

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **CY STATUE PROJECT**

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, City staff was approached about a project to place life-sized Iowa State University mascot “Cy” statues throughout the community. These fiberglass statues would be decorated by artists. This project, led by participants in the Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Ames XXVII class, would serve as a fundraiser for local non-profits and was named “CyclONE City.” The statues will only be placed temporarily (six months) and then will be auctioned off with proceeds going to charity.

The CyclONE City leadership team recently inquired about placing some of the statues in public areas (right-of-way and parks). The project was discussed with the Public Art Commission; and at its December 4, 2013, meeting, the Public Art Commission voted to support the project in public spaces if a representative from the Public Art Commission was involved in the design and location selections.

The City has a process for handling temporary placements with the Temporary Obstruction Permit. However, since the locations and numbers are not yet determined, a contractual agreement may allow the project to move forward and allow City staff, the Public Art Commission, and the Leadership Ames class to find the best public spaces for the project. This agreement would cover the requirements of temporary obstruction including the issue of liability. It would also clearly state the responsible parties for installation, maintenance, and removal of the statues.

Representatives of CyclONE City and City staff will be present at the City Council meeting to further describe this proposed collaboration. **Should Council approve of this concept, the parties’ respective roles and responsibilities will be confirmed in an agreement for approval by the City Council at a later date.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize staff to develop a contract with the CyclONE City group, which is under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce, for the placement of Cy statues on City property.
2. Do not authorize development of this agreement.
3. Direct staff to pursue modifications to the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This project will create a public/private partnership that will add function to and beautify the community. While the “Cy” statue is a unique sculpture to Ames, many other cities have had great success using temporary fiberglass displays to generate interest and enthusiasm for their community. These temporary exhibits are successful only through collaboration between the many stakeholders.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing staff to develop a contract with CyclONE City (Ames Chamber of Commerce) for the temporary placement of Cy statues on City property throughout the City.

This agreement would cover the requirements of temporary obstruction including the issue of liability. It would also clearly state the responsible parties for installation, maintenance and removal of the statues.