

AGENDA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
meeting held Wednesday, January 17, 2024
at 3:30 o'clock p.m.
Room 140, 350 City Hall Square West

1. Call to Order

READING OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie. The City of Windsor honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land

2. Declaration of Conflict

3. Minutes

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held July 31, 2023 – ***attached.***

4. Business Items

4.1 Establishment of a Friendship City Program/Draft Policy

The report of Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant dated January 17, 2024 entitled "Establishment of a Friendship City Program/Draft Policy" is ***attached.***

4.2 Request for a Sister City Agreement with the City of Arlington, Texas – Verbal Update

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant to provide an update.

4.3 Request from City of Gunsan, South Korea for a delegation to visit the City of Windsor from October 16-18, 2023

Clerk's Note: The following motion was approved by the IRC at its meeting held July 31, 2023:

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,

That APPROVAL BE GIVEN to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$10,000 for a delegation of ten (10) to visit the City of Windsor from October 16, 2023 to October 18, 2023.

As the delegation from Gunsan, South Korea was not able to visit the City of Windsor at that time, the funds were not utilized.

4.4 2023 Children’s Art Exhibition – Verbal Update

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant to provide an update.

5. Confirm and Ratify E-mail Polls

5.1 That the International Relations Committee **AUTHORIZE** an expenditure in the upset amount of \$560 for the purchase of four (4) tickets (1 ticket for Mayor Dilkens) for the 26th Annual Polish-Canadian Business Society Dinner to be held on November 17, 2023 2023 at the Dom Polski Hall, located at 1275 Langlois Avenue.

5.2 That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$150 for costs associated with sending the Children’s Art Exhibition to Gunsan, South Korea.

5.3 That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$200 for costs associated with sending gifts to the male and female Winners of the Shonan, Fujisawa Citizens Marathon Event.

6. Communications

6.1 Letter from Mayor Peter Kurz, City of Mannheim – ***attached.***

6.2 Letter of Invitation from Mayor Kang, Gunsan, South Korea – ***attached.***

6.3 Welcome Letter to Mannheim Mayor Specht from Mayor Dilkens – ***attached.***

- 6.4 Letter of farewell to Mayor Kurz on behalf of Mayor Dilkens - ***attached.***
 - 6.5 Letter from the Mayor of Gunsan, South Korea to Mayor Dilkens – ***attached.***
 - 6.6 Letter to Mayor Dilkens from the City of Mannheim – ***attached.***
 - 6.7 Invitation from Changchun, China for the City of Windsor to participate in the 2023 on promoting low carbon – ***attached.***
 - 6.8 Photos of the Gunsan, South Korea Citizen’s Day – ***attached.***
 - 6.9 CAIF Statement on Peace 2023 – ***attached.***
 - 6.10 Young Polonia Leadership Summit – ***attached.***
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- 7. **Date of Next Meeting**
To be determined.
 - 8. **Adjournment**

International Relations Committee

Meeting held July 31, 2023

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 522a, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair
Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Councillor Fred Francis
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Lubna Barakat
Ronnie Haidar
William Ma

Regrets received from:

Jerry Barycki
L.T. Zhao

Also present are the following resource personnel:

James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks and Facilities
Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:30 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held May 10, 2023 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 City Post

James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks and Facilities appears before the Committee and provides the following update regarding the City Post:

- A rendering of the Sister Cities Post is provided and is **attached** as Appendix "A".
- The IRC has approved funding for a post; approved the specific layout of each individual sign; and approved the specific style of post.
- Bringing forward a change in location as previously, four different locations within City Hall Campus were discussed and the approved location was in front of the northwest corner near the main entrance to City Hall.
- The new location for the Sisters Cities Post is between the 350 City Hall Square West and 400 City Hall Square East buildings just off of City Hall Square south.
- Requesting approval to install the Sister Cities Post in this new location.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Ed Sleiman regarding if additional cities can be added to the Post, James Chacko responds that the pole is twenty-five feet; the bottom sign will be fifteen feet off the ground which will allow for adequate space for additional Sister Cities while still maintaining clearance to discourage the public from jumping up to touch the signs.

Ronnie Haidar asks if a plaque with a brief description to acknowledge the IRC can be installed near the Post. James Chacko responds that this location lends itself to this and an interpretive panel (2 feet by 3 feet) could be installed in the shrub bed directly north of the Post.

In response to a question asked by Lubna Barakat regarding if the concept presented is final, James Chacko remarks that the pole and signage as previously approved is final. He is present to request approval to the relocation of the Post.

The Chair asks if the signs on the Post point to the actual locations. James Chacko concurs and adds that each sign will be directed towards the Sister City.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to relocate the Sister Cities Post to a space between the 350 City Hall Square West and the 400 City Hall Square east buildings just off of City Hall Square south.

Carried.

Councillor Fred Francis suggests that Administration provide messaging and a concept for the interpretive panel for consideration by the IRC at the next meeting. The Chair proposes that a QR code be added to the signage.

4.2 Request from the City of Gunsan, South Korea for a delegation of ten (10) including Mayor Kang to visit the City of Windsor from October 16-18, 2023

Sandra Gebauer advises that a request was received from Mayor Kang's office for a delegation of ten including Mayor Kang to visit the City of Windsor. The delegation will be arriving on the evening of October 16, 2023 and leaving the morning of October 18, 2023. They are requesting assistance with the costs associated with transfers as well as accommodations for the ten delegations. Councillor Fred Francis suggests an upset limit of \$10,000.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$10,000 for a delegation of ten (10) to visit the City of Windsor for October 16, 2023 to October 18, 2023 and further that, the Mayor's Office of the City of Windsor **BE REQUESTED** to send a letter of invitation to Mayor Kang.

Carried.

5. Confirm and Ratify E-mail Polls

5.1 That the following E-mail Poll sent on July 14, 2023 regarding a reception for the Misono Jogakuin students from Fujisawa, Japan **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$100 for costs associated with a small reception to be held for the Misono Jogakuin School students from Fujisawa, Japan to be held on Friday, July 28, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers with light refreshments to follow in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West.

Carried.

5.2 That the following E-mail Poll sent on May 12, 2023 regarding a request from Gunsan, South Korea to invite local craft breweries to participate in the Gunsan Brews & Blues Festival 2023 **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That the request from Gunsan, South Korea, inviting local craft breweries to participate in the Gunsan Brews and Blues Festival 2023 from June 16-18, 2023 be forwarded to local craft breweries and to Invest WindsorEssex and Tourism Windsor-Essex Pelee Island for consideration.

Carried.

6. Communications

6.1 Letter from the Mayor of the City of Khmelnytskyi (Ukraine) to establish a Sister City relationship with the City of Windsor

Sandra Gebauer indicates that the letter from the Mayor of the City of Khmelnytskyi was forwarded to Council Services by the Mayor's Office. She remarks that the Twin Cities Policy was sent to the Mayor of Khmelnytskyi and advised that a discussion regarding a Sister City relationship would be discussed at the next meeting of the IRC.

Councillor Fred Francis inquires if Administration can bring back a draft policy on "Friendship Cities" as this type of relationship is less formal and allows for building upon this relationship over time.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to bring back a draft policy/framework for the establishment of a Friendship City Program.
Carried.

6.2 Support for Ukraine's Energy Infrastructure

The Chair advises that at Council's meeting held July 10, 2023, approval was given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$5,000 to assist Ukraine in purchasing electric generators (CR274/2023).

Moved by Ronnie Haidar, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman, That the update regarding support for Ukraine's energy infrastructure **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

6.3 Polish-Canadian Business Dinner – Save the Date

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Ronnie Haidar, That information regarding the 26th Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner to be held on Friday, November 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

6.4 Copernicus Display at Queen's Park and Windsor City Hall

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Ronnie Haidar, That The Jubilee Exhibition held at Queen's Park and at the City of Windsor regarding the 550th Anniversary of the Birth of Nicolaus Copernicus **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

Additional Updates

Sandra Gebauer advises that in speaking with Sheri Capehart, Program Director for Arlington, Texas Sister Cities she indicated that a Proposal for twinning with the City of Windsor will be provided in the fall 2023.

Sandra Gebauer states she has been in contact with the city's Recreation Department as well as a presentative from Devonshire Mall regarding the Children's Art Exhibition. She confirms that the Aquatic Centre and Devonshire Mall have agreed to host the Children's Art Exhibition at those locations. She proposes that the event be held in October 2023.

Councillor Fred Francis suggests holding the Children's Art Exhibition at the Aquatic Centre from Monday to a Thursday and at Devonshire Mall on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Moved by Ronnie Haidar, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That the update regarding the Children's Art Exhibition to be held at the Windsor International Aquatic and Training Centre and at Devonshire Mall at the end of October 2023 **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

7. Date of Next Meeting

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:05 o'clock p.m.



Subject: Establishment of a Friendship City Program/Draft Policy

Reference:

Date to the International Relations Committee: January 17, 2024
Author: Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
519-255-6100 x 6331
sgebauer@citywindsor.ca

To: Members of the International Relations Committee

Recommendation:

This information is **BROUGHT FORWARD** to the International Relations Committee for Information and for direction.

Background:

At the July 31, 2023 meeting of the International Relations Committee, Councillor Francis asked that an informal report be brought back to the Committee regarding Friendship Cities and the following motion was made:

*Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,
That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to bring back a draft policy/framework for the establishment of a Friendship City Program.
Carried.*

Currently, the City of Windsor has 12 twin cities. However, some of these Twin city relationships have been inactive for some time. The Committee often receives requests from cities looking to establish twin city/sister city relationships.

The Current policy, established in 2007 and last updated in 2017, states the following:

5.1.1 Request for twinning's should be community driven, supported by a formal organized cultural/ethnic association and must demonstrate that a sustainable relationship can be maintained.

5.1.2 Legitimate and active organizational structure should exist in the related ethnic community to support twinning activities (i.e. hosting visiting delegations, providing translation services, conducting meetings/tours/receptions with their business community).

5.1.3 The proposed Twin City should demonstrate certain identifiable similarities or mutual interests with potential for reciprocal cultural, educational and economic benefits.

5.1.4 Details of a twinning proposal must be submitted in writing to the Mayor of Windsor, outlining a long-term plan and the community's responsibility for sustaining ongoing activities.

Discussion:

In 2023 alone, the International Relations Committee has received three requests for twinning from cities in Ukraine, the United States and Turkey and, based on the current Twin City policy, most requests would be quickly disregarded.

Current twin city relationships have been formed, in accordance with the current policy, with the effort and support of local communities and organizations and have been based on educational, cultural, social and economic based exchanges although over time, a number of these twin city relationships have become inactive. In the case of Saltillo Mexico however, a relationship that had been dormant for several years was suddenly revived when an invitation to participate in a Children's Art Exchange was accepted by Saltillo. This event once again opened the lines of communication and a visit by the Mayor of Saltillo and a delegation followed.

Friendship city programs were reviewed in several North American municipalities including: Toronto, Ontario; Vaughan, Ontario; Vancouver, British Columbia; Victoria, British Columbia; Burnaby, British Columbia; Irvine, California; San Antonio, Texas and Dallas, Texas. The objective of this report is to demonstrate the differences between "Friendship City Programs" and "Twin City Programs" by comparing various municipalities, in an effort to assist in preparing a draft policy as it relates to friendship cities. It is important to note that for the purpose of this report the terms sister city and twin city are interchangeable.

Cities in Canada

Toronto, Ontario

The City of Toronto currently has an "International Alliance Program", comprised of four Partnership Cities and six Friendship Cities. Toronto's "Partnership City Program" is similar to the Twin city or Sister city programs in other municipalities. Partner City activities are driven by city staff and focus heavily on economic development goals such as building business links, increasing Toronto's profile, cultural exchanges and promoting trade.

Friendship city activities are driven by the community with endorsement from the City through a Council representative. Official activities include preparing official letters of greeting and flag-raising ceremonies on dates of significance to the Friendship city.

The difference between Partner and Friendship was largely surrounding the nature of the engagement - Partnership Cities engagement was focused on economic development, whereas Friendship Cities engagement was led by the community with endorsement from a Councillor and were largely focused on cultural/community components.

The City of Toronto's International Alliance Program is currently being reviewed as part of a Council direction.

Vaughan, Ontario

The City of Vaughan currently has six Friendship Cities and one Twin City however in this municipality, the term friendship and twin is interchangeable. Vaughan's partnership agreements are either Cultural, which promote the ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity of the city and generate tourism or Economic, which promote collaboration and the exchange of economic development best practices, facilitate business relationships, attract investment and promote export development. Both partnership agreements serve to increase the City's profile nationally and on the world stage.

The City of Vaughan also has Letters of Agreement/Memorandums of Understanding that are symbolic and ceremonial expressions of general interest between the City and an Organization. These agreements are non-binding and are related to a common economic or cultural goal and have a start and end date.

Vancouver, British Columbia

The City of Vancouver has five Sister Cities and are no longer entering into sister city agreements. The current sister city relationships are supported by staff of the Municipality as well as community groups that work together to share information and promote educational exchanges and economic development.

In July of 2022 Vancouver established their Friendship City Program, which is less formal than their Sister city Program and whose purpose is to facilitate city to city partnerships that strengthen cultural and business relationships internationally and are directed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with measurable objectives. The terms for the Friendship city MOUs are for five years with an option to renew for one additional five-year term. Friendship city relationships are initiated and operated by local non-profits representing a group of residents or business in Vancouver with an active relationship with a proposed friendship city. In addition, the local non-profit is responsible for all activities and costs associated with the friendship cities. At this time Vancouver does not have any friendship cities.

Victoria, British Columbia

Victoria, BC has four Twin Cities and two Friendship Cities. The relationships with both the Twin and Friendship Cities promote economic development and strengthen tourism, higher education and technology sectors and provide benefits for local businesses from the contacts and potential partnerships that the relationships provide. Friendship city relationships are less formal even though they do share a similar purpose. For the City of Victoria, the title recognizes friendships and exchanges between cities without official Twin City Agreements and is seen as the first step towards recognition as an official Twin City.

Burnaby, British Columbia

Burnaby, BC currently has four sister cities and eight Friendship city relationships. While both spread economic and cultural awareness, Burnaby's Sister city relationships were initiated by the Mayor of one of the cities due to similarities in size, structure and economic interests. Whereas Burnaby's Friendship city relationships were initiated under the Asia Pacific Initiative, funded by the Province of BC in an effort to help develop the strategies necessary to better integrate British Columbia with Asia Pacific, with a goal for BC to be recognized internationally as North America's capital for Asia Pacific commerce and culture.

Cities in the United States

"Sister cities international", the organization that helps to establish Sister city relationships between cities in the United States and cities worldwide and who is responsible for registering and coordinating these relationships, describes Friendship city relationships as less formal than sister cities and indicates that in some cities Friendship city is often used as a first stage in the relationship and after it is strengthened and the partners are sure they want a long-term relationship will become sister cities.

Irvine, California

Irvine California has four Sister Cities and one Friendship City. While the Sister city relationships are broad-based, long term partnerships approved by the top elected officials of the two communities and have the potential to generate cultural and educational exchanges, investment, trade and tourism, Friendship city relationships allow the City to initiate relationships on a less formal basis. The main goal of the Friendship city relationships is to establish communication between the municipal governments and to learn from one another. Friendship city agreements must be approved by City Council and consideration is given to cities comparable in size, culture and business.

San Antonio, Texas

In addition to their twelve sister cities, the City of San Antonio, Texas currently enjoys three Friendship city relationships and view these as unique opportunities to explore partnerships with residents in foreign communities, explore compatibility and the understanding and resources needed to maintain the relationship. Friendship city Agreements can be made between Mayors through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that endorses the link between the municipalities. It is interesting to note that a fourth Friendship city relationship with Baguio, Philippines, which was established in 2022, just recently upgraded to a Sister city partnership following the signing of an agreement.

Dallas, Texas

The City of Dallas, Texas has seven sister cities and two Friendship cities. Proposals for new sister cities must have strong community support and must have strong economic and cultural ties. In addition to meeting the criteria, it is recommended that a Friendship agreement is signed by the Mayor or an elected official for a minimum of one year before entering into a full Sister city agreement, as a way of demonstrating the feasibility of a long term relationship.

Summary:

Based on the information above it is clear that although the purpose of both the twin city relationships and the friendship city relationships serve the same purpose, which includes enhancing a city's international image, promoting commercial, cultural and educational ties and fostering a greater cultural understanding, Friendship city relationships are less formal than Twin or Sister city relationships. In many instances these less formal relationships act as the first step in establishing a more formal, longer term association and are confirmed by an MOU rather than a full formal agreement. The City of Vancouver, does impose a five-year term limit, with an opportunity to extend the agreement for an additional five years.

Should the International Relations committee agree to establish a Friendship City Program, imposing a similar term limit would allow for Committee to evaluate the partnership and its value and recommend a full Twin city relationship or in the event that the Committee deems the relationship insignificant, it can simply allow it to end.

Financial Matters:

The International Relations Committee's yearly budget is \$15,000 and because of the nature of the Committee and the potential expenses incurred for both inbound and outbound delegations, in addition to any initiatives, gifts, etc., the Committee has in the past requested a carry forward of unused funds from previous years. The addition of a Friendship City Program could be established within the current budget.

Consultations:

In consultation with the City of Windsor's Corporate Policy Coordinator, a draft Twin City/Friendship City Policy was created that incorporates the current Twin City Policy, which is at this time scheduled to be reviewed and includes the proposed guidelines for the addition of Friendship cities.

Conclusion:

The City of Windsor currently has twelve twin cities, of which only six are somewhat active. The City is often contacted by other cities to form relationships however, based on the current Twin City Policy some of these possible partnerships do not seem feasible. There are cities that have a less formal Friendship city program which allows them to consider city to city relationships that are less formal, do not require a formal agreement and serve as a first step in establishing a formal twin city bond. The City of Vancouver's friendship city agreements expire at the end of five years with an option to renew and this is something that could be beneficial to Windsor as it serves as a mechanism for allowing relationships to have a natural conclusion if they are no longer active, or no longer share similar values.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Twin City/Friendship City Policy

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR
POLICY**

Service Area:		Policy No.:	
Department:		Approval Date:	
Division:		Approved By:	
		Effective Date:	
Subject:	Twin City/Friendship City Policy	Procedure Ref.:	
Review Date:		Pages:	Replaces:
Prepared By:			Date:

1. POLICY

1.1. A policy outlining the criteria necessary for entering into international friendship and twin city relationships with the City of Windsor.

2. PURPOSE

2.1. This Policy outlines the necessary steps and processes associated in the creation or establishment of entering into a new friendship and/or twin city agreement with another international municipality.

3. SCOPE

3.1. This policy will apply to all proposed friendship and twin city requests made from within the Windsor community or received by the Mayor of the City of Windsor from any international city, municipality or district.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. **Twin City** refers to a form of legal agreement between two geographically and politically distinct localities for the purpose of promoting cultural and commercial tie. For the purposes of this policy, Twin Cities are defined by a formal request brought to and approved by Council upon recommendation of the International Relations Committee.

4.2. **Friendship City** refers to a less formal agreement between localities. For the purposes of his report, Friendship Cities are characterized by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mayor’s Offices. It is to be used as a first stage in the ‘Twinning’ relationship and if successful may lead to a formal Twin-City Agreement

5. RESPONSIBILITY

5.1. City Council will be responsible for:

- 5.1.1. Reviewing and approving new twin city agreements or partnerships.
- 5.2.** The Mayor's Office will be responsible for:
 - 5.2.1. Communicating City Council's resolution regarding a proposed new twin city relationship.
 - 5.2.2. Reviewing recommendations from the International Relations Committee regarding Friendship City requests and approving, if desired, the relationship through a Memorandum of Agreement.
- 5.3.** The Office of the City Clerk will be responsible for:
 - 5.3.1. The collection and cataloguing of official records, letters, agreements or charters when entering into a Friendship City or Twinning Agreement with the City of Windsor, including future correspondence between cities.
- 5.4.** The International Relations Committee (IRC) will be responsible for:
 - 5.4.1. Exploring and investigating new friendship and twin city relationships.
 - 5.4.2. Submitting a recommendation to the Mayor and Council regarding proposed friendship or twinning requests after a formal request has passed through the Mayor's Office and/or a formal investigation has been completed by the committee. Recommendations to City Council will follow normal protocols in the governance model process.
 - 5.4.3. Reviewing this policy and any associated procedures and forms every five years.

6. GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 6.1.** Request for Friendship City Relationships should be community driven, supported by a formal organized cultural/ethnic association and must demonstrate that a sustainable relationship can be maintained.
 - 6.1.1. Legitimate and active organizational structure should exist in the related ethnic community to support friendship- based activities (i.e. hosting visiting delegations, providing translation services, conducting meetings/tours/receptions with their business community).
 - 6.1.2. The proposed friendship city should demonstrate certain identifiable similarities or mutual interests with potential for reciprocal cultural, educational and economic benefits.
 - 6.1.3. Friendship City relationships should be maintained for a minimum 5-year term, with the option to extend for an additional 5-year term.
 - 6.1.4. Friendship City relationships should be evaluated at the end of each defined term to determine if the relationship has seen any benefit and/or measurable results that the City of Windsor and the partner organization expect as a result of the Partnership.
 - 6.1.5. If Friendship City partnerships receive a successful evaluation, the option to formalize the relationship into a twinning relationship may be exercised as per section 6.2 of this policy
- 6.2.** Request for twinning's should also be community driven, supported by a formal organized cultural/ethnic association and must demonstrate that a sustainable relationship can be maintained.

- 6.2.1. As with Friendship Cities, legitimate and active organizational structure should exist in the related ethnic community to support twinning activities and The proposed twin city should demonstrate certain identifiable similarities or mutual interests with potential for reciprocal cultural, educational and economic benefits.
- 6.2.2. Details of a twinning proposal must be submitted in writing to the Mayor of Windsor, outlining a long-term plan and the community's responsibility for sustaining ongoing activities.
- 6.2.3. If recommended by the IRC and approved by Council, a formal letter of interest is to be forwarded to the Mayor of the proposed twin city.
- 6.2.4. If the proposed twin city approves Windsor's proposal, a formal signing protocol will be arranged.
- 6.2.5. The twinning charter can be dissolved upon the mutual agreement between the twin cities.
- 6.2.6. If a twinning request is received from another city outside of the friendship city realm, the request will be reviewed by the IRC and one or more of the following actions may occur;
 - 6.2.6.1. Investigate and forward a recommendation to the Mayor's Office for decision on Twinning Agreement.
 - 6.2.6.2. Review the request and offer a recommendation to the Friendship City program.

7. RECORDS, FORMS AND ATTACHMENTS

- 7.1. Records are the responsibility of The Office of the City Clerk and will be kept in accordance with the Records Retention Bylaw #21-2013 as amended from time to time.

STADT MANNHEIM | Der Oberbürgermeister | Postfach 10 30 51 | 68030 Mannheim

Mr Drew Dilkens
Mayor of the City of Windsor
Mayor's Office
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, Ontario
Canada
N9A 6S1

August 3, 2023

Dear Mayor Dilkens,

On August 3, my final term as mayor of Mannheim will come to a close. Before I leave office, I wanted to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to you and your entire team for your partnership and support.

In 2019, the City of Mannheim localized the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and developed our mission statement, Mannheim 2030. Through this process, the city committed to becoming a model for the international cooperation between cities, building on Mannheim's long tradition of international cooperation. With your engagement and support, we have made remarkable strides towards this goal.

Thank you for your partnership over the years. Not only does our city administration benefit from our cooperation, but our broader urban society does as well, including citizens and civil society organizations.

I am confident that my successor, Christian Specht, will continue to prioritize our partnership and strengthen the bond between our two cities. I am looking forward to hearing about your continued cooperation under his leadership.

With gratitude,



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THE CITY OF WINDSOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DREW DILKENS, DBA
MAYOR

August 3, 2023

Mayor Kang Im June
Mayor of the City of Gunsan, South Korea
Gunsan City Hall
17 Sicheong-ro, Gunsan-si
Jeollabuk-do 54078
Republic of Korea

Dear Mayor Kang:

I am pleased to write to you today, on behalf of the City of Windsor and my colleagues on Windsor City Council, to extend an invitation to you and your nine-member delegation from the City of Gunsan, South Korea to visit Windsor from October 16th to 18th, 2023.

Your visit will provide an opportunity to discuss ongoing investments in our community by LG Energy Solutions, Stellantis, and many other investors, stakeholders and partners. You will also have a chance to meet with the team from Invest WindsorEssex. Finally, this visit provides another opportunity for us to honour the long friendship and strong Sister City relationship that Windsor and Gunsan have shared for nearly two decades. Next year, 2024, will mark the milestone 20-year anniversary of our bond. Our communities have hosted visits with one another on many important occasions. We have had the privilege of welcoming business delegations, hosting cultural and work exchanges, and milestones in our communities. Our local Korean Society of Windsor donated funds for the establishment of the Gunsan South Korea Gardens located in one of our premiere parks - Jackson Park, and recently held the annual commemoration ceremony to remember our lost Veterans at the Korean War Memorial at Dieppe Gardens. These sites are both beloved community gathering places.

These visits and celebrations of the relationship between our two communities remain important to us. Certainly, under your leadership, we have continued to grow the strong bond between Gunsan and Windsor. I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the City of Windsor this coming October.

Sincerely,



Drew Dilkens



THE CITY OF WINDSOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Item 6.3

DREW DILKENS, DBA
MAYOR

August 8, 2023

Mayor Christian Specht
Mayor of the City of Mannheim, Germany
Stadt Mannheim
Rathaus E 5
68159 Mannheim
Deutschland

Dear Mayor Specht,

Christian!

I am writing today, on behalf of my colleagues on City Council, and the City of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, with all best wishes and to offer congratulations as you begin your term as mayor of the City of Mannheim, Germany.

Our two communities have enjoyed a Sister/Twin City bond for since 1980. For forty-three years, we have been joined together in recognition of international friendship and understanding, leveraging and enjoying the social, cultural and economic ties that exist between our two communities. The City of Mannheim is the centre for many industrial giants and manufacturers including automotive, agricultural machinery, construction machinery, and chemicals. Your cultural scene is energetic, with both publishing and tourism as important industries, while museums and schools of music and drama are well-attended and highly-respected. The City of Windsor is known as the Automotive and Automobility Capital of Canada. We boast an established German community, and today German remains one of the top languages that residents identify as their mother tongue.

Over the years, as a means of promoting co-operation and exchange of ideas, City Councillors have visited Mannheim on several occasions. We have attended conferences focused on migration and accommodation of Syrian refugees, engaged in professional development exchange programs and internships, sent University of Windsor students to study in Germany for a semester abroad, and screened two films from the Windsor International Film Festival at the Bermuda Shorts Film Festival held in Mannheim. Most recently, Windsor sent a delegation including representatives from City Council, City Administration, and local youth from St. Clair College to visit Mannheim for the International Summer Camp for young gardeners and the *Garden of Twin Cities* program organized by your city. You currently have a replica of Windsor's Coventry Gardens in your final garden that was recently unveiled.

As a leader who has studied law, political science, and environmental science, and who has worked with the United Nations, the US-Senate, and The Hague Academy of International Law, I know you will call on that diverse experience as you focus on economic development, planning and place-making, as you continue to build a strong, resilient, exciting Mannheim for all.

I look forward to working with you to continue to share our culture, and to promote co-operation and the exchange of ideas and experiences between our two communities, as we have done for over four decades now. This relationship is of great value to the City of Windsor, and to its leaders, businesses, residents and visitors. I wish you, your family, and your entire team all the best as you step into your new role as mayor of Mannheim. I look forward to connecting again soon.

Sincerely,



Drew Dilkens
Mayor, City of Windsor

Hope to see you in Windsor or Mannheim soon!



THE CITY OF WINDSOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Item 6.4

DREW DILKENS, DBA
MAYOR

August 8, 2023

Lord Mayor Dr. Peter Kurz
Departing Mayor of the City of Mannheim, Germany
Stadt Mannheim
Rathaus E 5
68159 Mannheim
Deutschland

Dear Lord Mayor Kurz,

I am writing today with all best wishes to you and yours as you complete your final term as mayor of the City of Mannheim, Germany. It has been an honour to work alongside you over the years, and to nurture the long-standing sister city bond that exists between your community and the City of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. I, too, have greatly valued your partnership, friendship and support over the years.

With Mannheim and Windsor united as far back as 1980, it is good for my community to know that your city remains committed to its status as a community with a long tradition of international cooperation. I appreciate our international bond, and the social, cultural and economic ties that exist between our cities. As you know, I also continue to value each exchange and opportunity that takes place between our communities. As I have stated before, German remains one of the top five languages that Windsor residents identify as their mother tongue. We benefit greatly each time the German culture and traditions are shared with our residents and visitors. As the leader of one of Canada's most diverse, multicultural and inclusive communities, I look forward to connecting with your successor, Christian Specht, and to seeing the Mannheim-Windsor bond strengthen.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership over the years; for making a difference in your own city, and for ensuring that Windsor's cultural and economic landscape also benefitted from your efforts. I wish you all the best on the next step of your journey.

Sincerely,

Drew Dilkens

Wishing you all the best!

Item 6.5



GUNSAN CITY

시민이 함께하는
자립도시 **군산**

September 27, 2023

The Honorable Drew Dilkens
Mayor of the City of Windsor

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Mayor Dilkens' heartfelt message of congratulations on Gunsan's Citizens' Day on September 20th was a great addition to the festivities in Gunsan City. I know you must be busy with your work, but I sincerely appreciate the time you took to send a video message.

I was deeply impressed when Mayor Dilkens visited Gunsan City in December last year and spoke about the similarities between Gunsan City and the City of Windsor in overcoming the crisis. You invited me and a delegation from Gunsan to visit Windsor in October this year, and I was happy to oblige. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the many people in Windsor City who actively helped organize the visit of the Gunsan delegation.

We were looking forward to visiting Windsor this October to meet Mayor Dilkens and have a close dialog on the development of the friendly and cooperative relationship between the two cities, but unfortunately, due to various difficult circumstances in Gunsan City, I inform you that I am not able to visit this year.

Gunsan City is a city with a population of 260,000 and is struggling to come up with solutions to maintain the city's vitality in the face of issues such as the outflow of young people. Currently, there are urgent issues such as securing a budget, and after much thought, I concluded that it would be difficult for me to travel outside of Gunsan.

Despite these issues, I wanted to visit Mayor Dilkens in person if possible and have an in-depth conversation about the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two cities, but after much consideration, I

STADT MANNHEIM | Der Oberbürgermeister | Postfach 10 30 51 | 68030 Mannheim

Mr Drew Dilkens
Mayor of the City of Windsor
Mayor's Office
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, Ontario
Canada
N9A 6S1

August 3, 2023

Dear Mayor Dilkens,

On August 3, my final term as mayor of Mannheim will come to a close. Before I leave office, I wanted to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to you and your entire team for your partnership and support.

In 2019, the City of Mannheim localized the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and developed our mission statement, Mannheim 2030. Through this process, the city committed to becoming a model for the international cooperation between cities, building on Mannheim's long tradition of international cooperation. With your engagement and support, we have made remarkable strides towards this goal.

Thank you for your partnership over the years. Not only does our city administration benefit from our cooperation, but our broader urban society does as well, including citizens and civil society organizations.

I am confident that my successor, Christian Specht, will continue to prioritize our partnership and strengthen the bond between our two cities. I am looking forward to hearing about your continued cooperation under his leadership.

With gratitude,



BUGA23.DE

Rathaus, E 5
68159 Mannheim
Telefon 0621
www.mannheim.de

From: 长春市外办美大处 <ccwbmdc88776736@163.com>

Sent: October 13, 2023 1:48 AM

To: Gebauer, Sandra <sgebauer@citywindsor.ca>

Subject: Invitation of 2023 Changchun Coordination Conference on Promoting Green and Low-carbon Circular Development of Automobile Industry for Construction of “Zero-waste City”

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, Sandra,

This is an invitation from Changchun City. We cordially invite Windsor City’s enterprises and institutions to participate in 2023 Changchun Coordination Conference on Promoting Green and Low-carbon Circular Development of Automobile Industry for Construction of “Zero-waste City” ,which will be held on November 15, 2023 and organized by Changchun Municipal People's Government and Jilin Provincial Department of Ecology and Environment, for the purpose of developing the circular economy and low-carbon technology, and navigating the automobile industry toward green, low-carbon and recycling development.

The attached document contains detailed information about the meeting. We welcome the delegation from Windsor City to attend the conference. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Thanks !

John

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长春市人民政府外事办公室美大处
American&Oceanian Division
Foreign Affairs Office
Changchun Municipal People's Government
联系电话: 0086-431-88775327
Tel.&Fax: 0086-431-88775327
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E-mail: ccwbmdc88776736@163.com



시민에 의한, 시민을 위한, 시민의 축제

키움으로 가족행복 시민 함께하는 자립도시 군산

제 61회 군산시민의날 기념식

자립도시 군산

시민에 의한,
시민을 위한,
시민의 축제

1부 기념식

2부 정치 시스템투어

3부 O.M.G(Oh My Gunsan)

4부 읍면동 히스토리얼, 군산시민의날



키움으로 가족행복

자립도시 군산

제61회 군산시민의날







**CAIF Statement on Peace
20 October 2023**

As an organization which advocates international friendship as a route towards peaceful relations between communities, CAIF, the Coventry Association for International Friendship, expresses its extreme dismay at all the points of conflict which have arisen in the world in recent times.

We deplore the use of force to achieve political and military objectives and express our condolences to all who have lost loved ones and who mourn for the condition into which their homeland has been rendered.

Violence only generates more violence by return, and the knots of conflict are only drawn tighter, increasingly defying the necessary loosening which would lead opponents out of their mutual death spiral.

We believe that the United Nations should remain the pre-eminent international agency for the resolution of long-standing disputes, without the resort to conflict, and call on all governments around the world to respect this essential institution and engage with it to fulfil the intentions of its founding charter.

Chair: Councillor Ram Lakha, OBE
Secretary: Linda Hiron

Dear Officials, Organizers, Delegates, and Supporters,

Congratulations and thank you to all involved in the Young Polonia Leadership Summit (YPLS), on October 19-20, 2023, in Ottawa. It was a great inspiration and success.

Members at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Polish Congress on October 21, 2023, recognized the value of this initiative and approved financial support for YPLS in 2024.

Enclosed are short pictorial reports of the events on October 19-21, 2023. If you wish, you may share them with others. We plan to make more detailed reports in the future.

With respect,

Jerry Barycki, President, PCBPAW



DAY 1 - Parliament Hill, 19.10. 2023

Meetings with parliamentarians provided the opportunity to learn how to get involved in building a better future.





DAY 2 - The Polish Embassy, 20.10.2023



Many inspiring discussions and a vision of future involvement in Polonia ended with a passionate presentation by Dr. Walter Perchal: "Whence we came; where we are going".



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Canadian Polish Congress

Saturday, 21.10.2023, 2136 Fairview Street, Burlington, Ontario



Presentation of the Copernicus Medallion to Greta Derus, CPC President, Alberta

Presentation on activities of CPC Head Council for Oct 2022 to Oct 2023 shows major activity by CPC Head Council- congratulations on your achievements, particularly those in support for young Polonia, our future.



INFO POLONIA WINDSOR



Prepared by Jerry Barycki, 23.10.2023.