



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Bucoda Warren
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Council Contingency Fund Request to sponsor the Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange – Requested for February 20, 2024**
DATE: February 7, 2024

I ask for your support for a \$5,000 Council Contingency Request to sponsor the Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

Council Contingency Fund Request: The Sister Cities Council of Tacoma advances Tacoma as a global city and promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation through citizen diplomacy – one individual, one community at a time – for the benefit of Tacoma and its sister cities. To accomplish its mission, The Sister Cities Council of Tacoma develops programs in the areas of cultural arts and tourism, global education, government relations, and international business.

El Jadida has been Tacoma’s Sister City since 2007 and shares many characteristics that make our communities ripe for cultural and economic exchange. El Jadida is a port city on the Atlantic coast of Morocco, in the province of El Jadida. El Jadida has a beautiful and long coastline that attracts over 10 million visitors from around the world each year. It has a population of about 220,000 and is the port for Marrakech and other Moroccan cities.

In 2024 the El Jadida Sister City Committee will be traveling to Morocco to build relationships with our Sister City and exploring future partnerships that might be available to increase our cultural and economic exchanges with our Sister Port City. This funding would support the overall trip and allow more of the members to travel and allow for more opportunities while in Morocco to connect with the people, businesses, and agencies that can open future opportunities for exchanges between Tacoma and El Jadida. While we have had an ongoing Sister City relationship for many years, this is the first active Committee committed to engaging El Jadida since the early years, and the support of this reconnection with El Jadida is a welcomed opportunity. In the future the Tacoma Sister City board and El Jadida Committee members will need to explore other regular funding sources or sponsorships to support future missions rather than rely on the Council Contingency Fund.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 5,000

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

Each Sister City Committee is led by volunteers who choose to support that relationship that Tacoma has either because of interest or personal experience with that Sister City. These

volunteers do a lot of work reaching out to their communities to get residents who may be from those Sister Cities or countries to engage and volunteer time to build those relationships.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The efforts of the Tacoma Sister Cities organization focus on programs and exchanges that further economic collaboration and cultural understanding between communities. This allows volunteers on Sister City Committees and residents who engage in their programs to gain a better understanding and appreciation of other cultures which in turn may allow for better engagement and understanding locally with those of different backgrounds and experiences.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting. Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

Sister Cities is a volunteer organization, and the members who give their time choose to do so often give their time to other civic opportunities and are more engaged in Tacoma. They also have a better grasp of where to engage to make an impact and have stronger feeling of satisfaction that they are making positive impacts and more trust in the agencies around them.

ALTERNATIVES:

| Alternative | Positive Impacts | Negative Impacts |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 1.do not fund | More funding available for future needs | Mission attendance and activities with diminish and effectiveness will be impacted |
| 2.increase funding | Allows for more opportunities for connection and travel | Less funding available for future needs |
| 3.decrease funding | More funding available for future needs, some members and opportunities will still be possible | Missing effectiveness will still be negatively impacted, |

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

Staff will see the plans for travel ahead of their mission, and following when the committee members return, they will have an opportunity to connect with sponsors and staff to share what they learned and possible future cultural and economic exchanges. Sponsors may also help to build capacity for the committee members to fundraise for the future to build more connections and avoid reliance on the Council Contingency fund that is not intended for reoccurring expenses.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend approval of this sponsorship for our Moroccan Sister City Committee to support their relationship building and cultural exchange.


FISCAL IMPACT:

\$5,000 from the Council Contingency Fund.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Chief Policy Analyst Bucoda Warren at 253-318-0594 or bwarren@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: Mayor Victoria Woodards

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES

1.  _____ POS# 3

2.  _____ POS# 7

2024 Council Contingency Commitments

| | | |
|---|----|-------------------|
| 2024 - 2025 | \$ | 225,000.00 |
| (Remaining balance that will be carried over in March / April 2024) | \$ | 19,450.00 |

| | | |
|--|----|------------------|
| Council Requested - Raising Girls Sponsorship | \$ | 10,000.00 |
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor 500 Raising Girls winter care bags with personal hygiene and menstrual products, as well as warm winter items, for low-income Tacoma students.

| | | |
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| Council Requested - Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange | \$ | 5,000.00 |
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 request to sponsor the Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange.

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| Council Requested - Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Culture Festival | \$ | 5,500.00 |
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,500 to sponsor Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Cultural Festival.

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|-------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Starting Balance | \$ | 244,450.00 |
| Total Amount Allocated | \$ | 20,500.00 |
| Current Balance | \$ | 223,950.00 |