police will be managing the temporary closures, which will general occur between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Saturday morning, April 16. Streets will be closed only long enough for the floats and other large entries to pass through the intersections.

Left turn lanes on Lincoln Way at Union Drive (near the Memorial Union) and Lincoln Way at Welch Avenue to the north of Lincoln Way will be closed on Friday, April 15 from noon until Sunday morning. The left turn lane on Lincoln Way at Union Drive (near the Knoll) will be closed as needed on Saturday morning while the parade is in progress.

The Ames Police Department is asking that the City Council allow the closure of City Lot Y (south of Fire Station 2) from 4:00 p.m. on Friday evening until 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and again from 4:00 p.m. Saturday evening until 6:00 a.m. Sunday morning. This will allow for staging of law enforcement equipment as needed.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council may approve street closures, left turn lane closures, and the closure of City Lot Y as requested above. The City Council is not being asked to approve funding, since this was done during Budget Hearings.
2. The City Council may not approve these requests and ask staff for other options.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is important to the safety and successful staging of the VEISHEA events that the City Council approves the requested closures in support of the various VEISHEA activities. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, approving the street closures, left turn lane closures, and closure of City Lot Y as requested above.