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| ITEM #: |                 |
| DATE:   | <u>10-28-25</u> |
| DEPT:   | <u>ADMIN</u>    |

### **COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**        **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND IOWA OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The City, on behalf of the Ames Human Relations Commission (AHRC), has regularly contracted with the Iowa Office of Civil Rights (IOCR) to manage the intake and resolution of civil rights complaints. **Under this agreement, IOCR pays the City a set amount for each complaint form sent to the IOCR (see agreement attached). The agreement allows the City to use these resources to assist complainants with obtaining and filling out complaint forms and ensuring they are complete and valid.**

IOCR has presented a new agreement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The Ames Human Relations Commission has reviewed this agreement and recommends City Council approval.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the cooperative agreement between the Ames Human Relations Commission and Iowa Civil Rights Commission.
2. Do not approve the agreement.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**This agreement formalizes the mechanisms in which the IOCR will investigate and resolve civil rights complaints. IOCR will compensate the City of Ames for acting as the intake agent under this agreement. The City, AHRC, and IOCR have maintained this arrangement for several years. Transferring this time-consuming investigation responsibility to the IOCR will allow the AHRC to focus on connecting and supporting all communities in Ames. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.**

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[Letter from Kristen Stiffler.pdf](#)  
[Local K FY26 - Non-Binding Copy.docx.pdf](#)