



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

CITY HALL
10300 TORRE AVENUE • CUPERTINO, CA 95014-3255
TELEPHONE: (408) 777-3223 • FAX: (408) 777-3366
CUPERTINO.ORG

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: July 16, 2019

Subject

Renewal and Establishment of Friendship City Relationships

Recommended Action

Approve renewal of two Friendship City relationships, including Jilin, China, and Tongxiang, China; and establishment of a new relationship with Xianning, China.

Discussion

The Cupertino City Council established its Friendship City program in September 2016. Although less formal than a Sister City relationship, a Friendship City relationship is an additional way to foster international cooperation at a local level.

The Friendship City relationships between Cupertino and the affiliate cities are coordinated and managed by a local committee of community members. These committees maintain communication with the affiliate city, while coordinating and implementing activities related to the Friendship City Program.

Relationship Renewals

The City currently has seven (7) active Friendship City relationships, not including the two (2) renewals. Five (5) relationships expired in May. Staff had reached out to the presidents of these committees in March to inquire about renewing but received no response. Another five (5) are expiring between July and October. Of those, two (2) responded with applications for renewal:

- Jilin, China
- Tongxiang, China

The *Policies and Guidelines on Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, and International Delegations* states that Councilmembers should review the following as part of the renewal process:

- Intent to renew letter from Friendship City official on official letterhead.
- Summary of Friendship City delegation visits to Cupertino hosted by the Committee over the last two years.
- Summary of Cupertino delegation visits hosted by the Friendship City.
- Description of activities held and outcomes.

- How the relationship has been mutually beneficial for Cupertino and the friendship community.
- An updated profile of the Friendship City Committee.

Activity Summaries

Jilin, China

In May 2017, former City Councilmember Barry Chang visited Jilin. In December 2018, a delegation of four officials from Jilin visited Cupertino.

Tongxiang, China

In May 2017, former City Councilmember Barry Chang visited Tongxiang. In June 2017, a delegation from Tongxiang visited Cupertino and met with Councilmember Darcy Paul, who was Vice Mayor at the time. In April 2018, Tongxiang vice mayor led a delegation to Cupertino and “exchanged information of the latest strategic development plans of the two cities.” On September 24, 2018, Mayor Steven Scharf and Tongxiang Friendship City member Angela Chen were invited to participate in Tongxiang's third “Focus on Tongxiang · Xiangwu Wuzhen” International Economic and Trade Fair.

New Application

The City has also received one new application:

- Xianning, China

Conclusion

The full activity summaries and applications are attached with summaries below. Staff has requested that the Friendship City representatives attend the July 16, 2019, meeting to answer questions from Councilmembers. If approved, these Friendship City relationships would last for two years and expire in July 2021. They would be subject for renewal by the Council at that time.

Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact.

Fiscal Impact

The *Policies and Guidelines on Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, and International Delegations* states that each member of a delegation can receive a gift that shall not exceed \$25. There is staff time involved with the preparation of gifts and folders, presentations, and tours.

Prepared by: Brian Babcock, Communications Officer

Approved for Submission by: Deborah Feng, City Manager

Attachments:

A – *Policies and Guidelines on Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, and International Delegations*

B – Cupertino Friendship Cities List

C – Cupertino-Jilin Friendship City Committee Activity Report

D – Cupertino-Tongxiang Friendship City Committee Activity Report

E – Cupertino-Xianning Friendship City Committee Application