



RESOLUTION NO. 41869

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR IBSEN, COUNCIL MEMBERS PALMER AND SCOTT

2 A RESOLUTION related to economic development; designating Garden Route
3 District Municipality, South Africa, as a Sister City, and formally removing
4 the City of George, South Africa, as a Sister City.

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

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

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

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 this request for a Sister City designation is a unique one that is
18 requesting a change in a previously approved Sister City designation and
19 represents a strategic elevation of Tacoma's 28-year sister city relationship with
20 George, South Africa, and

21 WHEREAS, at the invitation of regional leadership within the Garden Route
22 District Municipality ("GRDM"), applicants are requesting an expansion from a
23 single-city relationship to a comprehensive district-wide partnership
24 encompassing seven municipalities and over 630,000 residents along South
25 Africa's southern coast, and
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WHEREAS the GRDM serves as the coordinating government body for seven local municipalities, each with distinct economic strengths, cultural assets, and community needs that align closely with Tacoma and Pierce County's diversity and represents a new opportunity to engage Pierce County in people-to-people relationships, and

WHEREAS Tacoma's Sister City relationship in South Africa began in 1997 and since then there have been numerous exchanges over the years including educational exchanges for students and government practices, donations of supplies for building and furnishing shelters and classrooms, books, uniforms, and sports equipment for school children, and more.

WHEREAS the GRDM, South Africa, expressed interest in developing a sister city relationship with Tacoma, and

WHEREAS, since that time, the application process to add a new sister city has been completed; a full committee of community members has been formed; and a work plan for the next several years has been developed and will be enacted should GRDM and Tacoma become sister cities, 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; Now, Therefore,

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



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Section 1. That the City Council hereby designates the Garden Route District Municipality, South Africa as a Sister City of the City of Tacoma.

Section 2. That the City of George, South Africa, as adopted by Resolution No. 33896, is hereby removed as a Sister City of the City of Tacoma.

Section 3. That, by this designation, the City indicates its intention to participate to the fullest extent possible with Garden Route District Municipality, 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