



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee
From: Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

Date: January 3, 2002
File: 0135-04-02

Re: **Sister City Committee**
2002 Budget and Exchange Visit

Staff Recommendation

That Council approve a 2002 base level operating budget of \$4,135.00 for the Sister City Committee and;

That Council authorize the Mayor and Council's elected representative to the Committee (Councillor Lyn Greenhill), as well as the Committee's Chair and Vice Chair, or their alternates, to attend the All Japan Flower Competition and;

That the appropriate funding be allocated from the 2002 Council Contingency Account.

Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

Attach. 2

Staff Report

Origin

The Sister City Committee has received an invitation (Attachment 1.) from our Sister City – Wakayama, Japan to attend the All Japan Flower Competition in Wakayama. The Sister City Committee has reviewed the request and believes that the City should send representatives.

Analysis

The Sister City Committee made their Annual Report to Council on December 10, 2001 and highlighted, at that time, a request from the City of Wakayama to have the City and Committee attend the All Japan Flower Competition.

Council referred the matter of having the City's Committee attend the Competition to staff to address the following points:

- (i) who would comprise the delegation if funding for the event was approved
- (ii) the budget from which the funding would be provided and;
- (iii) the role the City would be playing

In attempting to address the questions raised by council, it should be pointed out that the responses are from a staff perspective and may, to some degree, be at odds with the Sister City Committee desires.

In relation to who should attend, I understand the Sister City committee believe there should be a delegation consisting of six Committee members and at least the Mayor and perhaps a senior staff member.

Regarding the funding requirements for the event, it is anticipated that the costs would be approximately \$2500 for each delegate. The Committee has requested \$15,000 to fund their direct request for their six members to attend. Two additional delegation members would result in an extra \$5000 being required.

The role the City would be playing by its attendance would be our continual role of ambassadors and to strengthen our ties with Wakayama and demonstrate our continued commitment to the Sister City Program.

It should also be mentioned that next year is our 30th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Wakayama and this may be another major event between the two cities.

Financial Impact

The Sister City Committee has submitted a 2002 budget of \$4,135.00 which matches their work program exclusive of the Flower Competition. The requirements as set out by the Committee for attendance at the Flower Competition indicates a funding requirement of \$15,000. This reflects a delegation of six people all from the Sister City Committee and does not reflect any other elected

officials or City staff. There are basically four scenarios associated with the attendance request of the Committee and they are detailed below.

Option 1.

Refuse to fund the attendance at the Flower Competition event.

Option 2.

Agree to fund the \$15,000 cost and agree to send six members of the Sister City Committee. The funding could come from one, or a combination of the detailed funding options.

Option 3.

Agree to fund the \$15,000 cost and agree to send six committee members and provide additional funding of \$5000 for upto two additional attendees, being the Mayor and a staff, or other elected official. The funding could come from one or a combination of the detailed funding options.

Option 4.

Agree to fund the cost of a specific number of attendees and Council will determine the appropriate attendees.

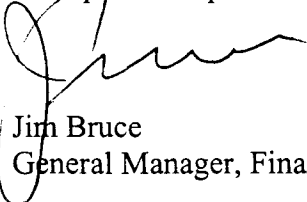
FUNDING OPTIONS

The appropriate funding options that should be considered are:

- (i) No funding required
- (ii) \$15,000 - from the 2002 Council Contingency in the base level operating budget or the Council Provision Account
- (iii) \$20,000 – from the 2002 Council Contingency in the base level operating budget or the Council Provision Account
- (iv) An amount equivalent to \$2500 per attendee from the Council Contingency in the base level operating budget or the Council Provision Account

Conclusion

That having the City of Richmond represented at the All Japan Flower Festival in Wakayama is an important aspect of our continual effort to build on our Sister City relations.


Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

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CITY of WAKAYAMA

CITY HALL, 23, 7 BANCHO, WAKAYAMA CITY, JAPAN ☎ (81)0734-32-0037 FAX (81)0734-35-1252

June 1, 2001

Mrs. Sylvia Gwozd
Chairperson, Richmond Sister City Committee

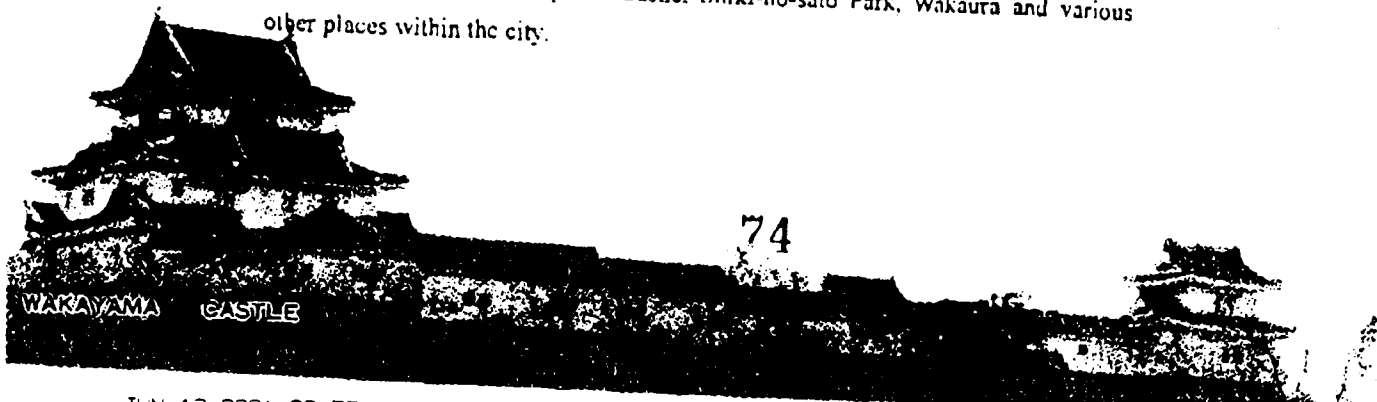
Mrs. Gwozd:

I sincerely hope this letter finds you happy, healthy and in good spirits. Thank you as always for your continued support in promoting sister city exchange between Wakayama and Richmond.

In line with our city beautification campaign, "Wakayama—City by the Sea: Abundant with Flowers and Greenery", Wakayama will be holding the All-Japan Flower Competition (5th World Competition) for 10 days between April 27 and May 6, 2002. Through holding this competition, Wakayama will strive to become the most beautifully flowered city in Japan.

On the first day of the event (April 27, 2002), we will hold an extravagant opening ceremony to welcome our many visitors to Wakayama, including the royal family. Although I know you must be extremely busy, I would be honored if those of you from Richmond, including Mayor Halsey-Brandt, yourself and everyone from the sister city committee, would come celebrate with us on this happy occasion. Further details of the event are as follows.

1. Opening Ceremony: Saturday, April 27
2. Main Location: Wakayama Marina City
3. Dates: Saturday, April 27--Monday, May 6 (10 days)
4. Locations Specifics: Centered in Wakayama's Marina City; will also take place in and around Wakayama Castle, Shiki-no-sato Park, Wakaura and various other places within the city.



CITY of WAKAYAMA

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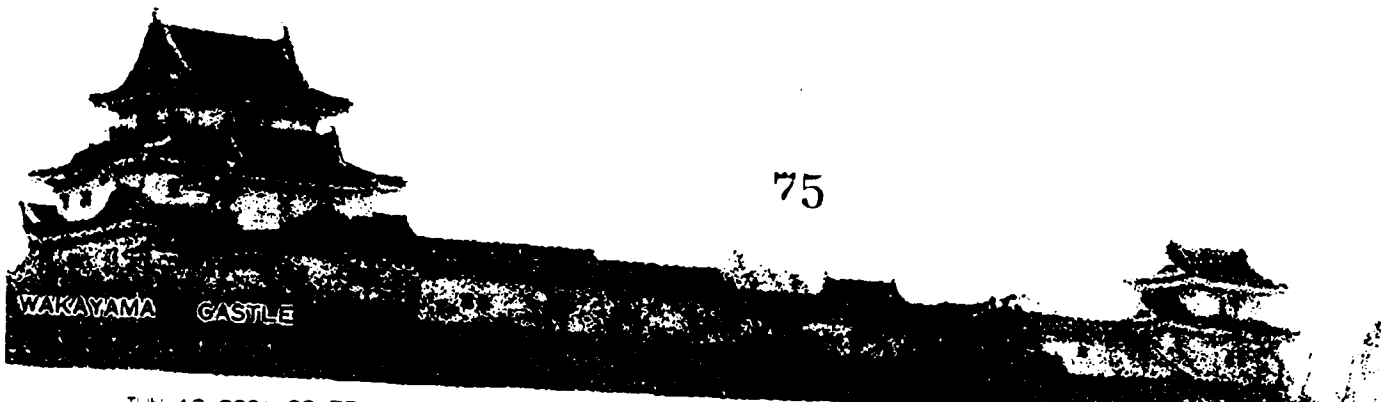
5. Requested Attendance: All-Japan Flower Competition Opening Ceremony on Saturday, April 27, 2002.
6. Leaflet: Please find enclosed an informational leaflet on the event.
7. Inquiries: Please direct inquiries to the Foreign Affairs Division of City Hall.

Sincerely,

Takuso Tabita

Takuso Tabita

Mayor, City of Wakayama



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WAKAYAMA CASTLE

Wakayama—City by the Sea: Abundant with Flowers and Greenery

**2002 45th All-Japan Flower Competition in Wakayama
(5th World Competition)**

The Flower Proliferation Campaign first began in 1952 in the city of Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, a city on the verge of collapse, much of it having fallen to ruins. In an effort to breathe life into the city and provide its inhabitants with peace of mind, the Flower Proliferation Campaign began as a small, local project, which soon permeated throughout the entire country.

In 2002, Wakayama will be holding the All-Japan Flower Competition. On the wings of this competition, Wakayama will create a more closely connected partnership between its citizens, business and administration in order to create a brighter, more appealing Wakayama; erstwhile hastening the organized development of people, events and scenery in promoting its campaign: "Wakayama—City by the Sea: Abundant with Flowers and Greenery." Although the focus of previous All-Japan Flower Competitions has been placed primarily on awards and other ceremonies, in an effort to promote a further understanding of the idea behind the Flower Proliferation Campaign, Wakayama in 2002 is planning to hold a full-blown festival to entertain its citizens and visitors.

- Date: 10 days from Saturday, April 27, 2002 — Sunday, May 6, 2002
- Location: Centered in Wakayama's Marina City; will also take place in and around Wakayama Castle, Shiki-no-sato Park, Wakaura and various other places within the city

SISTER CITY BUDGET 2002

	OBJECTIVE	PROJECT	TIMING	COST
1.	To enhance friendship with Wakayama	Gifts, greetings	Spring 2002	\$1000
2.	To develop mutual relationships with Richmond's Japanese community	To be determined	Ongoing	\$ 500
3.	Communication and networking	Business cards Pins	Ongoing	\$ 500
4.	Tourism Richmond membership			\$ 135
5.	Amalgamation, new liaison with City in Quebec		Ongoing	\$1000
6.	Exploring requests for twinning	Facilitate meetings and community consultation	Ongoing	\$1000
				\$4,135
	Special Project:			
7.	All Japan Flower Festival			\$15,000

Total: \$19,135