



CITY OF MILPITAS AGENDA REPORT (AR)

Item Title:	Sister Cities Program
Category:	Community Development
Meeting Date:	12/17/2019
Staff Contact:	Rich Tran, Mayor, 408-586-3029
Recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Receive background information and preliminary analysis on Sister Cities Programming.2. Consider request for a Sister Cities Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Dagupan (Philippines).

Background:

On November 19, 2019, City Council directed staff to include an agenda item on the December 3, 2019 Council meeting to consider renewing the expired Sister Cities MOU with the City of Dagupan, Philippines. In addition, there was general consensus by Council to review and discuss the matter further.

Analysis:

The previous City of Milpitas Sister Cities program was established on May 21, 1996. Through the years, the City has had relationships with various international cities. At the moment, the City is not engaged in any official Sister Cities partnerships. The most recent Sister Cities relationships included:

- Huizhou, China (since October 2003); the MOU expired October 15, 2018
- Dagupan, Philippines (since April 2003); MOU expired October 7, 2019
- Tsukuba, Japan (since October 2004; Town of Kukizaki - May 1996); MOU expired October 7, 2019

The City of Milpitas and community have enjoyed a long-lasting affiliation with the City of Dagupan. There is a strong desire from the community that the relationship be officially established once again through a renewed MOU (Attachment A).

Staff has completed preliminary research on various local Sister Cities programs to better understand their organizational structure, administration, funding, primary purpose, programmatic efforts, and partnerships. An Information Memorandum is attached which provides greater detail and background (Attachment B).

Fiscal Impact:

Although signing a Sister Cities MOU agreement will not in itself have a fiscal impact, re-establishing a City sponsored Sister Cities program would require some level of City resources in the future. Various approaches range from the former City staffed/Sister Cities Commission to a volunteer-based community driven Sister Cities program led by an entity other than the City. The fiscal impact to the General Fund will vary with Council direction and expectation for City support and resources.

California Environmental Quality Act:

By the definition provided in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378, this action does not qualify as a “project” for the purpose of CEQA as this action has no potential to result in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

Recommendation:

1. Receive background information and preliminary analysis on Sister Cities Programing.
2. Consider request for a Sister Cities Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Dagupan (Philippines).

Attachments:

- A. Draft Memorandum of Understanding by and between the City of Milpitas and City of Dagupan
- B. Information Memorandum – City of Milpitas Sister Cities Program
 - o Comparison Matrix of Sister Cities Programs (Preliminary Findings)