

Sister City Policy

April 25, 2023

Recommended Action:

- Adopt a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 161-18 (CM), adopted on October 9, 2018, which established the Sister City Policy, and replace with a resolution approving an updated Sister City Policy.

BACKGROUND

- In 1986, the City of Watsonville established its first Sister City partnership with Kawakami-Mura, Japan. Since then, the City added five additional cities to the program and found the need to establish a policy to manage the increase in partnerships.
- In 2018, the City Council approved a policy to manage the process for establishing existing and new sister city affiliations. One additional partnership was created after the policy was established.

Sister Cities

- Kawakami-Mura, Japan
(Established 11/12/86)
- Pinghu, Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China
(Established 8/31/06)
- San Pedro Masahuat, Department of La Paz, Republic of El Salvador
(Established 7/2/13)
- Tangancícuaro, Michoacán, México
(Established 11/28/17)
- Municipality of Jocotepec, Jalisco, Mexico
(Established 7/10/18)
- Cavtat, Konavle, Croatia
(Established 9/11/18)
- Velas, São Jorge Island, Azore Islands Portugal
(Established 12/14/21)



PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY

1. Clarify the merits for which a sister city partnership may be established.
 - Ties or commonalities in size, population, business/trade/industry, history, representative ethnic groups, culture societal goals, and education.
2. Enable City to work with new committees (if previous dissolved or inactive) to resume sister city activities.
3. Remove all language prohibiting the City from using City funds for sister city interactions.

Sister City Policy Requirements (Cont.)

4. Identify funds during the budget process for sister city activities.
5. Allow use of travel funds for sister city activities if consistent with the Training, Conference, and Meeting Reimbursement policy as set forth in the Council Protocols.
6. Clarify eligibility for participating in a delegation from the City to sister city.

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