

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: September 27, 2010
	Agenda Item No. 58 Roll Call No. [Roll Call] Communication No. <u>10-585</u> Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, City Manager

AGENDA HEADING:

Communication from the City Manager regarding a proposal to transfer responsibility to the Greater Des Moines Partnership for administering the Sister Cities program and hosting the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission, and to amend the City Code regarding the composition and administration of the Commission.

SYNOPSIS:

Motion authorizing the City Manager to negotiate a contract with the Greater Des Moines Partnership for the Partnership to assume responsibility for administering the Sister Cities program and hosting the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission upon terms and conditions consistent with this communication. Such contract shall be brought back for consideration and approval by the City Council at the earliest opportunity.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$6,970 in City financial support was eliminated in the FY2011 budget process. The City will continue to provide some staff support for the Sister Cities program during a transition period at no charge.

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On February 8, 2010 at the City Council Workshop, the City Manager presented a budget proposal that called for staff to pursue the Greater Des Moines Partnership for the administration of the Sister Cities program. On February 22, 2010, Council adopted the Proposed Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2011, and affirms the implementation of the City Manager’s recommended actions to balance the Fiscal Year 2012 budget, as presented and reviewed by the City Council at the February 8, 2010 workshop. On July 26, 2010, the City Council referred the City Manager to work with the Greater Des Moines Partnership to coordinate the transfer of the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission.

The City of Des Moines currently administers the Sister Cities program and hosts the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission. The Sister City Commission was originally created by the Des Moines City Code as a 15 member body comprised entirely of residents of the City of Des Moines. The Commission was expanded into the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission by Intergovernmental Agreements with other participating cities. The cities of West Des Moines, Johnston,

Ankeny and Windsor Heights have each entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Des Moines to appoint one of their citizens to the Commission.

The purpose of the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission is defined in the Intergovernmental Agreements as follows:

1. To allow residents and citizens of the Des Moines Metropolitan area and the people of similar cities in foreign nations to acquire a mutual understanding of one another as individuals, as members of their communities, as citizens of their countries and as members of the family of nations.
2. To promote educational and cultural exchanges between institutions and citizens in the Des Moines Metropolitan area, and institutions and citizens of Des Moines' sister cities.
3. To coordinate and facilitate communication between businesses in the Des Moines Metropolitan area wishing to make contact with businesses in the sister cities, and to coordinate business and trade inquiries from Des Moines' Sister Cities directed to potential trading and business partners in the municipalities.
4. To assist individuals and educational institutions in the Des Moines Metropolitan area in acquiring and exchanging professional and technical skills with individuals and institutions in sister cities.
5. To develop an awareness of the Sister Cities International Program, its goals, missions and accomplishments, and to create a bridge of understanding between different cultures of the world.

It is believed that the transfer of the Sister Cities program to the Greater Des Moines Partnership will allow for more effective private fundraising and increase local business involvement in the activities and functions of the Sister City Commission.

The contract with the Greater Des Moines Partnership should be consistent with the following principles:

1. The Partnership shall administer a private commission to be known as the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission, and to carry out the purpose of the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission identified above.
2. The Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission shall have 15 members appointed as follows:
 - 7 appointed by Des Moines, one of whom shall be the Mayor or the Mayor's designee
 - 2 appointed by West Des Moines
 - 3 1 member appointed by each of the three other participating cities
 - 3 appointed by the Greater Des Moines Partnership
 - 15 Initial members (subject to increase if additional cities join the program)
3. The Partnership or the entity created to administer the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission must qualify as a private non-profit entity to which donations are tax deductible.
4. The Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission shall serve as the ambassadors for Des Moines and the Greater Des Moines community, but the actual sister city relationships shall continue to be between the participating governmental entities.
5. The City will provide staff assistance to the Sister Cities program for two years. Such assistance will be provided by in-kind contributions of City staff support.

The transfer of the Sister Cities program to the Greater Des Moines Partnership will also require an amendment to the City Code regarding the administration and composition of the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 26, 2010

Roll Call Number: 10-1206

Action: [Communication](#) from Matt Rosen, Chair of the Greater Des Moines Sister Cities Commission, advising of the following resignations of Shuxin Cui, George Davis III, Cynthia Nahas, Alex Piedras, and Janis Ruan effective immediately. Moved by Hensley to defer for 30 days; refer to the City Manager to work with Greater Des Moines Partnership to coordinate the transfer of the Greater Des Moines Sister Cities Commission. Motion Carried 6-1. Nays: Cownie.

Date: February 22, 2010

Roll Call Number: 10-295

Action: [On](#) proposed Annual Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 and adopting the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for 2010/11 – 2015/16. ([Council Communication No. 10-107](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Council Member Hensley votes No on the Mayor/Council Budget. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: February 8, 2010 Council Workshop

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: The City Manager presented the recommended budget action for Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

It is anticipated that a contract with the Greater Des Moines Partnership for administration of the Sister Cities program and hosting the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission can be presented for consideration for approval by the City Council later this fall.

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