

RESOLUTION NO. 601

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING SISTER CITY AFFILIATION POLICY FOR THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Gig Harbor have demonstrated a desire to learn more about the people of other cities throughout the world and enhance international communication and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Gig Harbor wish to encourage educational, cultural, recreational and technical exchanges to help acquaint themselves with the diverse peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, the Gig Harbor City Council wishes to enable the citizens of Gig Harbor to have opportunities to give service to and derive benefit from community projects of international scope; and

WHEREAS, Gig Harbor's sister cities should be carefully selected to assure that these special relationships will be useful, educational, and of maximum benefit; and

WHEREAS, each of our sister city relationships should be based upon some common interests and characteristics important to both the City of Gig Harbor and the sister city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor has an informal relationship with Takuma, Japan:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR:

That objectives, criteria, procedures, and policies for sister city affiliations are hereby established as follows:

Section 1: Sister City Policy. It is the policy of the City of Gig Harbor to recognize the existence of people-to-people relationships through the establishment of sister city affiliations. This recognition encourages exchanges of diverse cultural, educational, artistic, scientific, and professional ideas and programs. Sister City relationships are important to the City of Gig Harbor for several reasons: first, as a means of assisting City of Gig Harbor residents in viewing the challenges and gifts of our community in the broader context of what is truly becoming a global community; second, to create opportunities to honor and support the diversity that gives this global community its vitality; and third, to provide citizens of Gig Harbor with specific opportunities to directly interact with and participate in other cultures.

- 1) The sister city relationships should emphasize direct contact, communication and coordination with the people in the respective sister cities. By entering into a sister city affiliation, the City of Gig Harbor does not recognize or endorse political actions of the respective sister city government. Any protocol between the City of Gig Harbor and a sister city shall include a stipulation to that effect.
- 2) Each sister city relationship shall emphasize people-to-people exchanges and projects especially those of a primarily humanitarian concern which addresses human needs, environmental concerns, human rights, and the enrichment of people in the respective cities.
- 3) The City of Gig Harbor will not enter into agreements with sister city projects that would obligate the expenditure of City funds without approval by the City Council.
- 4) Any sister city agreement entered into by the City of Gig Harbor must contain a statement of a basic commitment of respect for human rights according to the provisions of the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other applicable international agreements on human rights and a commitment to environmental stewardship, including without limitation the policies adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
- 5) The City Council will at its discretion authorize such funds as may be required for sister city related functions. The City Administrator will regularly report to City Council the amount and purpose for which funds were authorized.
- 6) The City of Gig Harbor may establish membership in the Sister Cities International organization as necessary to enable its sister city relationships.
- 7) Any change in the legal status of a sister city organization must be promptly reported to the City of Gig Harbor.
- 8) The City Council will annually review each sister city relationship to determine the extent to which each sister city relationship complies with these policies and criteria.
- 9) The City Council will appoint a Council Liaison to each domestic and foreign sister city organization. The Mayor and each liaison will represent the City of Gig Harbor at official functions with Washington state and will keep the Council aware of important sister city events and activities.
- 10) The City Administrator will appoint a staff liaison with umbrella responsibility to work with sister city organizations for the purpose of coordinating communications between The City of Gig Harbor and the individual sister city organizations, other international groups, and the community at large.

Section 2: Criteria for Establishing and Maintaining Sister City Relationships. The City of Gig Harbor establishes the following criteria for sister city recognition:

A) In order to assure that sister city affiliations are genuinely reflective of the community and are managed by citizen organizations with resources adequate to the task, sister city affiliations shall:

- 1) Have and maintain Section 501 (c)(3) status.
- 2) Have and maintain a City of Gig Harbor-based board of directors, with the board elected by the membership, and with no member of the board being a part of any commercial venture in the sister city.
- 3) Establish membership criteria, but membership may not be denied based upon race, religion, nationality, membership in a minority group, membership in a particular social group or because of the expression of unpopular political opinion.
- 4) Have and maintain an annual budget, a work plan, and a fund-raising report.
- 5) Annually submit a status report to the City Council by the 1st of March of each year which shall show compliance with items A(1), A(2), A(3), and A(4) and the policies set forth in Section 1.
- 6) Make the elements required in A(3), A(4) and A(5) available to the public.

B) A prospective sister city should offer City of Gig Harbor citizens significant exchange opportunities to enhance mutual understanding of the world's cultural diversity. In addition, the following procedures must be followed for official sister city recognition:

- 1) A citizen's organization advocating a new sister city affiliation must present to the City of Gig Harbor City Administrator's Office documents that demonstrate compliance with all relevant sections of this sister city policy resolution.
- 2) The City Administrator's Office shall advise the City Council that the specified criteria and standards for affiliation have been met, and shall present to the Council any further arguments for or against the proposed affiliation.
- 3) Sister city recognition must be approved by the Council.

Section 3: Effective Date. The criteria, standards and procedures established herein shall be applicable to all pending and future requests for sister city affiliation.

RESOLVED this 13th day of January, 2003.

APPROVED:

Gretchen A. Wilbert, Mayor

ATTEST / AUTHENTICATED:

Molly M. Towslee, City Clerk

Filed with the City Administrator: 12/9/02

Passed by the City Council: 1/13/03

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