



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Debbie Bingham, Economic Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development
Ricardo Noguera, Director, Community and Economic Development
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Request for resolution designating Boca Del Rio, Veracruz, Mexico as a Sister City- June 28, 2016**
DATE: June 8, 2016

SUMMARY:

Resolution to have Boca Del Rio, Veracruz, Mexico become Tacoma’s 14th Sister City.

BACKGROUND:

Boca Del Rio, located in the center of State of Veracruz, Mexico, serves as the seat of the municipality in the south end of the Veracruz. For the past 6 months, five members of the committee have been meeting regularly and have taken a trip to Boca Del Rio in order to deliver a letter from Mayor Strickland to Mayor Miguel Angel Yunes Marquez about the creation of a Sister City relationship. Since then, the Sister Cities Council approved the relationship and the Committee created a work plan through 2018 such that our relationship will fulfill the spirit of the Sister Cities Program of promoting global community through citizen diplomacy, cultural education, and economic development. Washington’s rapidly growing Latino community, 85% of which is Mexican or of Mexican descent, is a major contributor to Washington State’s economy, education, and civic process. A relationship with Boca del Rio will help position Tacoma as an advantageous place to live, learn, and conduct business. Additionally, Tacoma and Boca del Rio have similar programs in the Arts and STEM fields; a Sister City relationship gives us an opportunity to reinforce our strengths while creating economic, pedagogical, and civic value.

ISSUE:

To have Boca Del Rio, Veracruz, Mexico, become Tacoma’s 14th Sister City.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the resolution is not adopted, the committee will not move forward in pursuing Boca Del Rio as Tacoma’s Sister City at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Council approve this resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT: There are no budget impacts to the City of Tacoma as work will fall within the work scope of the Sister City Program Coordinator and any associated costs would come out of the Department of Community and Economic Development’s budget.