

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SPONSOR SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATIONS

BACKGROUND:

Cities across the country have seen increased incidents of racism, vandalism, and violence, especially to persons from various ethnic groups and religions. Unfortunately, the City of Ames has not escaped these types of issues or situations.

To address these issues and other discriminatory practices, the City Council created the Ames Human Relations Commission. The Commission is charged with conducting educational activities, and participating in or sponsoring community events that promote good will among various racial, religious, and ethnic groups and minimize or eliminate discriminatory practices.

The Ames Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa State University of Diversity and Inclusion are hosting “A Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations” event that will provide practical strategies for business development and community engagement. The event will be held on October 31st at the Gateway Conference Center. The preliminary budget for the event is approximately \$37,000. **The City of Ames and the Human Relations Commission are being asked for financial support for this event.**

Each primary partner is asked to contribute \$5,000 towards the cost of hosting the event to cover Breakfast, Honorariums, Speaker Fees, Lunch, Marketing & Promotion and Signage/Staging. A registration fee will be required (to be determined before registration opens) along with the opportunity for other sponsorship levels at \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500. The \$5,000 contribution will include 10 tickets for each contributing organization. The \$5,000 contribution could be divided between Council Contingency (\$4,000) and the Commission’s budget (\$1,000).

The Symposium has been discussed regularly at Human Relations Commission meetings in the past several months as plans are developed. The Commission’s FY 2018/19 budget includes funding for the Symposium.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 in support of the Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations event, of which \$4,000 will come from the City Council’s Contingency Account and \$1,000 from the Human Relation Commission’s budget.
2. Do not authorize financial support for the event.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

City staff, along with the Human Relations Commission, feels this symposium provides an opportunity for the City and Commission to partner with other groups and organizations to address these important community issues. The goals of this symposium are in alignment with the mission of the Human Relations Commission.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing the expenditure of \$5,000 in support of the Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations event from the sources identified above.