

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WATSONVILLE RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 161-18 (CM) AND
ADOPTING RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NEW SISTER CITY POLICY
IN THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE**

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the residents of the City of Watsonville to promote peace, understanding, and prosperity through people-to-people relationships, cultural understanding, cultural exchange, and sharing arts, education, trade, agricultural practices and customs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

That the Council hereby establishes the following Sister-City Policy to be followed by staff and members of the Council until changed or terminated.

1. That a sister city relationship shall be established and may be terminated only by Council resolution.

2. That the establishment of sister city relationships be based on identifying ties or commonalities in size, population, business/trade/industry, history, representative ethnic groups, culture societal goals, and education.

3. That a sister city relationship may be established only when the Council finds that an identified local, organized sponsoring group of individuals agree to promote and manage the relationship, demonstrate the capacity to be and remain the primary means of communication between cities and local agencies and remain financially responsible for costs throughout the period of the sister city relationship.

4. That the sister city relationship shall be terminated by Council if the sponsoring committee dissolves or is inactive for an excessive period of time, and the Council has not identified another sponsoring committee to resume the duties of the original committee.

5. That the sponsoring group shall organize and actively participate in bi-lateral meaningful mutual meetings or exchange visits with the sister city.

6. That a request for sister city relationship shall be approved only upon demonstrated good cause, supported by a written document describing the benefits to such a relationship by the sponsoring committee and a request from the proposed sister city for a partnership.

7. That each sponsoring group shall be primarily responsible for all costs of a visit to the sister city, including, but not limited to accommodations, meals, tours, and travel.

8. That designated City funds shall be used for sister city expenses, including but not limited to gifts, transportation, lodging, or travel related meals if the Committee is unable to accommodate all costs and only upon approval by the City Manager.

9. That sister city funds from the City shall be appropriated in the City budget process.

10. That use of Council travel funds for sister city purposes be consistent with the Training, Conference, and Meeting Reimbursement policy as set forth in the Council Protocols.

11. That the Council encourages that fundraising occur through a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable corporation and that the public be encouraged to participate in and contribute to promote cultural and economic relationships with sister cities.

12. That each member of a sister city delegation shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the Political Reform Act and regulations promulgated thereunder, particularly Chapter 9.5 (Ethics) of Division 6¹ and in particular, Section 18944 “Payments Made to an Agency for Use by Agency Officials.”

13. That each member of a sister city delegation shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the Political Reform Act and regulations promulgated thereunder, particularly Chapter 9.5 (Ethics) of Division 6² and in particular, Section 18950.1 “Exception: Payments for Travel Made in Conjunction with Official Agency Business.”

14. That each member shall also comply, to the extent applicable, with Watsonville’s Election Campaign Contribution Control Ordinance found in Chapter 6 of Title 1 of the Watsonville Municipal Code.

15. That the City Clerk shall be notified at least two months in advance of any planned visit to Watsonville by a sister city delegation to best accommodate visitors and travelers.

16. That the City Clerk shall be notified at least two months in advance of any planned visit to the sister City. The sponsoring committee shall submit to the City Clerk within fifteen (15) days an itemized report of all expenses incurred and source of payment related to the sister city event.

¹ 2 California Code of Regulations 18930 et seq

² ibid

17. That any delegation from the City to a sister city include the Mayor and up to two additional Council Members.

18. That if the Mayor declines to participate in the visit, then the Mayor Pro Tempore represent the City's delegation. Two additional Council members may be designated as part of the delegation, in order of seniority (time served on Council and if there is a tie, then in alphabetical order by last name). If the Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tempore) or Council member is unable or otherwise declines to attend, then the next senior Council member (determined in the same manner) becomes eligible. A Council member who has visited a sister city within the last twenty-four months (measured back from the date of the proposed new visit) may not be included in a second visit to a sister city until twenty-four months have passed since the return, unless no other Council Member is able to participate.

19. That members of the official sister-city delegation shall be designated only in this way.

20. That the formation of a sister city relationship shall not imply or express approval or disapproval of the politics or government practices of elected or appointed officials, policies, cultural practices, or conduct of the sister community, which may run contrary to the politics, policies, cultural practices, or actions of the City of Watsonville or the Council.

21. That participants in sister city exchanges may express their personal First Amendment political, cultural, religious, or other beliefs while participating in sister city programs, however sister city relationships and activities are intended to be nonpartisan, non-denominational, and inclusive of all races, cultures and ethnicities.

22. That the members of an official City of Watsonville delegation are encouraged to have robust, informed discussions while travelling and participating as part of the sister city program however no member of the delegation may speak for the City or the Council unless and except through resolution or motion at a noticed public meeting.

23. That the City Clerk shall be responsible for the direction, management, or administration of sister city activities.
