

ITEM #:	19
DATE:	06-24-25
DEPT:	P&H

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR "AMES: A GLIMPSE INSIDE" EVENT

BACKGROUND:

On May 27, 2025, the City Council moved to place on a future agenda a request from a Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to carryover unspent funding to the next fiscal year. The letter from Dévon Lewis, Chairperson of the Ames Historic Preservation Commission and the letter received from the organizers of "Ames: A Glimpse Inside" describing the event and requesting funding is attached to this report.

"Ames: A Glimpse Inside" is a new event planned for October 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will take place in the Main Street and Old Town National Register Historic Districts. This free self-guided open house is a new community heritage tourism initiative inviting participants to step inside for a behind-the-scenes look into homes, civic buildings and local landmarks. The location included will showcase the City's historical, architectural, and cultural significance through storytelling, exhibits, and interaction with property owners and trained docents.

The Ames Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has an annual budget of \$2,000, generally split with 50% for training and 50% for community education. This year, only a limited amount of the budget has been spent related to training and community awards. HPC members believe providing support next year for a new community education event, "Ames: A Glimpse Inside," would be a good use of funding that is otherwise not going to be spent. **HPC requests that the remaining estimated balance of \$1,715 be designated to carryover into the FY 2025/26 budget in order to allow HPC to support the "Ames: A Glimpse Inside" event.**

At the time of the HPC request, the organizers of the Glimpse, represented by Sharon Wirth, indicated they would need additional funding for the event that exceeds the HPC budget request. **The organizers of the event are also requesting that the City Council allocate \$1,500 of additional funds to support "Ames: A Glimpse Inside."** However, Ms. Wirth informed staff that the Glimpse was awarded a grant from Discover Ames and that both requests are not needed, but at least one is for the event to move forward. **If Council elects to carry over the HPC funding, then the \$1,500 request is not needed. If the HPC funds are not carried over, then the request for \$1,500 still stands.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve designating the carryover of the remaining HPC budget (estimated at an additional \$1,715) to the FY 2025/26 HPC budget.
2. In lieu of designating carryover of HPC funds, approve a request to allocate \$1,500 of City Council contingency funds to support "Ames: A Glimpse Inside."
3. Deny the request for funding at this time and refer the organizers to the annual outside funding request application process.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is an unusual request for funding of an event at this time of year. The HPC would typically have discretion to use approximately \$1,000 for a city event, but this request exceeds the usual annual budget allocation. With the updated information about the Glimpse receiving a Discover Ames grant, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Glimpse Updated Request.pdf](#)

[HPC Letter to City Council.pdf](#)