



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

CITY HALL

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**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: October 4, 2016

Subject

Establishment of a Friendship City Relationship

Recommended Action

Review and consider an application establishing a Friendship City relationship with Taichung, Taiwan, 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 have made it available to interested parties. Council established six Friendship Cities at its September 20, 2016 meeting.

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 one new application from the following Friendship City group:

- Cupertino-Taichung Friendship City Committee

If the application is approved by Council, the Mayor would sign the agreement establishing a Friendship City Designation between the City and the international municipality. The agreement 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.

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Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Cupertino-Taichung Friendship City Committee