

# Resolution No. 1999-02

[\(Council Minutes 99/01/19\)](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 1999-2

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Washington, identifying objectives, selection criteria and guidelines for activities relating to the establishment of a sister city affiliation and policies therefor

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Lakewood, Washington, wish to learn more about people from other countries, and wish to enhance international communication and understanding; and,

WHEREAS, citizens of the City of Lakewood wish to participate in the cultural, educational, governmental and economic exchanges between the City of Lakewood and other cities in other countries and regions of the world, to increase knowledge of the diversity of citizens of the world and their communities; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Washington, has adopted its Ordinance No. 175, establishing a Sister City Committee, and providing for duties, membership and organizational parameters; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the functions of the Sister City Committee, it is desirable that the citizens of Lakewood be provided with an opportunity to exchange information, services and benefits from community projects focused on an international scope; and,

WHEREAS, it is also desirable to encourage international trade and tourism between the City of Lakewood and other communities in the world which could be advanced through sister city programs; and,

WHEREAS, in connection with efforts to identify and select sister city relationships, it is appropriate that certain objectives, selection criteria and guidelines for activities be identified.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON HEREBY RESOLVES, as Follows:

Section 1. That in connection with efforts by the City of Lakewood and its Sister City Committee in seeking international relationships which would enhance its citizens' understanding of other cultures and to share our culture with the citizens of such other cities, it is appropriate to identify objectives therefor.

## A. Statement of Objectives

The City of Lakewood will support and encourage the establishment of sister city affiliations which will serve the following objectives:

- (1) To provide for increased awareness of and sensitivity to cultural diversity;
- (2) To increase citizens' opportunities for social, cultural and educational enrichment;
- (3) To enhance citizens' economic well-being by developing opportunities for trade and tourism; and
- (4) To share expertise in solving municipal problems.

## B. Selection criteria

To address the above goals and objectives, affiliations will be considered with sister cities with the following characteristics:

- (1) Strong community support for the sister city bond, including the existence of an organization able to work closely with the

city;

- (2) Similarity to the City of Lakewood in terms of size, geographic or demographic characteristics, historical development or proximity to military installations, or other factors of similarity to the City of Lakewood;
- (3) A strong educational system or a demonstrated commitment to serve the educational needs of its citizens;
- (4) Humanitarian concerns, shared by the people of Lakewood for the health and well-being of all individuals and families;
- (5) An interest in sharing views and information on issues of governance and citizen participation in government;
- (6) An interest in developing business and economic ties in Lakewood;
- (7) A national political climate consistent with the interests of the United States; and,
- (8) Preference among eligible cities shall be given to cities which have no other sister cities in the United States.

### C. Guidelines for activities

To assure that the City of Lakewood Sister Cities Program is conducted in a manner consistent with the public interest and in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington and the laws and policies of the City of Lakewood, the following guidelines are hereby prescribed:

- (1) Through its Sister City Program, the City of Lakewood carries out a fundamental governmental purpose of providing social, cultural, educational and/or economic opportunities. The City will, therefore, expend such funds as it may deem necessary and appropriate to ensure the proper functioning of the Sister Cities Program;
- (2) The City of Lakewood shall provide such staff support as is necessary and appropriate to establish and maintain communication with its sister cities, and to coordinate City participation and functioning of the Sister Cities Program, and to assist sister city committees as appropriate;
- (3) The City of Lakewood may involve private citizens and organizations in the implementation of this policy, at the discretion of the City Manager and/or the City Council.
- (4) The Sister Cities Committee shall apply for its establishment as a non-profit organization having authority to receive and disburse funds and assets, and as an organization exempt from taxation under 26 USC 501(C)(3);
- (5) City funding of sister city activities will be limited to public purposes. Publicly funded activities may include:
  - (a) Travel for city officials or their delegates, when travel is necessary to establish or maintain an official sister city affiliation;
  - (b) Appropriate activities to receive public officials, or their delegates, when visiting Lakewood on official sister city business;
  - (c) The exchange of information and material which support the objective of providing social, cultural and educational services or economic benefit to the public;
  - (d) The exchange of technical resources and staff, when such an exchange serves the objectives outlined in this policy and is necessary to establish or maintain the sister city affiliation;
  - (e) Memberships in local, state, national and/or international organizations which promote and support international sister city affiliations; and,
  - (f) Registration and travel to training seminars and conferences related to and/or involved with promotion of international sister city relationships and programs.
- (6) Any funding for private purposes is prohibited;
- (7) Donation of a city asset, when that donation clearly serves a public purpose as outlined in this policy, may be authorized by the City Manager, provided the recipient is a public entity; and,
- (8) Official gifts received by officials and representatives of the City in the course of a sister city activity will be the sole property of the City of Lakewood. The City will maintain an inventory of such gifts and will attempt to display them in an appropriate setting.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

PASSED by the City Council this 19th day of January, 1999.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

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Bill Harrison, Mayor

Attest:

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Alice M. Bush, CMC, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

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Daniel B. Heid, City Attorney

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