



Smart Choice

September 10, 2020

The Honorable Mayor John Haila
City of Ames
515 Clark Ave.
Ames, IA 50010

RE: Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations

Mayor Haila,

I want to thank you, the Ames City Council, and the Ames Human Relations Commission for your support of the Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations in 2018 and 2019. This annual event has become a highly anticipated educational event with 250 community members in attendance each year.

Planning for the 2020 event began earlier this year but was put on hold due to the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Months later we are still in a state of unknown and, after much consideration, the planning committee (comprised of Chamber, City of Ames, Iowa State University and United Way of Story County representatives) has determined that this year's event will be held in a virtual environment.

I am pleased to announce that the 2020 Virtual Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations will be held November 11-12. Although we won't be together in person, sessions will be held in 60-90 minute blocks over a two-day period to help combat screen fatigue and ensure active engagement of participants. This virtual format will also allow more community members to participate in this year's event at a reduced registration charge. I write to you respectfully seeking your renewed partnership for this year's event.

Diversity and inclusivity are paramount to the success of our residents, businesses, and community. As our planning process moves forward, I request your continued partnership with a \$2,500 sponsorship to support this endeavor. (This is half of the previous years' requests, as this year's virtual event will incur fewer costs.) The Ames Chamber of Commerce will once again be financially supporting this event and a similar request is being made to Iowa State University, along with other local partners.

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Our board of directors understands that making our community more diverse and inclusive is of utmost importance, and an ongoing process, with the Symposium being one way to educate and raise awareness in our community.

Thank you again for your past support. I appreciate your anticipated consideration of this request for 2020 and we look forward to a great event in November!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel A. Culhane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being more prominent.

Daniel A. Culhane, CEcD, CCE
President & CEO
Ames Chamber of Commerce

CC: Gloria Betcher, Ward I
Tim Gartin, Ward II
David Martin, Ward III
Rachel Junck, Ward IV
Amber Corrieri, At-Large
Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, At-Large
Nicole Whitlock, Ex-Officio
Steve Schainker, City Manager
Jill Crosser, Chair, Ames Human Relations Commission
Vanessa Baker-Latimer, Board Member, Ames Chamber of Commerce
Stacy Dreyer, Board Chair, Ames Chamber of Commerce