

ITEM #:	30
DATE:	08-11-26
DEPT:	POLICE

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL TO USE GOLF CARTS ON CITY STREETS

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa State University Interfraternity Council (IFC) represents numerous fraternity chapters affiliated with Iowa State University. In August each year, the fraternities host their formal recruitment process with approximately 750 incoming students, prior to the start of classes.

The organization submitted correspondence to the City dated July 24, (attached) requesting approval to utilize golf carts for limited transportation and logistical support associated with these activities. The request is for golf cart use from August 14 to August 20.

Ames Municipal Code §26.76 provides the City Manager with authority to permit the operation of golf carts under specified circumstances when such use is determined to be appropriate and consistent with public safety considerations.

The Ames Police Department has reviewed the request and considered the following factors:

- The proposed use is limited in scope and tied to organized IFC activities.
- Golf cart operations would occur at low speeds, with proper identification, and in designated areas consistent with the conditions established by the City Manager and only from sunrise to sunset.
- The organization has demonstrated the capacity to provide responsible operators and maintain oversight of vehicle use along with insurance.

The majority of golf cart use will be on Iowa State's campus and in "Greekland", directly south of campus across Lincoln Way. The roads that will need to be used for transportation outside of Iowa State's campus include:

- Beach Ave. north of Lincoln Way to get to and from Seasons dining hall and south of Lincoln Way to Sunset Drive
- Along Sunset Drive, Gray Ave., Greeley Street, Pearson Ave., Gable Lane, and Knapp Street
- Ash Ave. from Lincoln Way to Knapp Street
- Lynn Ave. from Lincoln Way to Storm St. and Storm St. From Lynn Ave. to Wallace and Wilson Halls (Towers)

- Golf carts may also be used to transport to dining halls for students to have meals.
- In addition, if a student living in Wallace or Wilson Halls requires transportation accommodation, IFC will pick them up and drop them off at their residence hall. If no students living in Wallace or Wilson Halls require transportation accommodations, golf carts will not go beyond Knapp St. from Lynn Ave.

Organizers will limit traffic across Lincoln Way, which will be necessary mostly at the beginning and end of the day (sunrise to sunset) to access the Memorial Union, where the carts will be stored.

Police Department staff believes the proposed use does not present a significant public safety concern provided that all conditions established by the City Manager and applicable provisions of the Ames Municipal Code are followed. The Risk Manager has indicated that, if approved, the City would not have any liability in the event of an injury or accident involving a golf cart as a result of the approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the City Manager to approve the request from Interfraternity Council to use golf carts upon designated City streets from August 14-20.
2. Do not authorize the City Manager to approve this request.
3. Refer this item to staff for further information.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Interfraternity Council has outlined the steps it will take to safely operate golf carts on City streets for this event. The use of golf carts is helpful to support the operations of the organization during this large event that spans several days. The plans have been reviewed by the Police Department and Risk Manager, and both are supportive of granting the request. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[ISU Interfraternity Council - Request for Golf Cart Use.pdf](#)