

Seattle Sister Cities Program –Proposed Ordinance

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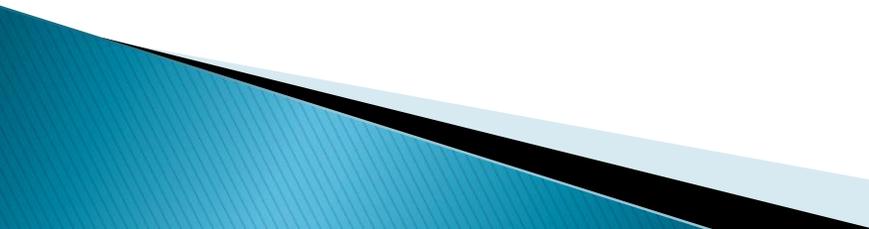
Opportunities

- ▶ Founded by President Eisenhower in 1956, the Sister Cities Program advances citizen diplomacy, peace and prosperity through cultural, educational, humanitarian, and economic development exchanges.
 - ▶ Seattle's 21 sister-city affiliations ranks 6th among US cities' affiliations.
 - ▶ The landscape of Seattle's international engagement has changed significantly over the past two decades (e.g., global health and green build sectors), and could be more thoroughly represented by its sister city affiliations.
 - ▶ Despite its comparatively large program, Seattle currently is unrepresented in Central and South America, as well as important countries like India, Turkey, and the UAE.
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Ordinance Background

- ▶ This proposed ordinance supports the shared interest in modernizing the Seattle Sister Cities program.
- ▶ To date, the program has been largely governed by multiple resolutions (e.g., Res. 29446, 1996; Res. 29456, 1996; Res. 29897, 1999).
- ▶ The proposed ordinance mainly functions to codify the city's long-standing sister city program.
 - By codifying these policies, interested parties will be better able to track program requirements and developments;
 - Having formally existed since 1957 (i.e., Kobe), the Seattle Sister Cities program is a stable, long-term program, for which codification is appropriate.

Proposed Changes

- ▶ In addition to codifying the existing program, this proposed ordinance includes four (4) modest changes, including:
 1. Introduces emeritus status for sister city affiliations, allowing some to be appropriately memorialized;
 2. Introduces time-bound sister city relationship terms (i.e., five-year, renewable agreements);
 3. Requires a MOU between the City and the nonprofit organization that acts as the treasurer for sister city program funds raised at the annual reception; and
 4. Changes the composition of the Seattle Sister Cities Coordinating Council to allow it to best fulfill its mandates.
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Support from Governing Body

Each of the changes proposed by this legislation has received unanimous support from the members of the Seattle Sister Cities Coordinating Council.

Phase II: Addressing Res. 29446 (1996)

- ▶ This proposed legislation (a.k.a., “Phase I”) does not repeal the temporary moratorium on creating new sister city affiliations that was introduced in 1996 under Res. 29446.
 - It does, however, identify the process and substantive requirements for initiating and maintaining a sister city affiliate.
- ▶ Were resources to become available for initiating a new sister city affiliation, Council would first need to repeal the moratorium (i.e., Res. 29446).

Questions?

Seattle's Sister City Relationships

- ▶ Be'er Sheva, Israel (1977)
- ▶ Bergen, Norway (1967)
- ▶ Cebu, Philippines (1991)
- ▶ Chongqing, China (1983)
- ▶ Christchurch, New Zealand (1981)
- ▶ Daejeon, Korea (1989)
- ▶ Galway, Ireland (1986)
- ▶ Gdynia, Poland (1993)
- ▶ Haiphong, Vietnam (1996)
- ▶ Kaohsiung, Taiwan (1991)
- ▶ Kobe, Japan (1957)
- ▶ Limbe, Cameroon (1984)
- ▶ Mazatlán, Mexico (1979)
- ▶ Mombasa, Kenya (1981)
- ▶ Nantes, France (1980)
- ▶ Pécs, Hungary (1991)
- ▶ Perugia, Italy (1993)
- ▶ Reykjavik, Iceland (1986)
- ▶ Sihanoukville, Cambodia (1999)
- ▶ Surabaya, Indonesia (1992)
- ▶ Tashkent, Uzbekistan (1973)