

City of Brighton Sister City Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to identify the objectives, criteria, and procedures for sister city affiliations with the City of Brighton ("City").

II. Objectives

- a. The City recognizes the existence of people-to-people relationships through the establishment of sister city affiliations, which encourages exchanges of diverse cultural, educational, artistic, scientific, and professional ideas and programs. Sister city relationships are important to the City for several reasons, first, as a means of assisting our residents in viewing the challenges and strengths of our community in the broader context of our global community; second, to create opportunities to honor and support the diversity that gives our global community its vitality; and third, to provide the residents of Brighton with specific opportunities to directly interact with and participate in other cultures.
- b. Each sister city relationship will emphasize direct contact, communication, and coordination with the people in the respective sister cities. By entering into a sister city affiliation, the City does not recognize or endorse political actions of the respective sister city government. Any protocol between the City and a sister city will include a stipulation to that effect.
- c. Each sister city relationship will emphasize people-to-people exchanges and projects, especially those of a primarily humanitarian concern, which addresses human needs, environmental concerns, human rights, and the enrichment of people in the respective cities.

III. Criteria and Procedures

- a. A prospective sister city should offer Brighton's residents exchange opportunities to enhance mutual understanding of the world's cultural diversity.
- b. The following criteria may be considered by the City Council in considering a sister city affiliation:
 - i. The proposed sister city is similar in size, population, demographics, vision, mission, or goals.

- ii. The proposed sister city has relevant sustainability, cultural, or economic goals.
 - iii. The proposed sister city has existing local connections with significant community or business interests.
 - iv. The proposed sister city currently participates in an on-going exchange program with an organization in the City.
- c. The following procedures shall be followed for official sister city recognition:
 - i. An organization advocating a new sister city affiliation must submit to the City Manager documents demonstrating compliance with all relevant sections of this Policy.
 - ii. The City Manager will advise the City Council whether the specified criteria and standards for affiliation have been met and shall present to the City Council any additional information to consider regarding the proposed affiliation.
 - iii. Sister city recognition must be approved by the City Council.
- d. The City Council may appoint a liaison to each sister city organization to keep the City Council aware of important sister city events and activities.