

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: 2011 STORY COUNTY DECATEGORYIZATION MINI-GRANT AND
CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SEAT CHECK-UP EVENT**

BACKGROUND:

In late March of 2011, the Police Department learned of an opportunity to apply for a Story County Decategorization FY2011 Mini-grant. These grants are for short term projects that benefit residents of Story County. Grant applications were due April 1, 2011. Because of the very short time line between our notification of the grant opportunity and the due date for the grant application, the department was not able to obtain Council approval to apply for this grant, which is the normal practice. The Police Department applied for and has been tentatively awarded a mini-grant in the amount of \$7,000.

The proposed project is a Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up Event. The award will be used to fund the purchase of child safety seats and to support an event where police officers certified in evaluation and installation of child safety seats meet with parents to instruct, review and assist in installing child safety seats. Where appropriate, the officers will be able to provide a child safety seat to a program participant at no charge.

The grant conditions require that event organizers work with a local vendor for the Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up Event to get a local match valued at \$2000 to \$3000 (in-kind or cash). The event organizers are working to accomplish that. There is no financial match required from the City. Up to \$1,000 of the award may be used to support the overtime costs of police officers participating in the Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up Event. The remaining funds will be used to purchase child safety seats. The event will be held before June 30, 2011.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the Story County Decategorization FY2011 Mini-grant and approve participation in the Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up Event.
2. Do not accept the Story County Decategorization FY2011 Mini-grant or participation in the Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up Event.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This project presents a unique opportunity to promote safety for the children of Ames and Story County. The installation and maintenance of child safety seats is often more complicated than first appears. This project will allow trained officers to provide expertise

to parents and guardians to assure that the child passengers in their vehicles are safe. In addition, it will allow those officers to actually provide an appropriate and safe seat for children when car owners are not otherwise able to do so. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby accepting the Story County Decategorization FY2011 Mini-grant and approving participation in the Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up Event.