



# Memo

Mayor's Office

**TO:** Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Ann H. Campbell, Mayor

**DATE:** January 20, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Council Member Szopinski to **Ames Reads** Steering Committee

At the Council's October 11 meeting, you will recall that Carolyn Jons gave a presentation regarding an All-America City Literacy Award. She spoke on behalf of the following Ames organizations and their leaders: Ames Community School District, Ames Public Library, The Tribune, Des Moines Area Community College, Ames Chamber of Commerce, Iowa State University Curriculum and Instruction Department, United Way of Story County, and Raising Readers in Story County.

The above-named Steering Committee's mission is to increase early language and literacy development in children from birth to age eight. Mrs. Jons said the Steering Committee had unanimously agreed that pursuing a "City of Readers" initiative would benefit Ames. It was further agreed that the first step would be to apply for the 2012 All-America City Grade Level Reading Award.

During that meeting, it was requested that a City Council member be appointed to serve on the **Ames Reads** Steering Committee as it plans for the All-America City Literacy Award. Victoria Szopinski has agreed to serve in this capacity. Therefore, I request that the City Council approve the appointment of Council Member Szopinski to the **Ames Reads** Steering Committee.