



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** David Sykes

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** October 19, 2017

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**SUBJECT: SISTER CITY TRIP TO TAINAN, TAIWAN IN OBSERVANCE OF 40<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF SAN JOSE-TAINAN SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP**

## **REASON FOR ADDENDUM**

This memorandum is being added as an Addendum because of the timing of the invitation for the gift of travel from the San Jose Tainan Sister City Association.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize international travel to Tainan and Taipei, Taiwan for Joseph Hedges, International Affairs Manager, as the City Manager's designated representative on the Sister City trip to Tainan and accept the gift of travel from the San Jose Tainan Sister City Association.

## **OUTCOME**

City participation on the Sister City trip to Taiwan will maintain and build on the 40-year Sister City relationship with Tainan and Taiwan.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City is a charter member of the national Sister Cities program following the creation of the program by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956 and established a Sister City affiliation with Okayama, Japan in 1957, the third Sister City affiliation established in the U.S. The Council approved the Sister City affiliation with Tainan, Taiwan on February 8, 1977.

Located in southern Taiwan, Tainan is Taiwan's sixth largest city, with a population of 1.8 million residents. Tainan's Southern Taiwan Science Park which was built by the national government is home to hundreds of technology companies and contributes to Taiwan's strong technology-driven economy. The city is known as Taiwan's cultural capital.

The Sister City linkage with Tainan has been very active for 40-years and contributes to San Jose's important economic, cultural, educational and civic relations with Taiwan. Tainan schools, for example, have participated in the Downtown Association Foundation's Downtown Doors project the past four years, with artwork by a Tainan student featured in Downtown San Jose. The San Jose Tainan Sister City Association, a non-profit organization, plans and organizes programs and activities in the community to advance San Jose's Sister City relationship with Tainan.

The mayor of Tainan and a large civic delegation visited San Jose in 2007 on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the City hosted and arranged several events for the delegation. Tainan Mayor William Lai and several municipal government officials made an official visit to San Jose in September 2016 to kick-off the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and to invite a San Jose Sister City delegation to visit Tainan in 2017. (Mayor Lai last month was named Taiwan's Premier by President Tsai). It has been 17-years since a San Jose Sister City delegation has visited Tainan. A Sister City trip in 2017 will advance civic and people-to-people relations with the City and people of Tainan.

The Sister City trip is scheduled October 30-November 2, 2017 and will include meetings and scheduled events with the City of Tainan and Tainan businesses. The San Jose Tainan Sister City Association will cover the costs of transportation and accommodations in Taiwan. The travel expenses are estimated to have a value of approximately \$1,700.

### **ANALYSIS**

The Sister City trip to Taiwan is being organized to foster stronger civic and people-to-people relations with Tainan, San Jose's sister city of 40-years. The San Jose delegation will be hosted at meetings and events organized by the City of Tainan and will include site tours and meetings with Tainan businesses, and the national government and municipal government in Taipei. The Sister City trip will also build on San Jose's important economic, cultural and civic relations with Tainan and Taiwan.

### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

No specific follow-up action is anticipated at this time.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Office of the City Attorney.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the October 24, 2017 Council agenda.

**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT**

No Commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

**COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS**

The San Jose Tainan Sister City Association will pay the cost for travel, lodging and meals for the Sister City trip to Tainan and Taipei estimated to have a value of \$1,700.

**CEQA**

Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organization & Administrative Activities resulting in no change to the physical environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. SYKES". The signature is stylized with a large "D" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DAVID SYKES  
City Manager

For questions, please contact Kim Welsh, Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic Development at (408) 535-8186