

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: SHERYL WALSH-MOLLOY, DIRECTOR OF C
SUBJECT: CLAIR DELEGATES VISIT TO NOVI
DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Mayor and Council –

A little background on our strong relationship with CLAIR, as this will be the first time many of you engage with this fantastic organization.

- Victor

For nearly two decades, the City of Novi has partnered with the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) to participate in a cultural and local government exchange program. After a several-year hiatus, seven CLAIR delegates will visit Novi from March 22–26.

CLAIR was established in 1988 as a general incorporated foundation affiliated with the Japanese government. Its primary mission is to enhance the international activities of local governments in Japan, fostering collaboration and promoting regional development and revitalization.

During their stay in Novi, CLAIR staff will attend a City Council meeting and tour City facilities, including the DPW, Library, Fire Station #4, and the Firearms Training Center. Additional highlights include a visit to Novi Community Schools; tours of Henry Ford Providence Park Hospital and Fox Run; and a morning at the Ford Rouge Factory Tour.

Calendar invitations have been sent to City Council members for the Welcome Reception on **Sunday, March 22, at 6p** at the **Brentwood Grille**, and the Farewell Reception on **Wednesday, March 25, at 5:30p** at the **Maples Bistro**. CLAIR will host the Farewell Reception and recognize you at an Advisor Program Certification Ceremony during the dinner.

Highlights of their schedule follow:

Sunday, March 22

- 4p Arrive in Detroit
- 6p Welcome Reception (Remarks by Mayor Fischer) at Brentwood Grille

Monday, March 23

- 8:30a Introduction to Novi Local Government/Tour Civic Center/PD
- 2p Tour Novi and Fire Station #4
- 7p Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 24

- 8a Ford Rouge Factory Tour
- 2p Novi Schools, Firearms Training Center

Wednesday, March 25

9a Novi Public Library, Fox Run

1:15p DPW, Henry Ford Providence, Studio No.VI video shoot

6p Farewell Reception at Maples Bistro

Thursday, March 26

10a Depart for New York

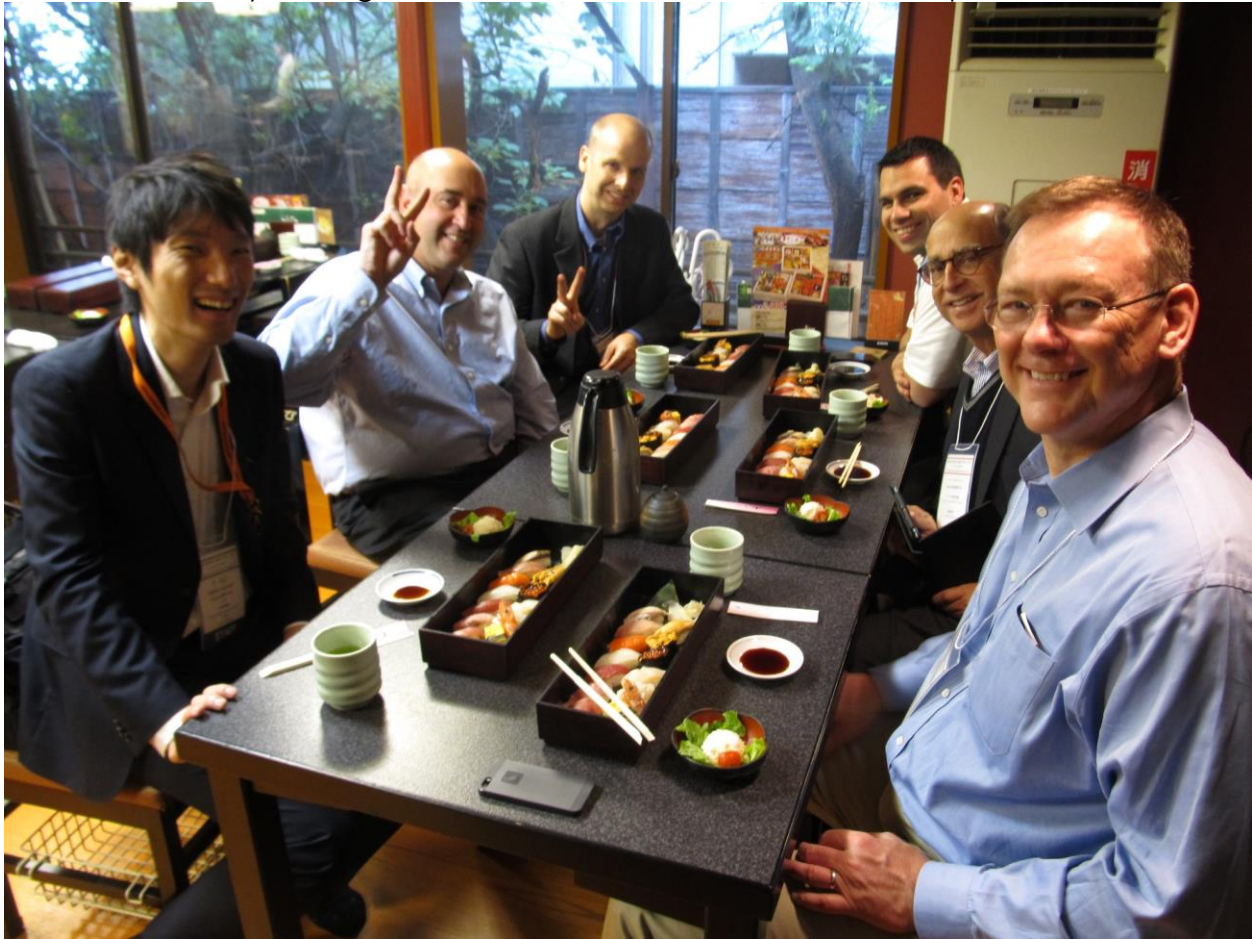
We look forward to resurrecting this meaningful program and sharing our Novi with the CLAIR delegates. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Some pictures from when Novi officials traveled to Japan as a part of the CLAIR Fellowship.

Deputy Parks Director Tracie Ringle on the 2009 CLAIR Fellowship



Then Assistant City Manager Cardenas on the 2013 CLAIR Fellowship



Mayor Gatt Participating in the CLAIR Fellowship in 2014



Member Wrobel Participating in the CLAIR Fellowship in 2016



Mayor Pro Tem Casey and Member Staudt on their 2018 Fellowship Trip

