



To: Mayor and City Council Members

From: Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

Date: December 15, 2017

Subject: Approval for Gloria Betcher to Serve as Vice Chair of The National League Of Cities University Communities Council

Over the years, we have encouraged the Mayor and City Council members to become active in leadership positions of the Iowa League of Cities and/or National League of Cities. Participation in these positions greatly benefits our city because of the opportunity to impact state and federal policies that are important to municipalities, to learn how other cities are dealing with issues of mutual concern to Ames, and to develop personal contacts with legislative peers from whom advice can be sought for solutions to common challenges.

Over the years, Gloria has been a faithful attendee of the programs offered by the National League of Cities (NLC) University Communities Council (UCC) during the annual conferences. As a result of her participation and obvious interest in this Council, she has been asked to serve as the Vice Chair of the UCC for the next calendar year.

As a member of this Council, she will be expected to attend two conferences, the annual fall NLC conference (which she normally attends now) and a second meeting in Washington D.C. The only cost to the City will be for travel, lodging, and meals for these two meetings. It should be noted that Gloria normally attends two conferences per year, the Fall NLC conference and the spring International Town & Gown Association (ITGA) meeting. Gloria has indicated that during her time in the Vice Chair position she will not attend the annual meeting of the ITGA. **With this trade-off of the ITGA meeting for the second NLC meeting, there should be no additional cost to the City because of Gloria's new position on the UCC.**

Given the benefits articulated above, I believe the City Council should support her appointment to a leadership position on the UCC. Therefore, I would recommend that a motion be passed by the City Council formally approving Gloria's appointment.