



To: Richmond City Council **Date:** June 18th, 2003
From: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie **File:** 0135-04-02
Chair, General Purposes Committee
Re: **Sister City Committee – 30th Anniversary Celebration**

The General Purposes Committee, at its meeting held on Monday, June 16th, 2003, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

- (1) *That Council approve funding of \$10,000 from Council contingency to cover the costs of the Wakayama 30th Anniversary celebrations in the Fall of 2003.*
- (2) *That the recommendation, “That Council approve the placement of Sister City banners in Steveston and around City Hall during the 30th anniversary celebrations”, be referred to staff to examine various options, along with alternate proposals, with regard to the proposed banner program.*
- (3) *That staff explore methods of utilizing the print media to advertise the 30th anniversary celebration of the twinning of Richmond with Wakayama, Japan.*

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair
General Purposes Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended the following:

- (1) That Council approve funding of \$15,000 from Council contingency to cover the costs of the Wakayama 30th Anniversary celebrations in the fall of 2003; and
- (2) That Council approve the placement of Sister City banners in Steveston and around City Hall during the 30th anniversary celebrations.

Staff Report

Origin

The Sister City Committee is a committee of Council whose responsibility is to maintain the Sister City Program in Richmond. The goals for 2003 are as follows:

- a. Implement process for establishing future sister city relationships
- b. Steveston Salmon Festival participation
- c. Visit by Mayor and dignitaries of Wakayama re 30th Anniversary

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the status of the 2003 goals and to request funding for the 30th Anniversary celebrations.

Analysis

Goals for 2003 term

1. Sister City in Asia

The committee has reviewed a number of applicants from various countries and the most appropriate area for twinning seems to be Asia. A review of the Asian Cities has narrowed the selection to Cities around the Shanghai area and a few in the Northern part of China. Consideration will be given to Economic Benefits, Educational Opportunities, Similar Community Profile, Historical Relationship and Common Interests. Once the committee has reviewed these cities for suitability, they will present their findings to Council for their consideration.

2. Wakayama - 30th Anniversary

The celebration for the 30th anniversary is underway and scheduled for October 16-20/2003. There are a number of events planned for the dignitaries upon their arrival. In order to celebrate their visit the committee wished to place banners in the area of City Hall and in Steveston. The banner was designed by a Richmond student and depicts friendship and peace.

In order to display the banners and plan the celebrations during October 16th – 20th, the committee would need \$15,000 (Attachment 1) and Council permission to place banners around City Hall and in Steveston.

3. Sister City In Quebec

Presently Peirrefonds has become a borough of Montreal and the relationship with Richmond is unclear. The committee is finalizing that relationship and should there be a change, the committee will report back to Council with cities which maybe suitable should this be required.

4. Sister City Committee presence at Salmon Festival

The Sister City Committee will be promoting the benefits of twinning with other Cities at the Steveston Salmon Festival. A video has been produced to show the history and benefits of Richmond's sister cities. The Budget for this event will be accommodated from the annual budget which was approved in the 2003 operating budget

Financial Impact

The committee is requesting \$15,000 to cover the cost of the 30th anniversary events. It is recommended that funds be taken from the Council contingency account.

Conclusion

The Sister City Committee is responsible for keeping Council informed of the status of their 2003 goals. During the Sister City 2003 term a visit from Wakayama City will occur in October to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Wakayama and the City of Richmond's relationship. These festivities will incorporate Mayor, Council and some senior staff. The Committee is working hard to ensure a successful visit.



Anne Stevens
Manager, Customer Services

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30TH Anniversary Wakayama Budget

Interpreter	400
Lunches (2 lunches 40 people, \$25/pp)	2000
Opening Dinner (\$50/pp, 100 people)	5000
Dinner Day 2 (\$40/pp, 40 people)	1600
Dinner Day 3 (contribution)	500
Parking	60
Miscellaneous (gifts etc)	500
Banners	5000
Total	15060.00