



## ***Agenda*** ***Sister Cities Commission***

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November 15, 2012  
Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room  
455 E. Calaveras Blvd.  
7:00 PM

**I. Roll Call**

**II. Seating of Alternates**

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Approval of Minutes: October 25, 2012**

**V. Approval of Agenda: November 15, 2012**

**VI. Announcements / Correspondence**

Items directly related to the Sister Cities Commission (SCC) and City of Milpitas business.

**VII. Public Forum**

Members of the audience are invited to address the commission in any subject not on tonight's agenda. Speakers must supply their name and address for the record.

Commissioners cannot respond to issues brought forward, but may request that the matter be added to the agenda of a future meeting.

**VIII. New Business**

**1. Global Milpitas, October 2014**

**Background:** The SCC started discussions of fundraising capabilities that lead to the developing concept of a citywide event that involved cultural groups, the school district, and corporations. The concept has grown beyond the SCC's ability to implement, however remains an interest to SCC as it provides a major outlet for sister city activities.

**Recommendation:** Receive Vice Chair Serpa's report about event developments.

**IX. Old Business**

**1. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships**

**Background:** At the October 25 meeting, Commissioner Arbaugh reviewed his contact with Tsukuba staff in the hope of continuing this program with that city. Vice Chair Serpa reviewed the interest from Figline Valdarno in starting a student

exchange. Also, the Student Liaison will provide a verbal report regarding contact between Milpitas High School and sister city students.

**Recommendation:** Receive report from Vice Chair Serpa, Commissioner Arbaugh and Student Liaison Su. Discuss next steps and / or explore new ideas.

## 2. Sister City Commission Promotional Expenses

**Background:** At the beginning of this fiscal year, the Commission has a spending limit of \$6,240. As reported at the October 25 meeting, expenses totaling \$1,393.61 were incurred to host the Dagupan and Huizhou students and adults for a total spending limit of \$4,846.30 remaining.

**Recommendation:** Review expenses and discuss as needed.

## 3. Tsukuba City, Japan

**Background:** Commissioner Arbaugh leads this sister city relationship. Current developments: Tsukuba staff will consider whether or not to continue the student e-pen pal relationships based on student's experience. Milpitas and Tsukuba signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on September 1, 2009 for a five-year term, ending September 1, 2014.

**Recommendation:** Receive report from Lead Commissioner Arbaugh about possible student and/or adult visits and other exchanges as available.

## 4. Dagupan City, Philippines

**Background:** Commissioner Mateo leads this sister city relationship. Current developments: The State Department's travel advisory to the Philippines finds that an updated travel advisory does not include "Manila and surrounding areas" as was previously stated. This warning focuses specifically on southern regions of the Philippines. The State Department's warning against travel to the Philippines, dated June 14, 2012 can be viewed at:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_5734.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5734.html). Also, based on information available at the time - especially the State Department's warning against travel to the Philippines that included "Manila and surrounding areas" - the SCC formally recommended to City Council that a student delegation not travel to the Philippines at its meeting of November 17, 2011. These minutes can be viewed at: [http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/\\_pdfs/commissions/scc/2011/111711/minutes.pdf](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/_pdfs/commissions/scc/2011/111711/minutes.pdf).

Chair Grilli asked staff to obtain a legal opinion regarding sending Milpitas students to Dagupan under the auspices of its sister city relationship with Dagupan.

Milpitas and Dagupan signed an updated MOU in September 15, 2009 for a five-year term, ending September 15, 2013.

**Recommendation:** Receive staff report and any available updates from Lead Commissioner Mateo. Discuss ability to promote sending Milpitas students to Dagupan, based on City Attorney's opinion..

## **6. Huizhou Municipality, China**

**Background:** Chair Grilli leads this sister city relationship. Current developments: A delegation of Huizhou officials is set to visit Milpitas on November 26. Milpitas and Huizhou signed an updated MOU on September 20, 2008 for a five-year term, ending September 20, 2013.

**Recommendation:** Receive report from Chair Grilli regarding the officials' delegation visit November 26. Discuss possible reception and other activities.

## **7. Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy**

**Background:** Vice Chair Serpa leads this sister city relationship. Current developments: Figline Valdarno is highly interested in fundraising possibilities to support cultural and student exchanges. Milpitas and Figline Valdarno signed their first MOU on May 8, 2012 for a two-year term.

**Recommendation:** Receive report from Vice Chair Serpa about possible student and/or adult visits and other exchanges as available.

## **8. Grants for Sister City Activities**

**Background:** Vice Chair Serpa attend a Sister Cities International luncheon where she learned about the possibilities of grants from businesses that support sister city activities. She has asked the Commission to explore these opportunities.

**Recommendation:** Receive Vice Chair Serpa's report and discuss for future involvement.

## **9. City Council Liaison Report**

## **10. School District Liaison Report**

## **11. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
  - i. Tsukuba, Japan
  - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
  - iii. Huizhou, China
  - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
- b. Global Milpitas Event, October 2014
- c. Grants for Sister Cities Activities
- d. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships / Student Liaison
- e. Sister City Commission Promotional Expenses

## **12. Adjournment**

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