



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development
COPY: Economic Development Committee
PRESENTER: Debbie Bingham, Community and Economic Development, Clare Petrich, Chair, Sister Cities Council
SUBJECT: Sister City Program Annual Update
DATE: August 9, 2022

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:
An informational presentation by CED staff and the Chair of the Sister Cities Council on the activities and programs of the program since the update last July.

BACKGROUND:
The first Sister City Program, Sister Cities International, was created in 1956 at the request of President Eisenhower, giving national focus to affiliations between cities in the United States and in other countries. The goal of the program is to promote deeper cultural understanding, international visitation and hospitality that leads to long lasting relationships. Tacoma has had a Sister City program since 1959. The Sister Cities Program has two aspects. One involves City administration of the relationships locally and globally with 14 international cities that have similar or complementary interests to Tacoma designed to advance educational, cultural and more recently, economic benefits. Another focuses on a citizen-based, nonprofit Sister City Council with individual Sister City Committees which conduct student, sports and arts exchanges as well as help organize the International Film Festival and other performing arts festivals.

ISSUE:
Informational Briefing Only

ALTERNATIVES:
This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:
This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:
This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.