

RESOLUTION NO. M-2390

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,
UPDATING THE SISTER CITY AFFILIATIONS POLICY FOR THE CITY OF OLYMPIA**

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia encourages educational, cultural, technical, and governmental exchanges for our community members to acquaint themselves with the cultural and political diversity of the world; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to encourage international trade and tourism and economic development between Olympia and its sister cities; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 1987, the Olympia City Council approved Resolution No. M-1234, establishing a Sister City Affiliations Policy for the City of Olympia; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to update the criteria for the City's Sister City Affiliations Policy to ensure sister cities are carefully selected and the special sister city relationships will be useful, educational, and of maximum benefit;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE to update the Sister City Affiliations Policy for the City of Olympia as follows:

Section 1. The City of Olympia will seek to develop sister city relationships that serve one or more of the following objectives:

- A. Creating opportunities for people in both cities to learn and experience other cultures through long-term relationships.
- B. Developing tourism and exchange of business practices.
- C. Opening a dialogue and addressing issues ranging from the cultural, technical, municipal, environmental, educational, and beyond.
- D. Stimulating environments through partnerships where communities can creatively learn, work, and solve problems together.

Section 2. Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit which serves as the national membership organization for individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States. The City of Olympia will maintain a membership with Sister Cities International to have access to the Sister Cities International directory of members and professional diplomatic and protocol services.

Section 3. To assure that sister city affiliations are generally reflective of the community, the City of Olympia will work in partnership with sister city community groups to assist with organizing activities, events, and cultural exchanges.

Section 4. Community members or interested cities advocating for a new sister city affiliation with the City of Olympia must submit a proposal to the City Manager's Office that will be reviewed and then considered by the Olympia City Council. The proposal must include the following:

- A. Name of the community group sponsoring the proposal.
- B. Name of the proposed sister city and information regarding their governing structure.
- C. A letter of interest from the highest ranking official from the proposed city.
- D. The name and contact information of a person within the proposed city's government or an established liaison group.
- E. Population, geographic location (i.e., mountains, desert, lake, port, etc.) and demographics of the community.
- F. The community's cultural and civic expertise: (i.e., art programs, sports teams, hospitals, media, festivals, community events, etc.)
- G. The community's economics and tourism. What are its primary industries and products? Is it a destination for visitors?
- H. What, if any, humanitarian issues exist within the city?
- I. What benefits does the community expect to receive from a sister city relationship with the City of Olympia?
- J. The goal of the sponsoring affiliation organization in establishing a sister city relationship.
- K. Desired outcomes of a sister city relationship.
- L. Potential activities, programs, and exchanges.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 15th day of November 2022.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber
CITY ATTORNEY