



RESOLUTION NO. 41815

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBER SADALGE

2 A RESOLUTION related to economic development; designating Kochi, India, as a
3 Friendship City.

4 WHEREAS the City has been involved in the Sister City Program for over
5 55 years, and

6 WHEREAS the program's mission is to promote global community through
7 citizen diplomacy, cultural education, and economic development, and

8 WHEREAS in order to be considered for a Friendship or Sister City
9 designation, a committee must be formed with members from both communities
10 and a relationship must first be established, and once a relationship has been
11 established and has started to build momentum, the committee can apply to the
12 Sister Cities Council for formal consideration of a relationship, and

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14 WHEREAS once approved by the Sister Cities Council the application is
15 then forwarded to the Mayor's Office who reviews the materials for completeness
16 and submits the recommendation to the City Council for consideration, and

17 WHEREAS a Friendship City designation is typically meant as a stepping
18 stone to a formal Sister City relationship and a period of engagement and review
19 of the fit of the relationship, and

20 WHEREAS a Sister City designation between the City and Kochi is
21 grounded in shared strengths, complementary priorities, and the potential for
22 meaningful long-term collaboration, as both are diverse coastal cities with robust
23 port operations, growing creative economies, and strong commitments to
24 sustainability and community-driven development, and
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1 WHEREAS establishing this relationship would expand the City's global
2 engagement, help the Sister Cities Council deepen its regional and international
3 networks, and create new pathways for cultural, educational, and economic
4 exchange, and

5 WHEREAS for the City and its community partners, this relationship offers
6 opportunities to learn from Kochi's innovations in creative economy, smart-city
7 planning, climate resilience, tourism development, and multicultural arts
8 programming, and likewise, Kochi benefits from the City's leadership in port
9 modernization, environmental stewardship, and community-based innovation, and

10 WHEREAS local organizations, including schools, universities, arts groups,
11 and business associations, can gain access to new partnerships, joint projects,
12 and exchange opportunities that broaden global awareness and strengthen
13 international cooperation, and

14 WHEREAS mutual areas of strength and interest include maritime
15 industries, climate adaptation, clean energy, cultural festivals, creative arts,
16 entrepreneurship, youth development, and equitable urban planning, and the
17 designation would serve as a catalyst for community connection, economic
18 growth, and shared learning, enhancing both cities' ability to foster global
19 citizenship and sustainable progress, and

20 WHEREAS Syed K. Jamal and Clare Petrich visited Kochi in November of
21 2024 and signed an Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Kochi
22 through its Mayor and built a strong foundation for future partnerships, and a
23 agreement following this resolution will be signed by the Mayor endorsing the
24 relationship, and
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1 WHEREAS this relationship is supported by the Tacoma Sister Cities
2 Council; Now, Therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

4 Section 1. That the City Council hereby designates Kochi, India, as a
5 Friendship City.

6 Section 2. That a review is required of the relationship for a possible Sister
7 City designation or dissolution within five years.

8 Section 3. That, by this designation, the City shall enter into an agreement
9 endorsing the relationship.

10 Adopted _____
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12 _____
13 Mayor

14 Attest:

15 _____
16 City Clerk

17 Approved as to form:
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19 _____
20 Deputy City Attorney
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