



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: October 17, 2017

Subject

Establishment of a Friendship City Relationship

Recommended Action

Approve one application establishing a Friendship City relationship with Tongxiang, 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. To date, the City Council has established twenty-six (26) Friendship City relationships.

In September, the City of Tongxiang requested a City of Cupertino representative for a large gathering of international cities. Sustainability Commissioner Angela Chen, with the approval of the Mayor, attended the event as an official Cupertino representative and signed a Letter of Intent for Friendship City status. During the event, Tongxiang unveiled a miniaturized version of the City's morion sculpture. The sculpture is now placed in Tongxiang's 412-acre Phoenix Lake Park.

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.

If the application is approved by Council, the Mayor would sign the agreement establishing 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.

Prepared by: Brian Babcock, Public Information Officer

Reviewed by: Jaqui Guzmán, Deputy City Manager

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Tongxiang Friendship City Application

B – PowerPoint Presentation of Cupertino Delegate Visit to Tongxiang