MEMO



To: Mayor and Council
From: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: Item No. 30: Resident Satisfaction Survey 2021

The City is again working with Iowa State University's Institute for Design Research and Outreach to produce, distribute, and analyze the 2021 Resident Satisfaction Survey. This will be the 39th year of the survey, which includes mostly benchmarking questions. Those have remained the same (with minor updates) for the past 15 years to provide longitudinal feedback regarding satisfaction with City services.

Each year, a small amount of space is reserved for current issue/policy questions to be added. Most policy questions require some explanation before any question can be asked. Due to the space necessary to set up the question, typically only a few additional questions fit in the survey. **The Council is welcome to suggest topics, but please note there is no obligation to add to the survey.**

Although we have included community health questions in the last two years of surveys, there may be other issues related to City initiatives that would be more of a priority for the 2021 survey. Some suggestions include probing interest or concern regarding an indoor aquatics center or establishing baseline interest or education on climate action planning.

Last year's direction from the Ames City Council included asking whether or not residents felt they belonged in the community. Also, an open-ended question was changed from "What would make Ames cool?" to instead read, "What would make Ames a fun, vibrant community?" **Unless you ask to remove those questions, they will be included in 2021.**

Our goal with the annual survey is to use feedback from our citizens regarding their satisfaction with City of Ames programs and services, capital improvement projects, and future allocations of funding to guide decision making. **Please consider what issues or policies would be helpful to have public feedback.** Remember, you do not need to craft the actual questions because our consultants at Iowa State University provide that expertise.



Instructions: Please respond to each question with your own opinions and practices. This is usually done by circling a number or filling a box. Opportunity is also provided for you to add written comments.

A. Please rate the following **Parks and Recreation** features.

		Very			Very	Don't
		Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Use
1.	Hard surface trails/crushed rock trails					
2.	Overall appearance of parks					
3.	Playground equipment					
4.	Restrooms					
5.	Shelter houses					
6.	Tennis courts					
7.	Wooded areas					
8.	Picnic areas (tables/grills)					
Con	nments					

B. Please rate the following Ames Public Library features?

		Very			Very	Don't
		poor	Poor	Good	Good	Use
1.	Meeting/study rooms					
2.	Internet/computer services					
3.	Handicapped accessibility					
4.	Customer service					
5.	Programs (story hour, book discussions, concerts)					
6.	Range of materials available (books, videos, magazines, software)					
7.	Bookmobile service					
8.	Page One – the library newsletter					
9.	Asking questions of library staff by phone					
10.	Use of library resources from home via computer					
11.	Wait time for requests/holds					
12.	Availability of seating					
13.	Welcoming atmosphere					

C. Do you use the **Ames Public Library** as often as you would like to use it?

C1. If NO, for what reasons do you not use the library as often as you
would like? (Circle ALL that apply.)
1. Parking is a problem
2. I get materials from other sources
3. I don't have time
4. Library is not open during hours that are convenient to my schedule
5. Other (please specify)

D. How SATISFIED are you with the following **Fire Department** activities?

	7	0				
		Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
1.	Ambulance assistance					
2.	Putting out fires					
3.	Fire prevention education & outreach					
4.	Home & business safety inspections					
Comments						

E. Thinking about priorities for law enforcement, should the <u>Ames Police Department</u> emphasize the following activities LESS, the SAME or MORE?

		Less	Same	More
1.	Alcohol-related crime enforcement			
2.	Animal control and sheltering			
3.	Bad checks, fraud, & identity theft investigation			
4.	Business district patrolling			
5.	Illegal drug use prevention and enforcement			
6.	Speed limit enforcement			
7.	Juvenile crimes investigation			
8.	School resource officer services			
9.	Noise law and nuisance party enforcement			
10.	Parking laws enforcement			
11.	Sex-related offenses investigation			
12.	Traffic control and enforcement			
13.	Residential patrolling			
14.	Domestic violence & family dispute resolution			
15.	Crime prevention and education activities			
16.	Violent crimes investigation			
Com	iments			

F. How SATISFIED are you with the City's response after issues are reported regarding the following **nuisance ordinances**?

_						
E a f		Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
EUI	orcement of	Dissatistieu	Dissatistieu	Satisfieu	Satisfieu	KHOW
1.	Over-occupancy in rental property					
2.	Noise limits					
3.	Front yard parking on residential property					
4.	Yard upkeep (overgrown vegetation)					
5.	Property upkeep (paint, gutters, broken windows)					
6.	Outdoor storage on property (old cars, tires, furniture, garbage)					
Con	Comments					

G. Please rate the quality of the following street maintenance features?

		Very poor	Poor	Good	Very Good	Don't Know
	pike path system (on street lanes &					
2. Appearance of m	edians and parkways					
3. Condition of stre	ets in your neighborhood					
4. Ice control at inte	ersections					
5. Snow plowing in	your neighborhood					
6. Snow plowing on	major streets					
7. Street sweeping	in business areas					
8. Street sweeping	in your neighborhood					
9. Surface condition	n of major streets					

H. How OFTEN is the coordination between traffic signals effective? (Circle ONE response)

- 1. Rarely effective
- 2. Sometimes effective
- 3. Often effective
- 4. Almost always effective
- 5. Don't know

Comments _____

I. Does <u>Ames Electric Services</u> provide electricity to your home?

1. Yes

2. No If NO, skip to Question M.

3. Don't know

3

J. In the last 12 months, have you...?

		No	Yes
1.	Experienced a power outage in your home?		
2.	Experienced a power surge that affected your computer operations?		

K. How SATISFIED are you with the following aspects of City Electric Department services?

		• •		•		
		Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Does not apply
1.	Being informed of progress restoring services					
2.	Ease of reporting an outage					
3.	Response of employees					
4.	Time to restore service					
5.	Electric rates					
6.	The quality of power					

- L. Ames Electric Services is offering SunSmart Ames, a project to bring a community solar farm to Ames. Ames Electric Services customers may purchase shares of the project at \$300 per "Power Pack." Participants will receive a monthly credit on their bills for 20 years. (More information at www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar) Are you interested in participating?
 - 1. Yes 2. No _____

L1. If NO, why not? (Circle all that apply) 1. Too expensive

- 2. Not interested in renewable energy
- 3. Short-term stay in Ames
- 4. Other (please specify) _____

Comments _____

M. In the last 12 months, how many times have you had the following water service problems?

101.	. In the last 12 months, now many times have you had the following water service problems:					
		Never	1–2 times	3–6 times	7 or more times	Does not apply
1.	Disagreeable taste or odor					
2.	Hard water					
3.	Rust					
4.	Sediment or cloudy appearance					
5.	Soft water					
6.	Too little pressure					
7.	Too much pressure					

Comments ______

N. How SATISFIED are you with the following aspects of City <u>Water & Pollution Control Department</u> services?

		Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Does not apply
1.	Water rates					
2.	Water quality					
3.	Sewer rates					

O. In the last 12 months, have you experienced sewer back-up in your basement/home?

1. Yes	O1. If YES , did you report the problem?
2. No	1. No
	2 Yes If YES, how satisfied were you with the response?
	1. Very dissatisfied
	2. Somewhat dissatisfied
	3. Somewhat satisfied
	4. Very satisfied

P. In the last 12 months, has storm water flooded onto your property from a city street?

1. Yes 2. No	P1. If YES, did you report the problem? No
	 Yes If YES, how satisfied were you with the response? 1. Very dissatisfied
	2. Somewhat dissatisfied
	3. Somewhat satisfied
	4. Very satisfied

Comments _____

Q. How many times per week do members of your household ride CyRide (public transportation)?

- 1. _____ times per week
- 2. No one in my household rides CyRide
- R. If you do not currently use **CyRide**, what would make you consider using these services? (Circle all that apply)
 - 1. Service was provided to more areas of Ames
 - 2. Service was offered on my route longer during the day (earlier or later times)
 - 3. Service was more frequent on routes near me
 - 4. The fare when boarding the bus was lower
 - 5. The fare when boarding the bus was at no cost
 - 6. Nothing
 - 7. Other (specify) ______

Comments ______

Next, please provide your overall opinions about your use of City services

A. How SATISFIED are you with the following aspects of City of Ames services?

7		speets of eity o						
		Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know		
1.	Law Enforcement Services							
2.	Fire & Rescue Services							
3.	Electric Services							
4.	Water Services							
5.	Sanitary Sewer System							
6.	Public Nuisance Enforcement (e.g, noise, over-occupancy, yard upkeep)							
7.	Parks & Recreation Services							
8.	Library Services							
9.	CyRide Bus service							
Comments								

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Programs and Services

A. Programs and services listed in the following table are paid with local option sales taxes or property taxes. In 2020-2021, the City of Ames will spend the following amounts on providing services. In your opinion, should LESS, the SAME or MORE funding be allocated to these areas? (Circle ONE response for each program or service.)

	2020/2021 Property/ Local Option Sales Tax	Should	d the City s	pend?
	Funding	Less	Same	More
1. Arts programs (Public Art & COTA)	\$ 229,898			
2. Fire protection	\$ 7,814,863			
3. Human service agency funding (ASSET)	\$ 1,524,850			
4. Law enforcement	\$ 10,541,148			
5. Ames Animal Shelter & animal control	\$ \$498,045			
6. Ames Public Library	\$ \$4,789,239			
7. Land use planning (both current and lo	ng-term) \$ 887,561			
8. Parks activities	\$ 1,539,329			
9. Recreational opportunities	\$ \$ 2,507,828			
10. CyRide (public transit)	\$ \$2,037,720			
11. Other (please specify)			

B. The City Council has approved a **five-year Capital Improvements Plan** that defines more than \$100 million in needs. These needs will exceed the funds available from local option sales taxes, road use taxes, and bonds. If approved, additional property taxes may be needed to pay for these projects.

How **IMPORTANT** is it that the following projects are included in the Capital Improvements Plan?

	Very Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Somewhat Important	Very Important
1. Improvements to existing parks				
2. On-street bike facilities (commut improvements	·			
3. Off-street bike facilities (commut improvements	· – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – –			
 Greenway trails (recreational) improvements 				
5. Reconstructing existing streets				
6. Storm water drainage improvem	ents 🛛			
7. Traffic flow improvements				
8. Other (please specify	_)			

C. Using the item number from Question B, which project should be the...

	Item No.
Highest priority?	
Second highest priority?	
Third highest priority?	

D. The City levy for the next year is \$10.15 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. This means that the City portion of the property tax on a \$100,000 home in Ames is about \$558.82 after rollback.
 Given your spending preferences, what should be the adjustment in property taxes next year? (Circle

ONE response.)

- 1. Substantial decrease
- 2. Modest decrease
- 3. No change
- 4. Modest increase
- 5. Substantial increase

Residential Preferences of City Communications

A. When you need local government information, how USEFUL are the following sources?

	Not Useful	Somewhat Useful	Very Useful	Don't Use
1. City of Ames Web page				
2. Cable TV 12/Government Access Television				
3. Ames Tribune newspaper				
4. ISU Daily newspaper				
5. Des Moines Register newspaper				

	Not Useful	Somewhat Useful	Very Useful	Don't Use
6. The Sun				
7. KASI/KCCQ radio				
8. KHOI				
9. CitySide (utility bill insert)				
10. Facebook / Twitter / YouTube / Instagram				

- B. How would you prefer to learn about construction projects, programs, and meetings in your area? (Circle ONE response)
 - 1. Letter
 - 2. Door hanger
 - 3. City of Ames website
 - 4. Local radio
 - 5. Local newspaper
 - 6. Email
 - 7. Facebook
 - 8. Twitter
 - 9. Instagram
 - 10. Other (specify) _____

C. Are you a Mediacom Cable TV subscriber?

1. Yes ———	C1. If YES, when are you most likely to watch Cable TV Channel 12/
2. No	Government Access? (Circle ONE response)
	Government Access? (Circle One response)
	1. Never watch TV 12
	2. Midnight to 6:00 a.m.
	3. 6:01 a.m. to noon
	4. 12:01 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
	5. 6:01 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
	6. 9:01 p.m. to midnight
	C2. About how many hours per week do you watch TV 12 ?hours per week

D. Do you use the City of Ames' website (<u>www.CityOfAmes.org</u>)?

1. Yes	 D1. If YES, do you? (Circle ALL that apply) 1. Sign up for Parks and Recreation classes 2. Check Ames Public Library card account or status of materials 3. Watch City Council meetings or Channel 12 programming on video-
2. No	streaming 4. Gather information for City Council meetings or other City meetings 5. Check for notices, updates, or news releases 6. Otherm
	6. Other: D2. What other information should be included on the website?

	The next section asks for your comments and overall ratings.											
A.	Please rate t	he overall qua:	lity of services	s you receive fro	om the City of Ames. (Circle ONE)							
	<u>Very poor</u>	Poor	<u>Good</u>	<u>Very Good</u>								
В.	. On what other issue(s) do you think the City should focus its attention?											
C.	. What is the best thing about living in Ames?											
D.	What would make Ames a fun, vibrant community?											
				Your Health								
Α.	Overall, how	would you rate	e your health?	,								
	Poor	<u>Fair</u>	Good	<u>Very good</u>	Excellent							
	more? 1. 0 day 2. 1 day 3. 2 - 3 4. 4 - 5	, , days	w many days v	were you engag	ed in physical activity of 20 minutes or							
C. I	1. Not i	ed are you in g nterested at al ewhat not inter		d in community	gardens in your neighborhood?							

- 3. Uncertain
- 4. Somewhat interested
- 5. Very interested

- D. During the last 7 days, how many times did you eat fruits? (Do not count fruit juices)
 - 1. I did not eat fruit during the past 7 days
 - 2. 1-3 times during the past 7 days
 - 3. 4-6 times during the past 7 days
 - 4. 1-2 times per day during the past 7 days
 - 5. 3 or more times per day during the last 7 days
- E. During the last 7 days, how many times did you eat other vegetables? (Do not count green salad)
 - 1. I did not eat vegetables during the past 7 days
 - 2. 1-3 times during the past 7 days
 - 3. 4-6 times during the past 7 days
 - 4. 1-2 times per day during the past 7 days
 - 5. 3 or more times per day during the last 7 days

Sense of community

- A. How many of your neighbors do you know?
 - 1. All of them
 - 2. Most of them
 - 3. About half of them
 - 4. A few of them
 - 5. None of them

B. How strong is the sense of community in your neighborhood?

- 1. Extremely strong
- 2. Very strong
- 3. Somewhat strong
- 4. Not very strong
- 5. Not at all strong

C. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following community involvement statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Uncertain	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
1. Issues facing my community are important to me						
2. I am knowledgeable about the issues facing my community						
3. I am engaged in addressing the issues of my community						
 I currently support nonprofit organization(s) with financial contributions 						
5. I currently serve on a Board of Directors for a nonprofit organization serving the City of Ames						
6. I currently volunteer for a nonprofit organization serving the City of Ames						

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D. Considering your experiences over the past 12 months, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Uncertain	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
I feel valued as an individual in the Ames community						
I feel I belong in Ames						
The city has a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.						
I am treated with respect in Ames						
I feel this city is a place where I could perform up to my full potential.						
I have found one or more organizations in Ames where I feel I belong.						

E. What would make you feel welcome and give you a sense of belonging in Ames?

In this last section, please tell us about yourself so we will know if we have reached a representative sample of Ames residents.	
A. How many years have you lived in Ames? years	
B. What is your age ? years	
C. What is your gender?	
1. Male	4. Prefer to self-describe
2. Female	5. Prefer not to answer
3. Non-binary / third gender	
D. What is your race?	
1. White	5. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
2. Black or African American	6. Other
3. American Indian or Alaskan Native 7. Prefer not to answer	
4. Asian	
E. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?	
1. No 2. Yes	
F. What is your highest level of formal education?	
1. Less than high school diploma	4. Undergraduate degree
2. High school diploma or GED	5. Some graduate work
3. Some college	6. Graduate degree
G. Are you currently a full-time student at Iowa State University?	
1. No 2. Yes	

- H. Your current employment status? (Circle ALL that apply.)
- 1. Employed full time 4. Full time homemaker
- 2. Employed part time
- 3. Retired

- Unemployed
 Other _____
- I. Do you **RENT** or **OWN** your home?
 - 1. Rent
 - 2. Own
 - 3. Other (specify _____)
- I1. For what reasons do you rent? (Circle ALL that apply.)1. Short-term stay in Ames
 - 2. Little or no upkeep
 - 3. More security
 - 4. Lack of adequate income
 - 5. Other (Specify)_
- J. **Income level** is requested in order to understand how household needs differ based upon income. Circle the number for the category that best estimates your 2019 total household income (before taxes).
 - 1. Under \$25,000 5. \$100,000–124,999
 - 2. \$25,000-49,999 6. \$125,000-\$149,999
 - 3. \$50,000-74,999 7. \$150,000-\$199,999
 - 4. \$75,000–99,999 8. \$200,000 or more
- K. In which part of Ames do you live? (Circle ONE area on the map)



- 1. **Northwest** (North side of Lincoln Way and streets to the north; west side of Grand Avenue and streets to the west).
- 2. **Northeast** (North side of Lincoln Way and streets to the north, east side of Grand Avenue and streets to the east).
- 3. **Southwest** (South side of Lincoln Way and streets to the south; west side of University Boulevard and streets to the west).
- 4. **Southeast** (South side of Lincoln Way and streets to the south; east side of University Boulevard and streets to the east).
- J. This space is provided for your additional comments.

Thank you for contributing your time and making a difference in your community! Return your questionnaire in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope