

**RESOLUTION NO. 161-18 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
WATSONVILLE ESTABLISHING COUNCIL SISTER CITY POLICY IN  
THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE**

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the residents of the City of Watsonville to promote peace, understanding, and prosperity through people-to-people relationships, cultural understanding, cultural exchange, and sharing arts, education, trade, agricultural practices and customs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

That the Council hereby establishes the following Sister-City Policy to be followed by staff and members of the Council until changed or terminated.

That the Council will consider requests to establish new sister city relationships only when such requests from another United States or foreign city are sponsored by a local, organized group which demonstrates an interest and ability to establish and maintain an active relationship with the proposed sister city over a substantial period of time by regular communication and bi-lateral visits by Watsonville and the proposed sister city.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Council hereby adopts the following policies about participation in City recognized sister city activities.

1. That a sister city relationships shall be established and may be terminated only by Council resolution.

2. That a sister city relationship may be established only when the Council finds that an identified local, organized sponsoring group of individuals agree to promote and manage the relationship, demonstrate the capacity to be and remains the primary means of communication and remain financially responsible throughout the period of the sister city relationship.

3. That the sister city relationship shall be terminated by Council action unless a sponsoring group satisfies Policy 2 above.

4. That the sponsoring group shall organize and actively participate in bi-lateral meaningful mutual meetings or exchange visits with the sister city.

5. That a request for sister city relationship shall be approved only upon demonstrated good cause supported by a written document describing the benefits to such a relationship, any duties of the sister city and the City of Watsonville, and a request from the proposed sister city.

6. That each sponsoring group shall be responsible for all costs of a visit to the sister city, but not limited to accommodations, meals, tours, and travel.

7. That City staff and elected or appointed officials may participate in a sister city program providing it shall be at no expense to the City.

8. That no City funds shall be used for sister city expenses, including but not limited to transportation, lodging, or travel related meals.

9. That all sister city funds from the City shall require an application from the sponsoring sister city committee and appropriation in the City budget process. No such funds may be used for transportation, meals or lodging.

10. That the Council encourages sister city activities and that funding occur through a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable corporation and that the public be encouraged to participate in and contribute to promote cultural and economic relationships with sister cities.

11. That each member of a sister city delegation shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the Political Reform Act and regulations promulgated thereunder, particularly Chapter 9.5 (Ethics) of Division 6<sup>1</sup> and in particular, Section 18944 “Payments Made to an Agency for Use by Agency Officials.”

12. That each member of a sister city delegation shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the Political Reform Act and regulations promulgated thereunder, particularly Chapter 9.5 (Ethics) of Division 6<sup>2</sup> and in particular, Section 18950.1 “Exception: Payments for Travel Made in Conjunction with Official Agency Business.”

13. That each member shall also comply, to the extent applicable, with Watsonville’s Election Campaign Contribution Control Ordinance found in Chapter 6 of Title 1 of the Watsonville Municipal Code.

14. That travel with family members or partners shall be paid by the family members.

15. That the City Clerk shall be notified at least two months in advance of any planned visit to Watsonville to best accommodate visitors and travelers. The sponsoring committee shall submit to the City Clerk within fifteen (15) days an itemized report of all expenses incurred and source of payment related to the sister city event.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 California Code of Regulations 18930 et seq

<sup>2</sup> ibid

16. That sister city visits by City officials in their capacity as mayor, mayor pro tem or members of the Council shall be limited so as to include the Mayor and no more than two Council members so as to not burden any sister city and to encourage participation by members of the community.

17. That the Mayor (or if the Mayor declines, then the Mayor pro tem) have first-priority in the City's delegation. Two additional Council members may be designated as part of the delegation, in order of seniority (time served on Council and if there is a tie, then in alphabetical order by last name). If the Mayor (or Mayor pro tem) or Council member is unable or otherwise declines to attend, then the next senior Council member (determined in the same manner) becomes eligible. It is the policy of the Council that a Council member who has visited a sister city within the last twelve months (measured back from the date of the proposed new visit) not be included in a second visit to a sister city until twelve months have passed since the return.

18. That members of the official sister-city delegation shall be designated only in this way.

19. That the formation of a sister city relationship shall not imply or express approval or disapproval of the politics or government practices of elected or appointed officials, policies, cultural practices, or conduct of the sister community, which may run contrary to the politics, policies, cultural practices, or actions of the City of Watsonville or the Council.

20. That participants in sister city exchanges may express their personal First Amendment political, cultural, religious, or other beliefs while participating in sister city

programs, however sister city relationships and activities are intended to be nonpartisan, non-denominational, and inclusive of all races, cultures and ethnicities.

21. That the members of an official City of Watsonville delegation are encouraged to have robust, informed discussions while travelling and participating as part of the sister city program however no member of the delegation may speak for the City or the Council unless and except through resolution or motion at a noticed public meeting.

22. That the City Clerk shall be responsible for the direction, management, or administration of sister city activities.

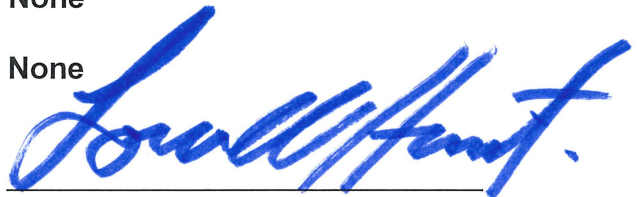
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The foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Watsonville, held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018, by Member Hernandez, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Member Coffman-Gomez, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **Bilicich, Coffman-Gomez, Dutra, Garcia, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Hurst**

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**



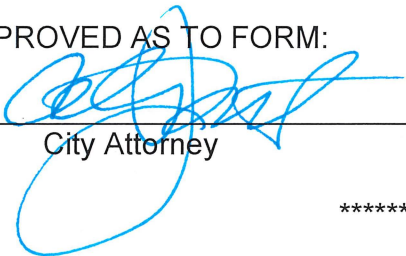
Lowell Hurst, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Oct 15, 2018  
Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

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I, Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk of the City of Watsonville, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 161-18 (CM) was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the Watsonville City Council at a meeting thereof held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018, and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of said Resolution.

  
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Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk

Date Oct 15, 2018