



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Bucoda Warren, Interim Chief Policy Analyst, Office of the Mayor
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Declaring support for Tacoma’s Sister City in Brovary, and all of Ukraine – Requested for March 1, 2022
DATE: March 1, 2022

SUMMARY:

A resolution declaring support for Tacoma’s Sister City in Brovary, and all of Ukraine and join our brothers and sisters in Ukraine in calling for peace and an end to this conflict.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards

BACKGROUND:

Tacoma is an active participant in the Sister Cities program, and has a standing relationship with Brovary, Ukraine. Pastor Peter Sayenko immigrated from Brovary, Ukraine and founded the Slavic Christian Center in Tacoma. He strove to build relationships between Brovary and Tacoma, and Brovary sent a letter to Tacoma in 2015 declaring their interest in becoming sister cities. On August 8, 2017 the City passed Resolution 39774 that created the Sister City bond. The Slavic Christian Church has since partnered with Tacoma and the Sister Cities program to facilitate youth and economic exchanges. With Pastor Sayenko’s passing in 2020, Pastor Ivantsov Andrey Ivanovich has succeeded him to continue this bond.

Brovary Mayor Igor Sapozhko has visited Tacoma twice to promote this relationship, and in 2019 Mayor Woodards and Fire Chief Tory Green flew to Brovary to deliver a surplus ambulance during a welcome ceremony. They were Joined by Tacoma firefighters and Stan Chain. Stan is a City employee and Chair of the Brovary-Tacoma Siter City Committee who traveled to Germany to drive the ambulance into his home Country and the City of Brovary. Through the Sister Cities Mission of “Promoting Peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation” the City of Tacoma and Brovary continue to hold this relationship in high regard.

ISSUE:

Ukrainian citizens are facing an unjustified Russian invasion and occupation that has resulted in injuries and death. Tacoma’s Sister City Brovary has been struck by multiple air strikes where residents have been killed and injured, and this is only a small part of the larger abuses Ukraine is facing. Our bonds between our cities are more important than ever.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatively, Council could decide not to adopt this resolution of support.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is our recommendation that Council adopt this resolution to demonstrate our support for the Ukrainian community in Tacoma.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.