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AUG 11 2016



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MEMORANDUM **Neighborhood Resources Department Memo No. NR17-001**

DATE: AUGUST 11, 2016

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

THRU: MARSHA REED, CITY MANAGER *mmr*
 NACHIE MARQUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER *NM*

FROM: LEAH POWELL, COMMUNITY RESOURCES & DIVERSITY MANAGER *LP*

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 4975 SUPPORTING A DECLARATION TO CREATE A
 SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE WITH TAINAN, TAIWAN

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 4975 supporting a declaration to create a Sister Cities International program exchange with Tainan, Taiwan.

BACKGROUND: Sister Cities International is a nonprofit network that strives to build global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development through partnerships between U.S. cities and communities across the globe.

The City of Chandler requires that residents interested in creating a Sister Cities program form an independent citizen group under which to create such a partnership. This group must be responsible for fulfilling all financial and managerial requirements of such a program, and is not guaranteed financial support from the City beyond the first year's membership fee in Sister Cities International and the state chapter. However, an official Sister Cities Partnership requires a signed memorandum of understanding from the governing bodies showing ideological support for the program, and relies upon the willingness of elected officials to meet with international delegations to share experiences and ideas.

In 2008, a citizen group was formed to create the Sister Cities Partnership between Chandler and the City of Tullamore, Ireland. The formal partnership with Tullamore was signed in 2009 and all the activities associated with this partnership have been under the management of Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities. Recently, Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities began transitioning to Chandler Sister Cities in order to provide the structure to form new partnerships in the future.

DISCUSSION: Over the last couple of years, the City of Chandler has engaged in a cultural, sports, and economic development exchange with Tainan, Taiwan. During the most recent exchange, the Mayor of Tainan expressed a desire to formalize a Sister Cities Partnership with the City of Chandler. With the new Chandler Sister Cities structure in place, the next step in the process will be for Chandler and Tainan to sign a formal Sister Cities International declaration. Resolution 4975 will serve as an official acknowledgment of the City's desire to further pursue the partnership and a copy will be sent to Tainan.

The partnership with Tainan will be based on shared goals of cultural understanding, education, economic development and community involvement. The cities will explore cooperation between the local development agencies, chambers of commerce, and tourism, while fostering exchanges of entrepreneurs and business enterprises. Other areas of focus include exchanges in the area of the arts, technology, sports, and cultural activities. The cities will encourage support in education, including inbound/outbound student and teacher exchanges in high school and college.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: For cities in the United States, Sister Cities International membership fees are based on population. The annual membership fee for Chandler is paid for by Chandler Sister Cities and there is no fee to the international partner. In addition, Chandler Sister Cities pays an annual membership to the Arizona Sister Cities organization.

PROPOSED MOTION: Move that the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 4975 supporting a declaration to create a Sister Cities International program exchange with Tainan, Taiwan.

Attachment: Resolution No.4975

Resolution No. 4975

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A DECLARATION TO CREATE A SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE WITH TAINAN, TAIWAN

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Chandler, Arizona as follows:

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International is the national non-profit, volunteer membership organization of U.S. communities linked globally to promote lasting friendship through a variety of programs; and

WHEREAS, the strength of an active and solid Sister Cities relationship rests with the local committee and its volunteers who are willing to commit time, talent and resources to develop and implement mutual exchange projects; and

WHEREAS, a group of Chandler citizens have formed Chandler Sister Cities, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization coordinating the Sister Cities relationship between the City of Chandler and Tullamore, Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Chandler Sister Cities has expressed a desire to expand relationships and have asked the Chandler City Council to approve the initiation of a Sister Cities exchange with Tainan, Taiwan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Chandler, Arizona, that we declare support of Chandler Sister Cities requesting the exchange city of Tainan, Taiwan and agree to sign agreement documents with the understanding that all financial responsibilities will be incurred by the organizing volunteer committee.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Chandler, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 2016.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing Resolution No. 4975 was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Chandler, Arizona, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2016, and that a quorum was present thereat.

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY GAB