

COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTION

4. Establishing a Friendship City Program in the City of Vancouver

Submitted by: Mayor Stewart

WHEREAS

1. Partnering with cities located outside Canada is an effective way by which Vancouver can build and strengthen cultural and business relationships around the globe - especially in an increasingly divided world;
2. Vancouver has a long established "Sister City Program" and detailed and extensive Sister City agreements with Edinburgh, Odessa, Guangzhou, Yokohama and Los Angeles;
3. Vancouver is often approached to form official relationships with other cities but has no formal mechanism to do so other than detailed, extensive, and sometimes costly Sister City agreements;
4. The City of Toronto has a "Partnership City Program" similar in nature to Vancouver's "Sister City Program", but also a less formal and more local community-driven "Friendship City Program" which allows Toronto to expand its range of city-to-city relationships without incurring significant additional administrative costs;
5. Toronto's Friendship City Program applications must be co-sponsored by a Council member as well as an interested community organization, with the candidate city also officially signalling a willingness to participate in a Friendship City agreement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to create a "Friendship City Program" including the following provisions:
 1. Applications to add a new Friendship City be initiated by a "sponsoring community organization" that is also a registered non-profit society;
 2. The sponsoring community organization represents a resident community located in Vancouver with an active relationship with the proposed Friendship City;
 3. The sponsoring community organization be responsible for all associated Friendship City activities and costs;
 4. The sponsoring community organization demonstrates support and commitment in terms of community interest and active participation in the program;
 5. The sponsoring community organization provides an annual written report to Council with progress and activity updates;
 6. Friendship City agreements expire at the end of five (5) years with an option to renew;

7. Proposed Friendship Cities have aligned strategic values; shared economic and cultural values with Vancouver, and have a similar size and geography;
 8. There is a limit of one Friendship City per country;
 9. Every Friendship City agreement requires a separate Council motion;
 10. Support provided by the City of Vancouver be limited to a letter signed by Mayor, annual letters to confirm the agreement, and staff coordination of annual reports to Council; and
 11. Any other budgetary considerations are included in the foundational motion to Council establishing the relationship with a new city.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to include a framework for evaluating Friendship City relationships, and a mechanism for terminating the Friendship City relationship, if it no longer meets a standard such as community reporting, active relationship, or shared values.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to review the existing City of Vancouver Sister City Program and provide a report back with recommendations to Council on the program, including a review of the status of current Sister Cities, and suggestions for updating the gendered language of the program.

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