



## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: March 19, 2019

### Subject

Renewal of Friendship City Relationships

### Recommended Action

Approve renewal of five Friendship City relationships, including Jiangmen, China; Taichung, Taiwan; Taipei, Taiwan; Yilan, Taiwan; and Zhaoqing, China.

### Discussion

The Cupertino City Council established a 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. At its peak, the Friendship City program had 27 established relationships.

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.

At its November 20, 2018, meeting the City Council considered updates to the City's *Policies and Guidelines on Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, and International Delegations*. This included Council's approval of renewal criteria for expiring Friendship City relationships. However, Council exempted from this criteria two Friendship Cities that were requesting renewal that same night: Luoyang, China and Shenzhen, China.

The City currently has 12 active Friendship City relationships. It was requested that staff reach out to the remaining 15 Friendship Cities whose two-year terms expired between September and December 2018 and exempt them from the new criteria if they desired to continue a relationship with Cupertino. Out of the 15 Friendship Cities, only five responded to staff's inquiry and expressed their desire to renew their relationships:

- Jiangmen, China
- Taichung, Taiwan
- Taipei, Taiwan
- Yilan, Taiwan

- Zhaoqing, China

The City Council continued this item at its February 19, 2019, meeting and requested more information regarding the activities of the five committees. Staff reached out to all five groups and received information from four of them. The full activity summaries are attached with summaries below. Staff has requested that the Friendship City representatives attend the March 19, 2019, meeting to answer questions from Councilmembers.

If approved, these Friendship City relationships would last for two years and expire in March 2021. Once expired they, along with the 12 current Friendship Cities, would be required to go through the Council-approved renewal process.

#### Activity Summaries

##### **Jiangmen, China**

The Cupertino-Jiangmen Friendship City Committee has remained in contact with the Mayor's Office in Jiangmen, China. The Committee has taken a delegation group of Bay Area elected officials to Jiangmen. The Committee stated that it will be more active moving forward with plans to volunteer at next year's Fall Festival and organize a delegation, including the Cupertino Mayor and Councilmembers, that will visit Jiangmen.

##### **Taichung, Taiwan**

The Cupertino-Taichung Friendship City Committee has had a few accomplishments over the past two years. In March 2017, an eight-member delegation consisting of Committee members visited Taichung. In August 2017, six officials from Taichung visited Cupertino and met with Cupertino's Mayor. In each of the last two years (2017, 2018) the Committee has met with the Taichung government to coordinate a group of young artists who performed at the Kids 'N Fun Festival.

##### **Yilan, Taiwan**

The Cupertino-Yilan Friendship City Committee has visited Yilan and hosted a Taiwanese opera group that performed at the Kids 'N Fun Festival. The Committee has multiple items on its 2019 calendar including a kumquat showcase at the Quinlan Community Center, a student exchange program, and a booth promoting the Cupertino-Yilan relationship at the Kids 'N Fun Festival.

##### **Zhaoqing, China**

In the last two years, the Cupertino-Zhaoqing Friendship City Committee has sent delegation to visit Zhaoqing. The Committee has stated that it plans to be more active in the future, which would include hosting Zhaoqing's mayor in Cupertino. The Committee also plans to volunteer at the Fall Festival and organize a delegation, which would include Cupertino's Mayor and Councilmembers, that would visit Zhaoqing.

## **Taipei, Taiwan**

The City did not receive information from the Cupertino-Taipei Friendship City Committee, which had previously requested renewal. City staff reached out to the committee chair and vice chair on February 26, March 4, and March 6.

### 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 also staff time involved with the preparation of gifts and folders, presentations, and tours.

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Prepared by: Brian Babcock, Public Information Officer

Approved for Submission by: Timm Borden, Interim City Manager

### Attachments:

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

B – Cupertino Friendship Cities List

C – Cupertino-Jiangmen Friendship City Committee Application and Activity Report

D – Cupertino-Taichung Friendship City Committee Application and Activity Report

E – Cupertino-Taipei Friendship City Committee Application

F – Cupertino-Yilan Friendship City Committee Application and Activity Report

G – Cupertino-Zhaoqing Friendship City Committee Application and Activity Report