



## RESOLUTION NO. 41816

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS

2 A RESOLUTION related to economic development; designating Split, Croatia, as  
3 a Sister City, and formally removing Hvar, Croatia, as a Sister City.

4 WHEREAS the City of Tacoma has been involved in the Sister City  
5 Program for over 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

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

16 WHEREAS this request for a Sister City designation is a unique one that is  
17 requesting a change in a previously approved Sister City designation, and

18 WHEREAS the City's initial foray into Croatia's Dalmatian Coast in search  
19 of a Sister City began in 2015, and because many Croatian Americans in the City  
20 came from Dalmatia and the island of Hvar, the Tacoma Sister Cities Council  
21 started a search for a partner first in Hvar City and next, in Stari Grad on the  
22 island of Hvar, and

23 WHEREAS the City Council through Resolution No. 39121 established a  
24 Sister City Relationship between Tacoma and Hvar, however, after a few initial  
25  
26



meetings, the Mayor's Office in Hvar became unresponsive, and it was determined the relationship would not continue, and

WHEREAS the Croatia Sister City committee determined that they would identify a new Sister City to transition the relationship to, and

WHEREAS a later delegation met with the Mayor of Stari Grad, Croatia but a new Sister City relationship was not established, however, the committee found an excellent match with Split, a city much more like Tacoma in size and attributes than previous Croatian cities, and

WHEREAS a Letter of Intent was signed by the Mayors of Split and Tacoma in October 2023 to begin the relationship and move towards formal adoption, and

WHEREAS Split and Tacoma are both Port cities, however Tacoma's port focuses on Asian cargo trade, Split's port is concentrated on Adriatic and Mediterranean transportation primarily via ferries, and

WHEREAS tourism plays a larger role in Split's economy, and sports, education, and cultural exchanges are desirable between our communities, however the strongest link between our communities are the people of Tacoma, many with deep roots in Dalmatia and other parts of Croatia, and

WHEREAS the opportunity is present for this Sister City relationship to increase economic development, promote cultural exchanges, promote ancestral tourism, and enhance educational opportunities for both cities, and

WHEREAS this relationship is supported by the Tacoma Sister Cities Council and the Economic Development Committee; Now, Therefore,



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

Section 1. That the City Council hereby designates Split, Croatia, as a Sister City, and formally removes Hvar, Croatia, as a Sister City of the City of Tacoma.

Section 2. That, by this designation, the City indicates its intention to participate to the fullest extent possible with Split, Croatia, in carrying out the Sister City Program in accordance with the understandings, customs, and practices of said program.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney