

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Introduction to Sister Cities Policy

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Introduction

- ▶ In 2022, Staff presented to Council about potential Sister Cities program.
- ▶ Council directed staff to work with Community Services Commission to create a Sister Cities Policy
- ▶ In September, Community Services Commission voted to send this policy to the City Council for review.

Recap

What is a sister city?

- ▶ A sister city arrangement is one in which two cities, usually located in different countries, establish a formalized relationship to exchange ideas and collaborate for mutual culture, and possibly economic, advancement.
- ▶ Purpose of a Sister City is to promote peace through people-to-people relationships.

Recap

What is Sister Cities International?

- Founded in 1956, Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities.

Mission: to promote peace through mutual respect, cooperation, and understanding—one individual, one community at a time.



Recap

How to start a Sister City relationship?

- ▶ Cities can, and often do, create their own criteria or requirements for new sister cities. (Policy)
- ▶ All sister cities are formalized by an agreement between the two mayors or highest elected/appointed officials.



Recap

How do sister cities begin? (Cont'd)

- ▶ Sister city relationships may develop from a number of sources, including:
 - preexisting mayoral relationships,
 - trade relationships,
 - historical connections,
 - ancestral/demographic connections,
 - expatriate communities,
 - shared geographic/sector challenges,
 - faith-based groups,
 - personal experiences ranging from study/work abroad to marriages

Recap

What do sister cities do?

► Cultural Exchange

- Arts, music, traditions, customs, performances

► Youth and Education

- Study abroad, virtual exchanges, learning opportunities, leadership building

► Community Development

- Municipal and technical exchanges, best practices, policy exchanges, staff development

► Business and Trade

- Trade delegations, business incubation, import/export assistance

Recap

Service opportunities

- ▶ Many sister city programs do humanitarian or development work. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Disaster Relief
 - Medical missions
 - Nurse/doctor exchanges
 - Provision of supplies/funding to hospitals/clinics
 - Water and sanitation projects
 - Educational partnerships aimed at development/health
 - Municipal exchanges in fields such as sanitation or health management

City of Pinole Sister City Policy

- ▶ Policy Highlights:
 - ▶ City should be similar in size
 - ▶ Similar geographic location
 - ▶ Near water
 - ▶ Near large metropolis
 - ▶ City should have the desire to enter into a Sister City relationship

Process

- ▶ City Councilperson or staff make a connection with foreign city that meets criteria of the policy
- ▶ That person then fills out the application and sends it to the Community Services Director
- ▶ The Community Services Commission reviews the application and votes to approve or deny the application
- ▶ The application then goes to the City Council for final adoption and an official agreement is signed between the two cities.

Discussion and Direction

