



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: December 6, 2016

Subject

Establishment of Friendship City Relationships

Recommended Action

Review and consider 11 applications establishing Friendship City relationships with Luoyang, People's Republic of China; Qingdao, People's Republic of China; Shanghai, People's Republic of China; Shenzhen, People's Republic of China; Suzhou, People's Republic of China; Wuhan, People's Republic of China; Yilan, Taiwan, Republic of China; Zhaoqing, People's Republic of China; and Guro, Seoul, South Korea.

Background

At its September 6, 2016 meeting, Council approved amendments to the City's *Policies and Guidelines on Sister Cities* to include a designation for Friendship City relationships. Following this action, staff created an application and made it available to interested parties. To date, the City Council has established seven Friendship City relationships.

Description

The City recognizes the value of developing people-to-people contacts as a way to further international communication and understanding. Friendship City partnerships can be an effective method in fostering increased global cooperation and communication between the City of Cupertino and international municipalities. As such, the City welcomes friendly relationships with cities from around the world.

Staff has received 11 new applications from Friendship City groups representing:

- Jiangmen, People's Republic of China
- Luoyang, People's Republic of China
- Nanchang, People's Republic of China
- Qingdao, People's Republic of China
- Shanghai, People's Republic of China
- Shenzhen, People's Republic of China
- Suzhou, People's Republic of China
- Wuhan, People's Republic of China
- Yilan, Taiwan, Republic of China

- Zhaoqing, People's Republic of China
- Guro, Seoul, South Korea

If the application is approved by Council, the Mayor would sign the agreements establishing Friendship City Designations between the City and the international municipalities. The agreements would expire in two years unless renewed.

Sustainability Impact

To the extent that encouraging Friendship City relationships leads to additional international travel and delegation visits, there will be an increase in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Fiscal Impact

The policy establishes Friendship Cities differently from Sister Cities. Friendship Cities are not eligible for City funding. Any direct financial obligation from the City for Friendship Cities would be limited to providing promotional items not to exceed \$15 per delegate. Indirectly, each international delegation visit uses approximately 20 hours of staff effort, which equates to about \$1,500 of staff time per visit.

Prepared by: Brian Babcock, Public Information Officer

Reviewed by: Jaqui Guzmán, Deputy City Manager

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

- A – Jiangmen Friendship City Application
- B – Luoyang Friendship City Application
- C – Nanchang Friendship City Application
- D – Qingdao Friendship City Application
- E – Shanghai Friendship City Application
- F – Shenzhen Friendship City Application
- G – Suzhou Friendship City Application
- H – Wuhan Friendship City Application
- I – Yilan Friendship City Application
- J – Zhaoqing Friendship City Application
- K – Guro Friendship City Application