

Meeting Date: 9/24/2013

Report Type: Consent

Report ID: 2013-00730

Title: Establishing a Sister City relationship with Mexicali

Location: Citywide

Issue: In recognition of the existing bonds between Sacramento and the Mexicali Valley, on May 7, 2013, the Sacramento City Council adopted Resolution 2013-137 stating its intent to establish a sister city relationship with Mexicali, the capital city of Baja California, based in part on the cultural exchanges that have been occurring between the two cities for the past 15 years. Adoption of a Resolution will formally establish a sister city relationship with Mexicali.

Recommendation: Pass a Resolution establishing a Sister City relationship with Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico.

Contact: Mark Prestwich, Special Projects Manager, (916) 808-5380, Office of the City Manager

Presenter: None

Department: City Manager

Division: Executive Office

Dept ID:

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Background

3-Resolution

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form
Matthew Ruyak
9/19/2013 9:05:14 AM

City Treasurer Review

Reviewed for Impact on Cash and Debt
Janelle Gray
9/10/2013 12:57:55 PM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Shirley Concolino - 9/18/2013 1:38:58 PM

Description/Analysis

Policy Considerations: Establishment of new sister city relationships requires demonstrated community interest and participation since each city is responsible for developing and implementing activities. Members of Bayside Church, a Sacramento-area regional congregation, Adventure Church from Natomas and other area congregations, members of the Sacramento community, as well as representatives from Mexicali, have demonstrated the necessary interest to develop and sustain a sister city relationship.

Economic Impacts: Not applicable.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): This report concerns administrative activities that will not have any significant effect on the environment and that do not constitute a “project,” as defined by CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3), 15378(b)(2).

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: The establishment of Mexicali as a sister city implements Resolution No. 2013-137, in which the City Council gave its endorsement of intent to formalize a Sister City relationship with Mexicali.

Financial Considerations: Not applicable.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable.

Background

The City of Sacramento has an active Sister City program with ten cities across the world. The program is managed by the Sacramento Sister City Council (SSCC). Sacramento's sister cities and their respective establishment dates are:

Manila, Philippines (1961)	Chisinau, Moldova (1989)
Matsuyama, Japan (1981)	Youngsan-gu, Korea (1997)
Jinan, China (1984)	San Juan de Oriente, Nicaragua (2006)
Hamilton, New Zealand (1988)	Bethlehem, Palestine (2009)
Liestal, Switzerland (1989)	Ashkelon, Israel (2012)

The SSCC is comprised of a president, or designee, from each of the sister cities. Guided by their mission statement, "Promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation," SSCC meets five to six times a year to develop mutually-beneficial cultural, educational, social and economic relationships between the citizens of Sacramento and its sister cities. SSCC activities include dissemination of newsletters, announcements of events, engaging in joint activities, and networking with other internationally-oriented organizations. The City's Mayor/Council Operations Manager attends these meetings and provides staff support.

As with Mexicali, Baja California, sister city relationships typically emerge from grassroots efforts that are coordinated and supported by advocates in each city, and often are based on existing bonds between the two cities. For the past 15 years, Bayside Church, a Sacramento-area regional congregation, has been sending community members to the Mexicali Valley to build homes, provide food for needy families, and other services and to date has sent over 6,000 people to the area. This annual program has grown to 1,000 participants per visit, and has expanded to include other area congregations, including Adventure Church from Natomas.

RESOLUTION NO.

ENDORISING THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SACRAMENTO AND MEXICALI, BAJA CALIFORNIA

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

BACKGROUND

- A. The mission of the Sister Cities Council of Sacramento is to develop mutually beneficial cultural, educational, social, and/or economic relationships between the citizens of Sacramento and its Sister Cities.
- B. The City of Sacramento has benefitted from having Sister Cities in ten countries around the world, but has not yet established a Sister City relationship with a city in Mexico.
- C. Sacramento County is home to an estimated 249,000 people of Mexican origin.
- D. Cultural exchanges between the Sacramento region and Mexicali Valley region have been occurring for the past fifteen years, improving the bonds between Sacramento and Mexicali.
- E. For the past 15 years, Bayside Church, a Sacramento-area regional congregation, has been sending community members to the Mexicali Valley to build homes, provide food for needy families, and other services. More than 6,000 people have participated in this program.
- F. Bayside Church's annual program has grown to 1,000 participants per visit, and has expanded to include other area congregations, including Adventure Church from Natomas.
- G. Mexicali is the capital of the state of Baja California, seat of the Municipality of Mexicali and the second largest city in Baja California.
- H. On May 7, 2013, the Sacramento City Council adopted a Resolution of Intent to establish a Sister City relationship with Mexicali, under the guidance of the Sacramento Sister Cities Council.
- I. A formal Sister City relationship will enhance the ties that already exist between Mexicali and Sacramento in the areas of culture, commerce, tourism, education, social assistance, sports, urban development and

planning exchanges, among others.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Sacramento City Council gives its endorsement to affiliation of the City of Sacramento and the City of Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico as Sister Cities.

SECTION 2: The City Clerk shall send copy of this Resolution to the Municipal President of Mexicali and to Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C.