



*Smart Choice*

October 31, 2022

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

Dear Mayor Haila,

On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> the annual Run for the Roses race was held with its start and finish in Downtown Ames. While this race is not new to our community, it was the first time this particular race was held with the focal point of the start and conclusion being downtown centric.

The Ames Main Street organization was notified of the event in late July. Soon thereafter AMS provided a letter of support with the understanding that the organizers, Ames Area Running Club and Alpha Omicron Pi, would go door to door to talk with all affected properties along the route. It is my understanding that this notification did not happen.

Regrettably this caused frustration and disruption to two businesses in the downtown that expressed their concerns. Both Wheatsfield Cooperative and Cornbred BBQ alerted the Ames Chamber of Commerce and AMS to the situation when the notice of the street closure was published in an Ames Main Street electronic newsletter on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. By the time both businesses were made aware of the closure of the street in front of their businesses, there was very little time to make alternate accommodations for operating their businesses.

I bring this to your attention not to place blame but rather to underscore how important it is that protocols are followed. I presume that if the businesses had been notified back in August when this proposed road closure went to the Ames City Council for approval, there may very likely have been an alternate perspective on the closure of Main Street/Northwestern. Moving forward I assure you AMS and the Ames Chamber of Commerce will direct more attention to protocol and process surrounding things of this nature so that our businesses can operate and groups and organizations holding events that enrich our community can continue and work in harmony with our businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel A. Culhane', written in a cursive style.

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

CC: Gloria Betcher, Council Member, Ward One  
Tim Gartin, Council Member, Ward Two  
Anita Rollins, Council Member, Ward Three  
Rachel Junck, Council Member, Ward Four  
Amber Corrieri, Council Member, At-Large  
Bronwyn Beauty-Hansen, Council Member, At-Large  
Steve Schainker, City Manager  
Sam Stagg, Chair, Ames Main Street