



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

33

Date October 10, 2011

**Communication from Chair of Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission  
requesting the adoption of Gaziantep, Turkey; Kapsurbet, Kenya and Akko, Israel as new  
Sister Cities.**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ to receive, file and refer to City  
Manager for review and recommendation.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	
_____ Mayor				

**CERTIFICATE**

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk



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**GREATER DES MOINES SISTER CITY COMMISSION**

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Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1891  
Phone: (515) 283-4141  
FAX: (515) 237-1300

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September 30, 2011

Mr. T. M. Franklin Cownie, Mayor  
City Hall  
Des Moines, IA

Dear Mayor Cownie:

At their September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission unanimously passed a resolution recommending that the City Council approve the adoption of Gaziantep, Turkey; Kapsurbet, Kenya; and Akko, Israel as new Sister Cities. It is important to note that each of these municipalities has a local support group who is willing to volunteer their time and effort in support of developing these relationships.

In passing this resolution the Commission specifically listed the cities in the order in which these support groups approached the Commission. The effort to establish Gaziantep as a Sister City has been going on for a little longer than two years; Kapsurbet approximately 15 months; and Akko for two months. It is the Commission's recommendation that the adoption approval process to add these cities follow order in which local groups requested the unions.

As the world becomes a smaller place due to the rapid advancement of communication technology, and the degree of ethnic and racial diversity of the community broadens, the Commission believes that it is in the best interest of the Greater Des Moines area to have Sister City relationships around the globe. A great example of this smaller world philosophy was the short visit to Des Moines on September 29<sup>th</sup> paid by Mrs. Sema Marangoz, Director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Gaziantep. Mrs. Marangoz was in the United States as a part of a Turkish delegation was participating in a State Department program geared toward observing diversity. Because they are connected via the Linked-In network, Sister City Commissioner Darlene Blake learned of the visit from Mrs. Marangoz on September 26. As their itinerary included a stop in Iowa City, the group flew into Des Moines from Washington, D.C. Mrs. Blake contacted me and I, in turn, contacted Joyce Warburton. Since you were unavailable during the short time that Mrs. Marangoz was able to be in Des Moines, Joyce, as you know, was able to arrange a meeting with City Manager Richard Clark.

In the Commission's view, the addition of Gaziantep, Kapsurbet and Akko represents a giant step forward, and provides an opportunity for many new doors to be opened that could well lead to the discovery of exciting business/economic, cultural and educational opportunities for the citizens and companies in the Greater Des Moines area.

Given the current monetary constraints under which the City is operating, it should be noted that the Greater Des Moines Sister Cities Commission has consistently lived within its allotted budget. The addition of these cities will not impact that performance now or in the future.

I respectfully request that the Commission's recommendation be put on the City Council agenda of October 10th.

Your support is appreciated. If I can provide additional information or answer any questions please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Matthew S. Rosen  
Chair  
Cell Phone: 202-8276