

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

BACKGROUND:

The City has regularly contracted with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission (ICRC) to manage the intake and resolution of civil rights complaints. **Under this agreement, ICRC actually pays the City an amount for each case it handles. The agreement allows the City to use these resources to assist complainants with obtaining and filling out complaint forms and ensuring they are complete and valid.**

The agreement also provides for the City to handle the resolution of complaints, including the investigation and conclusion of the cases. **Neither participating in the intake process or in the investigation process is mandatory under the cooperative agreement. It simply provides a procedure if the City wishes to perform either of these functions.**

ICRC has presented a new agreement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 and it has been reviewed and signed by the Ames Human Relations Commission Chair.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the cooperative agreement between the Ames Human Relations Commission and Iowa Civil Rights Commission.
2. Do not approve the agreement.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This agreement formalizes the mechanism that may be used by the City to transfer civil rights complaints to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for investigation. ICRC will compensate the City for acting as the intake agent under this agreement. The City and ICRC have maintained this arrangement for several years. Transferring this time-consuming investigation responsibility to the ICRC will allow the Ames Human Relations Commission more time to devote to proactive educational projects in the community.

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