

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 12/10/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-1031

LOG NAME: 0202SISTER CITIES FUNDING FY25

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt Appropriation Ordinance Reallocating Appropriations in the General Fund to Reduce the Non-Departmental Department Budget by \$100,000.00 and Increase the City Manager's Department Budget by the Same Amount to Provide Budgeted Funding to International Sister Cities Association of Fort Worth, Inc. in Fiscal Year 2025, with No Net Increase to the Total Budget

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached appropriation ordinance reallocating appropriations in the General Fund by decreasing the Non-Departmental Department budget by \$100,000.00 and increasing the City Manager's Department budget by the same amount, for the purpose of providing Sister Cities with \$50,000.00 in base funding and an additional \$50,000.00 in incremental funding based on the organization's additional fundraising efforts, with no net increase to the overall budget.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to reallocate appropriations in the General Fund to support payment to International Sister Cities (Sister Cities) in the current fiscal year (FY).

In 2018, the City Council authorized an agreement with Sister Cities to administer the Fort Worth Sister Cities Program, with the agreement having an initial term of one year and four additional renewal options of one year each (M&Cs C-28859 and C-29092) with annual funding of \$50,000.00 per year. In addition to monetary payments, the City also supports Sister Cities by charging the organization only \$100.00 per year for the lease of City-owned space with an estimated annual rental value of \$48,000.00 (M&C L-16176).

Because the City Manager's Office supports Sister Cities and is interested in finding ways to help leverage the public tax dollars provided to them, starting with the FY2023 renewal the Sister Cities agreement has provided the organization with the ability to get up to \$50,000.00 in additional annual funding from the City as a dollar-for-dollar match tied to the organization's fundraising.

In FY2023 and FY2024, Sister Cities was able to obtain additional outside grant funds and access the additional \$50,000.00 from the City (M&C 23-0511). For FY2025, the organization has again increased the amount it has raised from outside sources and is entitled to the additional \$50,000.00.

Adoption of this M&C will adjust appropriations in the General Fund to move both the base funding, which has already been paid to the organization, and the additional funding. The full \$100,000.00 was appropriated in the Non-Departmental Department in the FY2025 budget. Adoption of this M&C and the attached ordinance will move that funding over to the City Manager's budget but will not increase the bottom line total for the General Fund budget.

This action will align appropriations with both the previously issued base-funding payment and allow for the additional funding payment to issue. Funding is budgeted in the Other Contractual Services account within the General Fund in the Nondept Other Contractual Department to be used for the CMO Sisters Cities Department.

About Fort Worth Sister Cities International

Fort Worth Sister Cities strives to cultivate international relationships and understanding among youth, adults, and businesses through educational, leadership, and exchange programs that promote tourism and commerce in the City of Fort Worth and produce economic and public benefits for the entire Fort Worth community. In 2016, Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C. engaged value ideas to conduct an economic impact study, which indicate that the organization and program provide a \$14+ million positive economic impact to the City of Fort Worth on an annual basis.

The organization orchestrates internationally recognized inbound and outbound exchange programs; provides essential instruction for protocol and diplomacy; produces unparalleled youth and educator programs; and conducts trade missions to foster economic development.

Since its inception in 1985, Sister Cities has researched and secured nine international partner cities with similar goals including Reggio, Italy; Trier, Germany; Nagaoka, Japan; Bandung, Indonesia; Budapest, Hungary; Toluca, Mexico; Mbabane, Eswatini; Guiyang, China and this year, Nîmes, France.

Fort Worth is recognized as having the "Best Sister Cities" program in the United States.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the recommendation, funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the City Manager's Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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