

## **SPONSORSHIP**

### **WHEREAS**

2023 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Sister City Twinning Anniversary with Wakayama, Japan.

The City of Richmond travelled to Wakayama in May of 2023.

The Japanese City Council and Sister City Committee will not be able to travel to Richmond in 2023 and may not be able in 2024.

The Steveston Judo Club has always been an ambassador of the City in having exchange with Wakayama.

The Judo Club is making their 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Japan with Wakayama.

The Wakayama Judo Club is coming to Steveston November 13 – 20, 2023 for competition and celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Judo in Richmond.

### **THEREFORE**

Motion the City of Richmond sponsor a dinner for the delegation and host clubs in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Richmond Twinning with Wakayama, Japan.

Motion the sponsorship of the Sayanara Dinner for \$5,000 be taken from the Council contingency account.

Bill McNulty

# CITY of WAKAYAMA

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August, 2023

Dear Honorable Mayor Brodie,

I trust that you are keeping well in the summer heat.

First, I would like to thank you for your continuous support to Wakayama and Richmond's sister city partnership.

Wakayama City's Judo Club will make a goodwill visit to Richmond City in November, 2023. This represents an excellent opportunity to strengthen our friendship and deepen sports exchanges. I would like to ask you for your warm support during the delegation's stay, and apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause during your busy official duties. I am deeply grateful for any consideration that you can offer.

I have also heard that the Steveston Judo Club, led by Mr. Jim Kojima, will visit Wakayama City from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of 2024. We are very excited for judo athletes from both cities to interact and learn from each other's culture and skills.

Furthermore, this year marks many great milestones: the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Steveston Judo Club, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Richmond and Wakayama's Sister City Affiliation, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Steveston Martial Arts Centre's construction. These important milestones offer a wonderful opportunity to deepen our international bond.

I express my sincere gratitude to you, the people of Richmond, and the Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee for their efforts in building this longstanding exchange.

In conclusion, hoping that these visits will nurture the friendship between our cities, I wish for the good health and happiness of you and the people of Richmond.

Sincerely,

尾花正啓

Obana Masahiro

Mayor of Wakayama City

