



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

CITY HALL

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**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: September 20, 2016

Subject

Establishment of Friendship City Relationships.

Recommended Action

Review and consider applications establishing Friendship City relationships with Nanjing, People's Republic of China; Changzhou, People's Republic of China; Chengdu, People's Republic of China; Hefei, People's Republic of China; Taipei, People's Republic of China; and Taizhou, People's Republic of China.

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. Staff received seven applications as of September 14, 2016.

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 received six complete applications from the following Friendship City groups:

- Cupertino-Changzhou Friendship City Promotion Committee
- Cupertino-Chengdu Friendship City Association
- Cupertino-Nanjing Friendship City Foundation
- Cupertino-Taipei Friendship City Association
- Taizhou-Cupertino Friendship City

One additional applicant (Hancheng, People's Republic of China) submitted an incomplete application and was not able to resubmit before the deadline for this City Council meeting.

If the applications are approved by Council, the Mayor would sign agreements establishing a Friendship City Designation between the City and the international municipality. The agreements would expire in two years unless renewed.

Pursuant to the policies regarding Friendship City programs, the applicant committees have submitted information identifying the committee members, the foreign city sponsor's identity and contact, as well as a description of the program activities, program goals and the source of funding for the program activities. The purpose of this information is to assure the City Council that the Friendship City applicants have the financial and organizational capacity to successfully implement their described programs.

#### 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 or eligible for free or discounted facility rentals. 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.

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Prepared by: Brian Babcock, Public Information Officer

Reviewed by: Jaqui Guzmán, Assistant to the City Manager

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

#### Attachments:

- A – Cupertino-Nanjing Friendship City Application
- B – Cupertino-Changzhou Friendship City Application
- C – Cupertino-Chengdu Friendship City Application
- D – Cupertino-Taipei Friendship City Application
- E – Cupertino-Taizhou Friendship City Application
- F – Sample Friendship City Agreement