

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM C.R.P. STUDENTS FOR FUNDS TO PRESENT AMES FINDINGS AT C.U.P.U.M. CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND:

In July 2020, the City Council approved a proposal from Community and Regional Planning (CRP) classes at Iowa State University to partner with the City in identifying techniques to improve public engagement. The approved partnership included \$2,000 in funds authorized from the City Council Contingency account. Due to a reduction in gatherings related to the COVID-19 pandemic, only \$301 has been spent, leaving \$1,699 available.

At the March 23, 2021 City Council meeting, the City Council directed staff to place on the next Council agenda a request from the CRP students to present their findings at the International Conference on Computational Urban Planning and Urban Management (CUPUM).

The conference fee is 220 Euro per attendee (roughly \$259 each). Three students would attend the conference and present findings, for a total estimated cost of \$777.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize staff to reimburse 660 Euro (approximately \$777) in fees for three student registrations to CUPUM from the funds budgeted for the CRP class project.
2. Do not authorize the funds to be spent for this purpose.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City's partnership with Community and Regional Planning students has advanced the City Council's goal to use the best communication engagement techniques and modern technologies to engage the community by reaching people in geographic areas using multiple channels. The opportunity for the students to attend the CUPUM conference and present their findings allows for the knowledge created through this project to be shared with others. There is sufficient funding remaining within the Council's original budget for the project to support the request.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.