

MEMO

Legal Department

To: Mayor Haila, Ames City Council

From: Mark O. Lambert, City Attorney

Date: June 6, 2025

Subject: Ordinance to comply with new state law re: citizen review boards of police

In October 2021, the Ames City Council approved an ordinance creating the Ames Resident Police Advisory Committee (ARPAC). ARPAC was designed to provide a resident perspective to the Chief of Police into the resolution of complaints against the Ames Police Department, provide thoughtful recommendations regarding the policies and practices of the Ames Police Department, report concerns regarding complaint investigation outcomes to the City Manager, and increase public confidence in the professionalism and accountability of the Ames Police Department. ARPAC is established in sections 2.50-2.55 of the Ames Municipal Code.

On May 19, 2025, the Governor of Iowa signed into law SF 311, which states that any city with a civil service commission established under Chapter 400 of the Iowa Code “shall not adopt, enforce, or otherwise administer an ordinance, motion, resolution, or amendment, or use an other means, to establish a board or other entity for the purpose of citizen review of the conduct of officers.” This new state law, which becomes effective on July 1, 2025, prohibits the City from having a citizen police-review board like ARPAC.

Therefore, in order to comply with the new state law, the Council must repeal the ARPAC ordinance. Attached is an ordinance to repeal the ARPAC sections of the Ames Municipal Code.

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