



## City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** General Purposes Committee  
**From:** Anne Stevens  
Manager, Customer Services  
**Re:** **Sister City Selection Update**

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**Date:** February 2, 2004  
**File:** 0135-04-01

### Staff Recommendation

1. That Council approve the Sister City Committee's selection of a city in the Shanghai area;
2. That Council direct the Sister City committee to identify those cities which would be compatible with Richmond as a future friendship and possibly Sister City relationship and report back;

Anne Stevens  
Manager, Customer Services  
(4273)

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**CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER**

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

The City of Richmond has two long-standing Sister City relationships, one with Peirrefonds, Quebec and one with Wakayama, Japan. The Pierrefonds relationship has been in effect since 1967 and Wakayama since 1973.

During the past two years the Sister City Committee has been investigating the possibility of a third Sister City relationship with a city in China. The following is an update on the progress to date.

### **2001**

The City of Richmond had received over the years a number of requests from a variety of cities requesting a twinning relationship. On December 10, 2001 the Sister City Committee established a process to deal with future twinning requests and presented this to Council. It was suggested the Sister City Committee contact those countries who expressed an interest in becoming a Sister City to Richmond and outline the process and the criteria established.

### **2002**

Prior to contacting the various cities, criteria for selection was established by the Sister City Committee (adopted by Council Sept 2002). This criteria explained the type of relationship (Full or Friend) along with the characteristics the City was looking for in a Sister City relationship. It was also extremely important to determine the level of involvement from the community; the overall benefits to Richmond and the financial impact.

A standard letter explaining the process together with a survey was established to ensure there was a sincere commitment from these cities.

### **2003**

In January and February of 2003 the Sister City Committee reviewed a number of requests and suggested Council consider cities in China specifically around the Shanghai area (memo dated April 15, 2003).

The decision for the Shanghai area came when a small subcommittee contacted the Vancouver Sister City representatives and they suggested that Professor Johnson from UBC would be of assistance to Richmond, as he had assisted Vancouver in their selection. The committee met with Professor Johnson and a few other members of the community who could guide the committee on this difficult task. The committee also sent letters to various businesses, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Asia Pacific Business Association, Sunbrite Business Association and Tourism Richmond for their input.

It became apparent that the Shanghai area might be a good fit for Richmond. The reason for this was the stability of the region, ease of access, various cities in the area mirrored Richmond from a geographical perspective; the economic growth of the area was booming; trade interests;

potential cultural exchanges; the School Board interest for student exchanges; Richmond Chamber of Commerce considerations with their International Committee and finally there were a number of cities in the area which had not been twinned with other cities in Canada.

The subcommittee is in the process of reviewing a number of cities in the Shanghai area to determine the potential for friendship with the City of Richmond. These cities are: Kunshan; Zhoushan; Hangzhou; Zhangjiagang; Ming Hang District; Pudong District; Chongming District; Sonjjaing; Ningbo, Yangzhou ( summaries attached).

Assisting the Committee through this process is a sub committee which consists of residents from the community who have interests in the Shanghai area, whether it be through business contacts, family contacts or social contacts.

As guidance and direction are now required, it was decided to approach Council to discuss the whole process and to determine the wishes of Council on the selection of a third Sister City.

### **Next Steps**

To continue the process a number of connections or relationships would have to be made in the various cities to determine if there was an interest and a suitable fit for a Sister City.

The committee feels they can accomplish this task through a number of activities:

- Committee members establish contacts within Richmond for each city.
- Committee members make a link to the cities named, through their business contacts to determine if there is an interest for a friendship
- Committee members work with the Economic Development Committee to ensure there is print material or video available to promote the City of Richmond.
- Committee members establish a budget in 2006 to cover the costs of travel, accommodations and events. This budget would be used to investigate a few cities in the Shanghai area.
- Committee recommends a city for Council consideration.

It is felt that it will take the Committee and the City several years to establish a meaningful friendship, which in time may become a full Sister City relationship.

### **Financial Impact**

There will be a cost to continue this process as it will require elected officials and committee members to attend the various cities to determine the fit.

## Conclusion

The Sister City committee is seeking Council approval to continue with the process as laid out in the Sister City selection process (adopted by Council September 2002) and approval in pursuing a city in the Shanghai area which would lead to a potential friendship and possibly a future Sister City relationship.

To establish a friendship initially will take a number of years at a cost to the city. These costs include travel , accommodations and hosting of events.

A request for funds will be brought back to Council prior to the committee visiting any cities in Shanghai. The committee understands the importance of twinning with a City in China but also is aware of the associated costs to pursue a third Sister City relationship and would like approval from Council to proceed.



Anne Stevens  
Manager, Customer Services  
(4273)

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## City Profile: Kunshan

Kunshan, with the international metropolis of Shanghai to the east, and the renowned historical and cultural city of Suzhou to the west, is located in the Yangtze River Delta, long known as a “land of fish and rice” and boasts rich heritage in culture and history. Kunshan is 92 km to Shanghai’s Pudong International Airport and 60 km away from the Shanghai Harbor.

### Natural Condition

- Location: Kunshan lies in the southeast of Jiangsu Province with the east longitude 120 48’ and the north latitude 31 06’
- Climate: Subtropical with distinct seasons, ample sunshine and rich rainfall. Average temperature: 16.5 C; annual precipitation: 1447 mm; annual sunshine: 1697 hours; frost free period: 239 days.
- Area: 921 sq. km with 46,000 hectares of arable land.
- Afforestation: More than 41% of urban area is afforested.

### Human Conditions

- Human Resources: 6000,000 registered population; 50,000 technical talents in various areas and 200,000 skilled workers.
- Education: 4 institutions of higher education; 32 secondary schools and 3 vocational schools.
- Health Care: 233 medical and health institutions, including 20 hospitals with 1715 beds.
- Cultural and Sports Facilities: Numerous public libraries, museums, grand theatres, stadiums, swimming pools, international standard golf courses, and social activities centers.
- Tourism: Rich heritage in culture and history; abundant in natural tourism resources; beautiful and charming hillside scenic spots.
- Accommodation: More than 10 starred hotels; numerous deluxe villas and apartments for tourists and investors.

### Awards and Accomplishments

As a high-tech and commercial city, Kunshan has attracted and approved the establishment of 2300 enterprises from 54 countries and regions. Kunshan has made a remarkable achievement by taking an active part in economic globalization, urbanization and developing through science and education. It’s one of the nation’s top model cities in sanitation, and has also been designated as an advanced city for its outstanding accomplishments in tourism, environment protection and cultural construction.

***For more information: [www.ekunshan.com.cn](http://www.ekunshan.com.cn)***

## **Zhoushan City**

Zhoushan City, located in the middle part of china's mainland coastline, is a rising island port and tourist city in China. Zhoushan Fishing Ground is one of the world's four great fishing grounds. The whole city consists of 1,390 islands and the city government is located in Zhoushan Island which is the fourth largest island in China.

Zhoushan boasts its great advantages of fishery, ports and tourism. The well-preserved natural scenery in Zhoushan contains plenty of tourist resources. It is also designated as a priority area for economic development in the Changjiang Delta area by the Chinese government.

In 2002, Zhoushan City has 126 primary schools, 71 junior and secondary high schools. The city's 99.88% of children between 7 and 15 have entered schools. The high school graduation rate is 87.11%. Zhejiang Ocean University in Zhoushan City is one of the only three marine undergraduate institutions in China. It is expected to become a full university of 10,000 students in 2005.

## Hangzhou City

A bay city on the Qiantang River estuary of southeast China, Hangzhou is the capital city of Zhejiang Province and one of seven ancient Chinese capitals, with a history dating back to 221 BC. West Lake (Xihu) is the legendary attraction of Hangzhou. The beautiful lake has more than 60 scenic spots.

As the capital (1132-1276) of the Southern Sung dynasty, Hangzhou was a famous cosmopolitan center of commerce and culture. Cultural relics can be found all over the city and suburb. Adding to its historical and cultural wonders, Hangzhou is also a renowned maker of fine silk, teas and traditional Chinese medicine.

Hangzhou has also established a connection with the Richmond School District. In November/December 2002, twenty five principals and teachers received a month long training in Richmond schools. In October 2003 a delegation led by the Director of Zhoushan Education Bureau also visited Richmond School Board.

Hangzhou is the education center of Zhejiang Province. There are 36 institutions of higher education with over 170,000 students and Zhejiang University is one of the three most renowned universities in China. There are also 402 junior and senior high schools with 364,835 students. The literacy rate of the city's population is 99.1%.

## City of Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu Province

Zhangjiagang is a relatively new city, having been developed from a small farming town following the economic reforms of the last 15 years. By 1994 the city had the second-highest economic rating in China, with an urban per-capita income of \$1000/year. The rural population around Zhangjiagang is said to be even wealthier.

In 1993, Zhangjiagang was selected to be a unique model city for all of China. Householders were given pamphlets listing the 10 "don'ts" and 6 "dos" of what the government called "civilized behaviour". The new rules emphasized courtesy, mutual respect, and obedience to authority. Thanks to vigorous enforcement, the rules are followed to such a degree that visitors remark on the beauty, cleanliness and friendliness of Zhangjiagang relative to other Chinese cities. The government began trumpeting their accomplishment nationwide, in a campaign reminiscent of the old "Learn from the Dazhai Commune" propaganda effort of the Cultural Revolution. The current goal of the central government is to turn China into a country of mini-Singapore's, with clean, pleasant cities filled with polite, obedient citizens. So far, clean, friendly cities are such a novelty in China that up to 300,000 tourists visit Zhangjiagang every year to sample what could be the future of urban life in China.

Zhangjiagang is located on the south bank of the Yangtze River near Shanghai, Suzhou and Wusi. It is an international port city covering an area of 999 square kilometers with a population of 950,000. This city has rapid development economically and socially. Its GDP in 2000 reached 27 billion RMB. Zhangjiagang has developed five major industries namely: Metallurgical Industry, Textile Industry, Electromechanical Industry, Chemical Industry and Grain & Food Oil Products Industry. It has established free trade zones and special economical zones and industry parks to accommodate growing demands of foreign trades. Today, over 1100 foreign companies have established in this city such as Dow Chemical, Chevron Chemical Co. Ltd and Girmes Special Textiles Co. In 2000, the import and export of this city reached \$1.9 billion US with export of \$1 billion US.

This deep-water port is ice free with twenty 10,000 tons class berths opening to 19 international lines of Europe, America, and South East Asia. Its annual capacity has exceeded 20 million tons. Zhangjiagang Free Trade Zone is located near the port. It is the only land-port free trade zone in China with unique economic advantages for international trade.

This city is well equipped with advanced telecommunication networks and internet connection. There are express highway and railway for travelers and goods shipments. It is 109km to Shanghai about two hours by automobile.

For decades his city is well known for its high standard for health, education and environment. It has been awarded as the Model City of "Hygienic City" and "Environmental Protection Model City" in China.

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## **PUDONG DISTRICT**

Pudong is located across the Huangpu River from Shanghai and is a fast developing city. The first metropolis of the new millennium that is how the planners see Pudong as a city that may ultimately eclipse Hong Kong.

Huangpu River is the lifeline of the entire Yangzi region with constant traffic of cargo carriers, cruise liners and barges.

There are 140 high rises in the city and 90 of the Fortune 500 top companies have presence here amongst them General Motors, IBM and Hewlett Packard. The finishing touches are being put to a \$11 million convention centre by the ferry terminal. Pudong will be playing host to the Fortune Global Forum in September 2004.

The Shanghai Pudong International Airport is due to open in October and will be able to handle 20 million passengers a year and plans are to include three more runways boosting capacity to 70 million people annually.

Shanghai International Expo Center which is east of Pudong's financial zone is the largest exhibition centre in the Asian Pacific region with over 170,000 sq. meters.

Within 8 to 10 years Pudong is widely expected to be a major world city.

## Chong Ming District

This small city is located North of Shanghai, a delta right at the mouth of the Yangtze River. As it is connected to the largest commercial city in China, it enjoys the benefits and facilities of a big city but it can retain its small community atmosphere. This situation is so similar to Richmond relates to Vancouver.

The district has invested time and energy in maintaining and promoting a marsh-land. It is one of the most important bird sanctuaries in China and it attracts tourism to this island. That is why tourism is one of the major developments here.

Another strong point here is the “dude range” type of vacationing here and in Chinese language, it’s known as “Nong Jiar Lore”. This is a special holiday for the city dwellers. The idea is to have city people to live in a working farm while on holiday and participates in the daily activities of the farmers. I haven’t tried this before and I love to try it and so do my friends I have talked to, either farmers or not.

I believe Chong Ming District and Richmond is a good match due to similarities in size, location, tourism development, farming and fishing industries

## **City of Songjiang**

Songjiang, which dates many years back in history, is the birthplace of Shanghai. It lies in southwest Shanghai and the upper reaches of Huangpu River. It is now a district of Shanghai with easy access thanks to its distance of 30km to Shanghai proper, 25km to Hongqiao International Airport, and 68km to Pudong International Airport. Songjiang has an area of 605 square km and a population of 500,000 people.

In recent years, this rapid developing city has investors that come from 46 countries; about 60 enterprises are famous multinational corporations that are within the top 500 in the world.

In 2002, the tourism industry in Songjiang accumulated to 2.7 million tourists who enjoyed sightseeing from home and abroad. In 2004, about 10 universities migrated to Songjiang; therefore, this city obtained the recognition as "University City."

Songjiang's agriculture will be developing vegetables, fruits, flowers, forestry and fishery. It is one of the key agricultural and byproduct bases in Shanghai.

## **Ningbo, China: A Brief Description**

*By Stephanie Mogg*

Ningbo is a city located about 25 km inland on the Yangtze River Delta from China's east coast. It has warmer average temperatures and a higher annual rainfall than Richmond.

The history of Ningbo dates back 7000 years and it takes pride in the preservation of its ancient temples, walls, historical artifacts, and cultural heritage. Simultaneously, the city prides itself in moving ahead into modern times and is recognized for its modern city features. Today it is a fairly large city and has the honor of being designated as one of China's Excellent Tourism Cities. It is well-connected with the rest of China by efficient air, rail and road services, as well as to the rest of the world by its state-of-the-art port facilities and nearby international airport.

Ningbo is a well-planned, modern city, welcoming industrial development, foreign trade, tourism, and immigration. It has paid special attention to its environmental protection, noise control, and air and water quality responsibilities. It is being recognized as a leader in these areas throughout China.

Ningbo actively promotes cultural activities, libraries, parks, and other recreational facilities. There are at least five major festivals held each year within the city. Ningbo also boasts a reputable safety record, with police guardrooms in each neighbourhood to settle potential disputes.

Waitakere New Zealand has been a sister city with Ningbo since 1995 when they signed a "Friendship & Trade" agreement. They actively sponsor student exchange programs for 13 to 16 year old students.

With beautiful landscapes, mild climate, modern and historical areas, exceptional infrastructure, and vibrant culture, Ningbo is a very desirable sister city prospect.

## **YANGZHOU CITY**

**Yangzhou is a very high profile ( well known ) city along the Yangtze River near Shanghai ( less than two hours drive ). It has mild weather, fertile land and plenty of rain. It is famous for its history, beautiful scenery, culture, diversity and economic activities. It is also famous for its tourism industry, factories capacity and many successful traders.**

**Yangzhou city has 1.15 million population ( 4.5 million for the Grater Yangzhou Area ). It has well developed modern city amenities, such as railroads, major bridges, airport, marine port,highways/freeways , electricity supplies, water supplies,natural gas, health care facilities, etc.**

**Educations are very important to Yangzhou people. Sports activities are very popular as well with many outstanding accomplishments. Lastly, Yangzhou cuisines are considered to be among the best in China.**

**SISTER CITY  
SELECTION CRITERIA  
approved by Council in September 2002**

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The City of Richmond receives a number of requests from a variety of Cities in the world wishing to form a relationship with the City of Richmond. It became apparent there was a need to come up with criteria to ensure the selection process provided the best possible relationships for the City of Richmond.

The following outlines the proposed Selection Criteria for potential Sister Cities:

Benefits to Community

- Economics - trade, commerce & industry
- Learning about each other.
- Friendships.
- Education – learning about each other’s community.
- Acceptance, recognition and understanding of various cultures.

Similar Community Profile.

- Population size, Geography
- Industry – similar but also differences
- Education – secondary and post secondary education

Historical Connection

- People
- Work

Common Values.

- Safety
- Stability in Government
- Fair Treatment of people
- Security

Common Interests

- Sports
- Music
- The Arts

Utilizing the proposed Selection Criteria and the selection process (below) the committee will determine whether the City should entertain a relationship or not.

Selection Process:

1. Completion of Letter of Intent (Attachment1) and Sister City Survey (Attachment 2)
2. Determine level of Community Involvement - School Board/Chamber of Commerce/Rotary Club/Residents etc
3. The type of relationship required, Informal/Specific – culture, economic, service clubs, sports club, educational.
4. Ensure Selection Criteria is adhered to.
5. Determine budget if applicable
6. Determine status level – Full/Partial/none
7. Council to endorse
8. A signed agreement between the two cities to include a termination process.

Type of Relationship

**Full Relationship** (Sister City status)

**Partial Relationship** (Friends of Richmond)

Sister City Committee  
Secretary Phone: (604) 276-4219  
Fax: (604) 276-4162  
email: [nwright@city.richmond.bc.ca](mailto:nwright@city.richmond.bc.ca)

Dear :

**Re: Sister City Request**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Sister City of Richmond. The City of Richmond believes that Sister City relationships allow for a greater understanding of other cultures and peoples and to that end, we currently have two Sister Cities - Pierrefonds, Quebec, and Wakayama, Japan. These long-standing relationships has allowed citizens and more particularly the school students, to travel and learn about each other over the past 25 years. Increasing our knowledge of others and expanding our interests, both culturally and economically, can only help us attain our City's goal of becoming the most appealing, livable and well-managed city in Canada.

Richmond is fortunate in receiving many requests to establish Sister City relationships. Because of this, we have developed a process by which we, and you, can decide whether to continue toward a closer relationship. We also have a number of questions that we would like to have answered in order to progress – please refer to attachment.

If Council decides to continue towards starting a Sister City relationship, your City would become a "Friend of Richmond" for five years. If this relationship is successful, budget and other supports are available, and if both Cities wish a closer connection, our Council will then decide on whether to change to a full Sister City relationship. Some cities may choose to stay at the "Friend" stage as this may accomplish the contact and networking needs that they have.

Thank you again for your interest. If you have any questions, please contact the Chairperson or view our web site at [www.city.richmond.bc.ca/discover/sister\\_city](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/discover/sister_city).

Yours truly,

Sylvia Gwozd  
*Chairperson*

## Sister City Survey

1. What are your reasons for choosing Richmond?
2. Are there any individuals, groups and/or associations from your City now residing in Richmond who would participate and assist in a sister city relationship?
3. Can you estimate the number of people that would travel from your area to Richmond in an average year for sister city business?
4. What types of community exchange would be of interest to you e.g. sports, educational, cultural, music, historical, homestay etc.?
5. What type of business exchange would be of interest e.g. industrial, machinery, manufacturing, technology, primary resources, food products, etc?
6. Is your City prepared to fund a sister city relationship?
7. Are you prepared to sign a Letter of Intent/outline on all parties responsibilities?