



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of the City Coordinator

Date: March 16, 2015

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

Subject: Global Partnerships - Minneapolis Sister Cities

Recommendation: To temporarily postpone the creation of any new sister city connections and direct staff to 1) evaluate the number of sister cities that we currently have and the capacity to have more; 2) evaluate the engagement/involvement of the sister cities that we have at the current time and whether they should be continued; and 3) explore other options, including tiered status or other reviewed mechanisms, for sister city connections.

Previous Directives:

July 17, 1998, Petition Number 263925, Sister Cities Criteria.

September 29, 2009, Petition Number 273782, Minneapolis Sister City Relationships:
Revised process & criteria.

Department Information

Prepared by: Jenny Chayabutr, City Coordinator Department

Approved by: Spencer Cronk, City Coordinator

Presenters in Committee:

Spencer Cronk, City Coordinator

Bill Deef, Meet Minneapolis

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Supporting Information

Minneapolis sister city connections are managed locally through a collaboration between the City of Minneapolis, Meet Minneapolis, and a sister city committee. Minneapolis has 12 Sister City connections, ten (10) of which currently have a local sister city committee:

<u>Sister City</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Santiago	Chile	June 30, 1961	Club Chileno de Minnesota
Winnipeg	Canada	Jan. 12, 1973	None at this time
Kuopio	Finland	May 25, 1973	Minneapolis Kuopio Partnership
Ibaraki City	Japan	June 27, 1980	Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association
Novosibirsk	Russia	March 4, 1988	None at this time
Tours	France	March 29, 1991	Minneapolis Tours Sister City Association
Harbin	China	May 8, 1992	US-China People's Friendship Association of Minnesota, Minneapolis Harbin Sister City Committee

Uppsala	Sweden	Jan. 21, 2000	Minneapolis-Uppsala Friendship Committee of the American Swedish Institute
Eldoret	Kenya	Oct. 27, 2000	International Leadership Institute
Cuernavaca	Mexico	Aug. 22, 2008	Minneapolis-Cuernavaca Sister City Association
Najaf	Iraq	July 31, 2009	Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project
Bosaso	Somalia	Oct. 17, 2014	Minnesota Friends of Bosaso

The recommendation today is to temporarily postpone the creation of any new sister city connections and direct staff to 1) evaluate the number of sister cities that we currently have and the capacity to have more; 2) evaluate the engagement/involvement of the sister cities that we have at the current time and whether they should be continued; and 3) explore other options, including tiered status or other reviewed mechanisms, for sister city connections. It is anticipated that staff will be prepared to report back to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee by December 2015.

Sister City exchanges and activities

Listed below are highlights of official sister city exchanges that have recently taken place, or anticipated to happen later this year or in the near future. Other exchanges may be scheduled throughout the year. This list does not include the ongoing activities of the sister city committees, including professional exchanges, letter writing, art exhibits, fundraising events, a Haiku contest, participation in Minneapolis Sister Cities Day, and other activities.

<u>Sister City/ activity</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sister Cities International	Sister Cities International Conference Minneapolis will host the 59 th annual Sister Cities International Conference, "Bridging Generations for Peace," July 16-18, 2015. Followed by the annual Minneapolis Sister Cities Day on July 19, 2015.
Bosaso	Signing ceremony A signing ceremony for the Minneapolis-Bosaso sister city connection will be planned for July 2015, to take place during the Sister Cities International Conference in Minneapolis.
Cuernavaca	Cuernavaca delegation visit to Minneapolis The Mayor of Cuernavaca is interested in visiting Minneapolis, possibly during the Sister Cities International Conference in July.
Eldoret	Training for Firefighters Delegations from Eldoret visited Minneapolis in 2014 and expressed interest in firefighters from Eldoret training in Minneapolis. The proposal is to train two people that can return to Eldoret to train others. The sister city committee will connect back with the City on further details of the proposal.
Harbin	Harbin International Cold Zone Development Forum Mayor Betsy Hodges, City Council Member John Quincy and representatives from Meet Minneapolis and the US China People's Friendship Association – Minnesota traveled to Harbin in January to learn about and share best practices for economic development and tourism in cold zone cities. Harbin delegation visits Minneapolis A delegation from Harbin visited Minneapolis in January to learn more about winter tourism and the experience of winter in Minneapolis. This included recognition at a Minneapolis City Council meeting and a visit to the City of Lakes Loppet.
Ibaraki City	35th anniversary of Ibaraki sister city connection Ibaraki plans to invite a Minneapolis delegation to visit Ibaraki in the fall of 2015.

Najaf	Najaf delegation visit to Minneapolis A delegation of City Councilmembers from Najaf is considering visiting Minneapolis in 2015.
Tours	Foire de Tours Minneapolis has been invited to participate in the 2017 Foire de Tours. Participation requirements are being researched by Meet Minneapolis.
Uppsala	Uppsala delegation visit to Minneapolis The Mayor and Deputy Mayor, along with other City of Uppsala officials, the County Governor, and representatives from the University of Uppsala plan to visit Minneapolis in September. The delegation from Uppsala hopes to use this trip to deepen cooperation by bringing together leaders to build up the different relationships between Uppsala and Minneapolis and jointly highlight the opportunities for exchange and learning.

About Sister Cities

Minneapolis is a member of Sister Cities International. First created as the People-to-People Partnership by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956; Sister Cities International was envisioned as an organization that could be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world. By forming these relationships, President Eisenhower reasoned that people of different cultures could celebrate and appreciate their differences, and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts. The mission statement of Sister Cities International is “to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.”

Sister Cities International defines a sister city relationship as a broad-based, long-term partnership between two cities in two countries. A sister city relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both cities sign an agreement.

A sister city organization is defined as a volunteer group, with the support of their local elected officials, that forms a long-term relationship with people and organizations in a city abroad. Sister city organizations are expected to promote peace through people-to-people relationships—with program offerings varying greatly - from basic cultural exchanges to shared research and development projects between cities.

Minneapolis Global Partnerships

In 2009 the Minneapolis Sister Cities program was assigned to Meet Minneapolis and named “Global Partnerships.” As part of Global Partnerships, Meet Minneapolis and the City work in partnership to manage Minneapolis’ sister cities program. Meet Minneapolis manages the sister city committees and the City acts as the contact for all City related business (e.g. correspondence, scheduling meetings with City officials).

The City of Minneapolis International Goals and Objectives are as follows:

Goals:

1. Provide opportunities for City officials and others to position Minneapolis as a world-class city and center for international business.
2. Develop avenues for local businesses who want to establish or expand international commercial initiatives.
3. Increase citizen awareness of the influence and impact that foreign policy and the global marketplace have on our community.
4. Provide more options for citizens to experience, understand and appreciate other cultures.
5. Expand and enrich existing international relationships.

Objectives:

1. Explore economic development synergies between cities.
2. Share best practices for city government.
3. Develop and support educational, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
4. Use sister cities as a catalyst for international promotion.