

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$5,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE 2022 SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATIONS

BACKGROUND:

As cities across the country contend with bias-motivated incidents, in particular to persons from various ethnic groups and religious sects, we know that Ames/Story County has not been immune from these types of issues or situations, particular in the area of acts of racism, and vandalism. Our community continues to be fortunate to have maintained outlets for our citizens to have a voice and be able to participate in peaceful demonstrations occur rather than violent riots.

Therefore, it is hoped that the City of Ames, the Ames Human Relations Commission (AHRC), the Ames Chamber of Commerce, and the Iowa State University Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will continue to partner to host the **fifth** “Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations” event. The event is designed to educate, raise awareness, and provide tools and resources for the leaders and organizations in our community. The first four events were a deemed a major success with over approximately 250 participants from the community.

This year’s event will be held one half day on November 1st from 7:30 am-1:00pm. The event will be hosted in person at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center.

Each primary partner is being asked to contribute \$5,000 towards the cost of hosting the event which will help cover speaker fees, event sponsor recognition, meals, and marketing & promotion (see attached letter). **The City’s \$5,000 contribution would come from \$4,000 which is included in the City Council’s FY 2022/23 budget and \$1,000 from funds already budgeted for the AHRC activities (which was approved at the AHRC’s September 2022 meeting). The sponsorship will include tickets to the event (number provided is to be determined).**

The registration cost to attend the full event is \$100 and to attend the Luncheon only is \$75. There is also the opportunity for other community sponsorship levels at \$1,000 and \$500.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 (\$4,000 from the City Council's FY 2022/23 Operating Budget and \$1,000 for activities budgeted in FY 2022/23 for the AHRC activities) in support of the 2022 Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations event in partnership with the Ames Chamber of Commerce, and the Iowa State University Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
2. The City Council can choose to provide financial support to the 2022 Symposium at some amount less than the requested \$5,000.
3. The City Council can choose to not provide any financial support to the Symposium.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Continuing to support this event offers the City an opportunity to educate the public and partner with other groups regarding these important topics for our community. Furthermore, this type of event will support the City Council's goal for a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative # 1.