

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION APPROVING GUIDELINES FOR THE SISTER CITY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the people of the City of Alameda and its officials have enthusiastically endorsed the concept of forming Sister City relations and affiliations with foreign cities with common concerns and mutual interests; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda Sister City Association was formed in 2009 to administer and expand the Alameda Sister City Program to encourage friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and other nations through the medium of direct personal contact; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda Sister City program works to promote cultural understanding and cooperation with cities around the world, and to strengthen international partnerships at the municipal and person-to-person levels; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alameda does recognize and endorse said program with the hope that it will lead to creating goodwill and understanding between the peoples of Alameda and our Sister Cities; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the Alameda Sister City Association and City staff have worked closely together to develop formal guidelines for the Sister City program; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines provide a set of criteria for the adoption of new Sister Cities, and clarify and define the roles of the City and ASCA in Sister City relationships.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALAMEDA;

Section 1. The Guidelines for the Sister City Program, attached as Exhibit A, are approved.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

**City of Alameda**  
**Sister City Program Guidelines**

The Sister Cities initiative was founded by President Eisenhower in 1956, with the goal of championing peace and prosperity through citizen diplomacy. The City of Alameda's Sister City Program works to promote cultural understanding and cooperation with cities around the world, and to strengthen international partnerships at the municipal and person-to-person levels. The Sister Cities Program is a partnership between the City of Alameda and the Alameda Sister Cities Association (ASCA), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 2009. In collaboration with ASCA, the City of Alameda sets forth the following guidelines for developing and maintaining its Sister City affiliations.

- a. Criteria for establishing a Sister City Relationship
  - i. Sustainability: Support of a sizable, committed group of Alameda community members willing and able to manage a long-term relationship. There must be a dedicated ASCA committee, with an active chairperson, for any proposed Sister City.
  - ii. Compatibility: One or more similarities with Alameda, which may include, but are not limited to: population size, geography, culture, industries, academic institutions, historic or ancestral connections, peace efforts or other shared goals.
  - iii. Opportunity: Opportunities for mutually beneficial cultural, economic, humanitarian and educational exchanges and program activities between community-based organizations. This will include an outline of potential Sister City programs and activities over a five-year period.
  - iv. Financial Resources: Adequate financial resources or fundraising plan to fund program activities, cultural exchanges, and maintenance of the relationship.
- b. Responsibilities of the City of Alameda
  - i. Facilitate City Council review and approval of proposed Sister Cities, including preparing the staff reports, resolutions, and memoranda of understanding and agreement.
  - ii. Provide support for official Sister City visits and delegations. This may include the following: providing a formal welcome meeting, facilitating other meetings where possible (such as assistance in identifying locations, or connecting with local business owners), and attending official events, cultural orientations, and other events when possible. When attending Sister City events, the highest elected City official present shall be the chief representative of the City of Alameda. If the no elected City official is present, the highest administrative City official shall be the chief representative of the City of Alameda.
  - iii. Draft and review all official City communications regarding ongoing Sister City relationships, including letters, proclamations, and talking points, and review and approve formal

itineraries for Sister City delegations visiting Alameda, and delegations from Alameda to Sister Cities.

- iv. Assist with marketing and publicity for the Sister Cities program, including issuing press releases, providing social media promotion, providing support for a citywide International Celebration to honor our Sister City relationships , and hosting of a secondary Sister Cities webpage (in addition to ASCA's primary Sister Cities webpage).
  - v. Establish and maintain a Sister Cities gallery to exhibit official gifts received through Sister City relationships.
- c. Responsibilities of the Alameda Sister City Association (ASCA)
- i. As a representative of the City of Alameda, ASCA holds primary responsibility for managing all Sister City relationships in partnership with the City of Alameda, including the following:
    - 1. Evaluate and recommend potential Sister Cities for Council Approval.
    - 2. Plan and execute all Sister City events, delegations, trips.
    - 3. Plan and execute all program activities (such as youth exchanges, etc.).
    - 4. Plan and execute all fundraising activities.
    - 5. Provide protocol and sensitivity training ahead of all formal delegations and visits.
    - 6. Provide formal itineraries for delegations visiting Alameda, and delegations from Alameda to Sister Cities, to participating City officials within a reasonable review time.
    - 7. Provide regular reports to the City, no less than two times per year, summarizing all Sister Cities activities.

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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the City Council of the City of Alameda at a regular meeting assembled on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said City Council this 19th day of July, 2017.

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Lara Weisiger, City Clerk  
City of Alameda

Approved as to Form:

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Janet C. Kern, City Attorney  
City of Alameda