



# City Council Referral Request

Tracking Number 2022-0050 Date of Referral 9/20/22 Requester Cheryl Selby  
(Provided by Susan) \_\_\_\_\_

- Referral To  Study Session  Work Session  
 Staff  Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety  
 Community Livability & Public Safety Committee  Finance Committee  
 Land Use & Environment Committee  Advisory Committee Choose from Dropdown

## Problem Statement

*Resolution # M-1234 dated 10/6/1987 outlined a process for the city to manage new and existing sister city relationships. The resolution needs to be updated to allow for the use of nominal city resources to help maintain and expand Sister City Relationships.*

## Request

*The request is to put forward a Resolution updating Resolution M-1234, passed in 1987, to allow for City resources to help with maintaining and expanding our Sister City Relationships.*

*Specifically, the ask is to restore our annual membership (approx. \$800) to Sister Cities International (SCI) that has lapsed since the Olympia-Kato Sister City Association (OKSCA) discontinued payments during the pandemic. To maintain our current sister city relationship with Kato City, we need to be a member of SCI.*

*Additionally, the request is to allow use of staff resources to assist with planning events during bi-annual exchanges. Currently Olympia has a 40+ year sister city relationship with Kato City, Japan (formerly Yashiro City.) Exchanges to Kato have always been hosted by their city government which is traditional among members of SCI.*

*Olympia is an SCI outlier in that the city government does not host the visiting delegations, but instead rely on community volunteers. To be considered in this request is the new knowledge that Olympia has created a staff team to guide activities related to Arts, Cultures, and Heritage (the ARCH department). Voters also recently passed the "Inspire Olympia" ballot measure that created a dedicated revenue stream for non-profits to access grants related to arts, cultures, heritage, and science public programming. There is a clear nexus to our sister city relationships with our ARCH work plan and our community's support for cultural programming.*

*\*There is also an opportunity to re-establish our sister city relationship with Ancient Olympia, Greece. A trip to Ancient Olympia was made in March of 2020 to receive their proposal, though the visit was interrupted by the pandemic and a formal document for council consideration was not obtained.*

## Relationship to City Business or Proposed City Business/Services

*Diplomacy is essential as the United States strives to maintain its place as a global leader in areas that can stabilize international relations. Exchanges help to further international understanding at all levels of a community. As we grapple with multiple crises related to climate and equity, visiting another culture to learn new approaches to dealing with these challenges is a unique opportunity. As well, we have plenty of our own ideas to share.*

## Connection to Comprehensive Plan

*Choose all that apply.*

- Public Health and Safety**  
*A safe and welcoming Community; reliable and responsive emergency services; a safe and reliable water supply; public Infrastructure in the City is well-maintained; adequate food and shelter*
- Community Livability**  
*A commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community; access to affordable and stable housing; a safe transportation system with options for everyone; recreation opportunities for everyone; Connections to our culture and history*
- Downtown**  
*Vibrant, attractive urban destination; a safe and welcoming downtown for all; a mix of urban housing options; a variety of businesses; connections to our cultural & historic fabric; engaging arts & entertainment experience*

**Economy**

*Abundant local products and services; a thriving arts and entertainment industry; sustainable quality infrastructure; a stable thriving economy*

**Environment**

*Clean water & air; a daily connection to nature; preserved quality natural areas; a toxin-free community; a waste free culture*

**Neighborhoods**

*Distinctive places & gathering spaces; nearby goods & services; neighborhoods that are engaged in community decision making; safe and welcoming places to live*

**Options**

**Next Steps:**

**1. Direct staff to make the minor edits to the existing resolution to allow the city to join SCI and allow staff to assist as needed with exchanges. Exchanges are planned every two years and 6-12 months in advance to allow time for staff to adapt their work plans.**

**2022 Fiscal note - \$800 needed for SCI membership this fall.**

**2. Direct appropriate staff to build time in their 2023 work plans to assist with future exchange events (Spring 2023 trip to Kato, summer 2023 receive delegation from Kato.)**

**2023 Fiscal note - \$800 for SCI membership, \$6000 travel stipend for sending city delegation to Kato in spring. \$5000 for programming events for Kato delegation in summer.**

**Timing**

**We need to move quickly on part one so we can start working with SCI on our exchanges in 2023.**

**Supporting Documentation (Work Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Parks Plan, etc)**

**<https://sistercities.org/about-us/>**

**Councilmember Signatures**

**Two Councilmembers must support the request including the Chair of the Committee of referral. (Cannot be a committee quorum unless discussed at an open public meeting of the committee.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Selby, Mayor  
Sponsoring Councilmember

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Yen Huynh  
Councilmember

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Cooper  
Councilmember

**Staff Supplement**

**Staff will review the request to generate administrative impacts to be considered as part of proposal (staff to initial after their review):**

Budget Impacts: Click or tap here to enter text.

Legal Review (to include regulatory authority): Click or tap here to enter text.

Policy implications: Click or tap here to enter text.

Implementation Considerations: Click or tap here to enter text.

Staff Liaison: Click or tap here to enter text.

