

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM AMES MAIN STREET FOR SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE TRAVELING EXHIBIT**

**BACKGROUND:**

Ames Main Street has submitted a request to the City Council for \$7,000 to host the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit. The exhibit, titled "Hometown Teams" will be held in downtown Ames from September 29 through November 11, 2018. Ames Main Street had originally submitted this funding request along with others as part of its FY 2018/19 Ames Fall grant program application.

During its February 13, 2018 Budget Wrap-Up Meeting, the City Council appropriated Ames Main Street \$44,300 for certain programs and events. The City Council decided that the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit would not be approved at that time, but that Ames Main Street would need to submit a new request after July 1<sup>st</sup> for this activity.

The intent during the Budget Wrap-Up Meeting was that the funding for this activity may come from the City Council Contingency Fund. The Council Contingency Fund has a present balance of \$88,500 that has not been committed by the City Council, which may be used towards this project.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the request for \$7,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to sponsor the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit as requested by the Ames Main Street.
2. Deny the request.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit aims to bring additional traffic and visitors to the Ames downtown. Funding is available to facilitate the request, and the request advances the City Council's goal to strengthen the Downtown.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the request for \$7,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to sponsor the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit as requested by the Ames Main Street.