



City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

November 19, 2025

This letter is intended to record the current Sister City and Friendship City partners that the City of Tacoma has and some context to a few that have been removed as Sister Cities.

In 2025 as part of our budget process, the City moved programs as a part of the process of strategic realignment of city services. The Sister Cities program was moved from the Economic Development Department to the Mayor's Office and Government Relations, which allows us to better facilitate relationship-driven work.

Hvar, Croatia was adopted as a Sister City by Resolution 39121 in 2015. Over the years a change in leadership led Hvar to move away from its Sister Cities relationships. Since then, Clare Petrich, Chair of Tacoma Sister Cities and the Hvar Sister City Committee, has worked with other Croatian communities to identify a better Sister City for the City of Tacoma. At the end of 2025 a resolution was considered that would add Split Croatia as a Sister City and remove Hvar. Hvar should no longer be considered a Sister City of Tacoma.

Kiryat-Motzkin, Israel sent a letter to the Mayor's Office on December 3, 2016, declaring the end of the Sister city relationship. Since they terminated the relationship, they should no longer be considered a Sister City of the City of Tacoma.

George, South Africa hosted a delegation from Tacoma to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our Sister City partnership in 2023. During that time, Deputy Mayor Ushka and Melannie Denise Cunningham, Chair of the George Sister City Committee, met with several representatives and the mutual decision at the time was to end the Sister City Relationship with George and expand it to the entire Garden Route of South Africa, of which George is part. That work is currently proceeding through the Tacoma Sister City Garden Route Committee.

The current list of Tacoma's Sister Cities and Friendship Cities is recorded below as of the end of 2025.

Tacoma's Sister Cities

1959 - Kitakyushu, Japan
1978 - Gunsan, South Korea
1986 - Aalesund, Norway
1992 - Vladivostok, Russia
1994 - Fuzhou, China
1994 - Davao City, Philippines
2000 - Taichung, Taiwan
2000 - Cienfuegos, Cuba
2008 - El Jadida, Morocco
2012 - Biot, France
2016 - Boca Del Rio, Mexico
2017 - Brovary, Ukraine
2025 – Split, Croatia

Tacoma's Friendship Cities

2005 - Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico
2006 - Mianyang, China
2006 - Maseru, Lesotho
2025 – Kochi, India

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria R. Woodards".

Victoria R. Woodards
Mayor