



City Council Meeting

Item #5: Action on Friendship City MOU with Icheon City, Republic of Korea

April 23, 2019



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Friendship City

- Often the first stage in the relationship before partner cities establish an official “Sister City” relationship.
- The City has established a practice of exploring Friendship City relationships with potential Sister Cities, such as Limerick, Ireland (now Sister City) and Nagpur, India.



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Icheon City, Republic of Korea

- Center of South Korean ceramic manufacturing.
- Designated as an UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Art.
- Home to several higher learning institutions and the world's second largest manufacturer of memory semiconductors.



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Exchanges and Visits

- Since August 2018, several Councilmembers have met with key representatives from the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea and the Silicon Valley Korean American Federation (SVKAF).
- SVKAF made a presentation regarding a Friendship City relationship with Icheon at the February 5 and April 1 Cultural Commission meetings and at the March 21 Sister Cities Association Board meeting.



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Cultural Commission Recommendation

- Section 2.120.140 of the City Code provides for the Cultural Commission to “act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to cultural enrichment and beautification of the City, sister city relationships and international exchanges.”
- On April 1, 2019, the Cultural Commission recommended the three-year Friendship City MOU with Icheon City.



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Friendship City MOU

- Three-year Friendship City relationship, with the option of renewal.
- Exchanges in areas of common interest.
- Host joint activities and programs.
- Exchange of representatives for visits every alternate year.



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Proposed Activities

- Korean cultural event at the Civic Center in October, on an annual basis.
- Academic seminar and exchange programs for middle school, high school, and university students, on an annual basis.
- Cultural and arts exchange, on an annual basis.
- Business and information exchange, which includes possible visits to tech companies.



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Next Steps

- If the Friendship City MOU is approved, Mayor Gillmor will send a video message to Icheon City, on behalf of Santa Clara which will include the Council approval of the MOU and signing the MOU.



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Recommendation

- Approve a three-year Friendship City Relationship Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Icheon City, Republic of Korea, and authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU on behalf of the City of Santa Clara.