



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

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**MEETING DATE:** June 28, 2022

**PREPARED BY:** Colleen Martin

**AGENDA CONTENT:** Discussion and possible action on a Sister City with Belize.

**AGENDA ITEM SECTION:** Regular Agenda

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**BUDGETED AMOUNT:** **FUNDS REQUESTED:**

**FUND:**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Angleton in collaboration with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (HCC) would like to enter a partnership with Belize City as a Sister City. A Sister City relationship is intended to expand, strengthen, and benefit both parties. This voluntary forging of ties helps to encourage business, trade, educational and cultural exchanges, and projects between the cities. The Sister Cities can expect an increase of business, tourism, trade, and investment in the local economy. In addition, raising the international profile of the two cities is a fantastic opportunity to showcase their local government achievements.

In the fall of 2021, the City Manager and Director of Human Resources met with the HCC to discuss the feasibility of a Sister City partnership. Gina Aguirre with the HCC and Colleen Martin, Director of Human Resources worked together to find a city with the same interests and goals as that of Angleton, sustainability, and from this came the selection of Belize City. The HCC then set out to work with Belize on Angleton's behalf to determine the level of interest in a Sister City partnership.

On April 29, 2022, the HCC, the City of Angleton, and the Mayor of the Belizean Mayors Association met on a Zoom call to discuss a future partnership. Since the April 29 Zoom call, the Belizean Mayor has taken the item to his council and received formal approval.

The City would seek sponsorship for visits and encourage industry and partner participation. Funding can occur through sponsorship and some use of non-taxpayer funding. Some of the partnership linkages include zoom meetings, virtual attendance at reciprocal meetings and routine electronic or phone engagements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends partnering with Belize as a Sister City.