



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

**Date:** October 3, 2014

**To:** Council Vice President Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**Subject:** Proposal from Minnesota Friends of Bosaso to form a sister city connection with Bosaso, Puntland, Somalia.

**Recommendation:** Approve resolution to establish a sister city relationship with Bosaso, Puntland, Somalia.

### Department Information

Prepared by: Jenny Chayabutr Approved by: Gene Ranieri Presenters in Committee: Jenny Chayabutr, Intergovernmental Relations Department Bill Deef, Meet Minneapolis Minnesota Friends of Bosaso
---

### Financial Impact

- No financial impact

### Supporting Information

On July 23, 2014 the City of Minneapolis received a proposal from Minnesota Friends of Bosaso to establish a sister city relationship between Bosaso and Minneapolis. The proposal includes a letter from Mayor Hassan Abdalle Hassan of Bosaso expressing his support and encouragement for a sister city connection with Minneapolis. The proposal also includes several letters of support from government officials, both in Puntland and Minnesota, local businesses, and community organizations.

A review committee met with members of Minnesota Friends of Bosaso on September 23, 2014 for a presentation and discussion of the proposal. The proposal was reviewed based on the process and criteria for sister city relationships adopted July 17, 1998 and revised October 2, 2009. A copy of the criteria is attached.

As described in the criteria a proposal is reviewed by a committee with representatives from the following offices or organizations. The names of review committee members for this proposal are listed next to the office or organization represented.

Mayor's office: John Stiles

City Council office: Abdi Salah

City Coordinator's office: Jay Stroebel

Meet Minneapolis: Bill Deef

Sister city committees (2):

Katie Fournier, Uppsala Sister City Committee

LaJune Lange, Eldoret Sister City Committee

The review committee unanimously recommended the proposal. The recommendation included a recommendation that the proposal better align the narrative, work plan and budget. The proposal was revised and budget items, such as "Books for Bosaso" were described in the proposed work plan.

There was also a discussion about expectations for official exchanges. It was noted that:

- There are other ways to have exchanges without travel, e.g. Skype
- The relationship with the Somali and American governments has been changing rapidly. And the United States recently hosted the first Somali Ambassador in 24 years.
- Many Somali delegates visit Minnesota, including Members of Parliament and East African University. A few weeks ago the Minister of Education was in Minnesota and met with State, County and City officials.
- For student exchange the thinking is more on a technology level.

Other comments included:

- The proposal is encouraging community involvement and youth involvement in Minneapolis.
- There is clearly community support and connections with Bosaso.
- The timing fits with the interconnectedness with immigrant communities, the City and federal programs. There is a community that wants to participate in this process, and business people that can help host visitors. And government officials are able to come to Minnesota through approved government channels.

Attachments:

- 1) The Minneapolis process and criteria for sister city relationships
- 2) The Bosaso-Minneapolis proposal
- 3) Resolution