



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ALDERMAN JOE DAVIS, SR., CHAIR

Daisy Cubias, Al Durtka, Charles Vang and Vivian Chen

Staff Assistant, Terry MacDonald, (414)-286-2233

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File Specialist, Charlotte Rodriguez, 286-8797, E-mail: crodri@milwaukee.gov

Friday, July 21, 2006

9:00 AM

City Hall, Room 301-B

Meeting Convened: 9:14 A.M.

1. Roll Call

Present Cubias, Davis, Chen, Vang

Excused Durtka

2. Approval of the minutes of the May 25, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Vang moved approval of the minutes. There were no objections.

3. Presentation on the City of Carora, in the state of Lara, Venezuela relative to establishing a friendly exchange leading to a sister city relationship, given by Cororan Mayor Julio Chavez.

Appearances by Ald. McGee from the 6th Aldermanic District; Mayor of Carora Venezuela Julio Chavez; General Consulate Martin Zanchez (Chicago); Consul de Primera Omar Sierra; Eric Sperling-Bolivarian Circles Milwaukee and Evan McDoniels

Alderman McGee gave an opening statement relative to the City of Milwaukee establishing a friendly relationship with Corora, Venezuela.

General Consulate Martin Zanchez thanked Alderman McGee and the Bolivarian Circles Milwaukee for their efforts in promoting a friendly relationship between Milwaukee and Venezuela. He then gave an overview of the culture, economics and musicians in Corora, Venezuela. He explained why they are interested in this opportunity to have a sister city relationship with the City of Milwaukee and noted their commitment to a relationship.

Mr. Omar Sierra handed out a brochure called "Venezuela Matters" (Exhibit 1).

Mayor Julio Chavez (Mr. Zanchez and Mr. Sierra as interpreters) thanked the City of Milwaukee for considering a sister city relationship with Carora, Venezuela. He then gave an overview of the city of Carora's culture, economics, businesses, etc. He advised that the initiative to establish a sister city relationship came from citizens.

Mayor Chavez explained the program they have for free eye surgery for low-income citizens of Milwaukee and other US cities. He further noted that they have already established the facilities and doctors and they are available to Milwaukee low-income residents.

Mayor Chavez described the experiment that Carora's municipality is doing, where the citizens and the government are working together. They have transferred a lot of the Mayor's and Council responsibility to the citizens and the citizens are taken an active role in running the government. The citizens have organized assembles and they are having elections in each neighbor and are receiving funds to take care of potholes, streets, etc. And 100% of the city budget is subject to a citizen vote, included the funding for this trip, which had to be approved by the citizens assembles.

Dr. Chen asked how is their healthcare system. Mayor Chavez explained the new constitution in Venezuela relative to health care.

Mr. Vang asked what type of investment information can they provide as to how much time would it take for a business to get through the paperwork to establish a business in their country. Mayor Chavez advised that they are under a large business boom and they have several other countries helping them with business prospects. They are currently working with Badger Meter from the US. Mr. Sanchez explained the time period it takes to establish a business in Carora and gave examples of different businesses that they have worked with through the process.

Chairman Davis asked if they have any other sister cities relationships with any other US city. Mayor Chavez answered no and they are hoping that Milwaukee will be their first. Mayor Chavez further noted that they do have a sister city relationship with a city in Italy, which is a culture exchange. Chairman Davis advised them that this committee will consider this sister city relationship.

Mr. Evan McDoniels appeared and explained his recent trip to Carora, Venezuela.

4. Presentation on the city of Patiala, India relative to establishing a friendly exchange leading to a sister city relationship, given by Mr Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, Dhaliwal Enterprises and Dr. Prem Sharma.

Appearances by Ald. Zielinski in the 14th Aldermanic District, Ald. Puente in the 9th Aldermanic District, Dr. Prem S. Sharma member of the WI. Coalition of Asian Indian Org., Inc. (WCAIO) and Mr. Balbir Singh with Punjabi Community Org. of WI.

Ald. Zielinski gave an opening statement. Ald. Puente appeared to give a statement and to show his support.

Mr. Sharma submitted the following letters: letter from Mr. Sharma WCAIO (Exhibit 2); letter from Mr. Balbir Singh president of PUNJABI Community (Exhibit 3) and letter from President S. Surjeet Singh Rakhra of Patiala, India (Exhibit 4)

Mr. Sharma gave a brief overview of the WCAIO organization. He than gave a brief comparison between India and Milwaukee.

Mr. Singh briefly explained his support of a sister city relationship.

Ms. Cubais asked if they have any other sister city relationships. Mr. Sharma advised that he doesn't think so, but he will check to make sure. Chairman Davis advised that they will check with the Sister Cities International to find out if there is any other US relationships established with Patiala, India.

5. Report on the status of the current sister cities relationships.

Chairman Davis noted that Mr. Durtka was going to report on Scherwin, Germany but he isn't here today so they will hold the discussion on Scherwin, Germany until they heard from Mr. Durtka.

Chairman Davis noted that they have received correspondence from Atty. Dominic Frinzi, indicating that he has had contact with Parma, Italy and asked that this committee hold off on any action until he get some answer.

Mr. Leonhardt advised that he spoke to Ald. Murphy regarding a relationship with Galway, Ireland and Ald. Murphy advised him that there is some interest and that he is working on establishing a group.

Chairman Davis asked that they hold Queenstown South Africa until he can establish contact.

Chairman Davis asked the members if they agree to maintain relationships with the above and asked Mr. Leonhardt what is the status of the City Attorney drawing up a formalized contracts. Mr. Leonhardt advised this committee hasn't discussed contracts and nothing has been requested of the City Attorney. He advised that Sister City International does have templates that they recommend and provide and noted that the City Attorney doesn't need to be involved. Mr. Leonhardt advised that it might be a good idea to have the City Attorney review the templates. All members agree to have the City Attorney's Office review the template and have who every is working on it appear at the next Sister Cities Committee meeting to discuss it.

6. Appearances and reports given by current sister cities relationships.

None appeared.

Roll call taken at 10:35 A.M.

Present Davis, Chen, Vang

Excused Cubias, Durtka

7. Discussion, review and recommendations on the current policy and procedures for Sister Cities relationships.

Chairman Davis asked if there were any suggestion or recommendations on the current policy and procedures.

Mr. Leonhardt referred to his revised draft of ordinance Chapter 335 (Exhibit 4) and noted the changes that were requested at the last meeting, such as including the establishing of friendly relationships.

Dr. Chen advised that they need to put together some criteria to determine how they are to select a sister city relationship. Mr. Leonhardt replied that there are some broadly stated policies and standards to follow, in terms of logical areas of mutual interest, including culture and business and a strong consideration should be given to factor that contribute to good balance between the cites, such as geography, government structure, side, etc.

Chairman Davis noted that discussion should take place regarding item #5 of Mr.

Leonhardt's draft Chapter 335-3 relative to the total number of sister city relationships adopted. It states that they should not exceed 10 and no more than 2 sister city relationships should be adopted within a 2-year period. Chairman Davis advised that some of that language in item #5 should be delete and explained that the current requests for Sister Cities Relationships is up to three right now.

Dr. Chen moved to delete the following part of item #5 under section 335-3: "and no more than 2 sister city relationships should be adopted within a 2-year period. The motion prevailed. (3-0)

The members further discussed the maximum of 10 sister city relationships.

Chairman Davis referred to item #9 under section 335-3 and asked if the Mayor's office is still willing to keep the oversight responsibility for the sister city program. Mr. Leonhardt noted that they haven't heard from them, but he will contact them to discuss it and this committee could take it up at the next meeting.

Chairman Davis referred to section 335-11 item #3 that provides that the sister city relationship shall expire after 5 years unless extended for another 5 years by council resolution, and explained that he would like to see that at the 4 1/2 years mark, a report is given to this committee on the accomplishments of that particular agreement, so that at the end of the 5 years they would know if the agreement has been active and also that they aren't automatically approving agreements that aren't active. Mr. Leonhardt asked if he is requesting that at about the 4 1/2 year mark, there is a renewal process. Chairman Davis replied yes.

Mr. Vang moved to add that at 6 months before the 5 years are up the sponsoring entity submit a renewal application. The motion prevailed. (3-0)

Chairman Davis moved to open discussion on item 8 of section 335-3 and asked the members to consider deleting item #8, so that, if there are members of any departments or elected officials who is interested in establishing additional relationship or would like to participate in those things that are related to sister city international they could do so as a representative of the City. Mr. Leonhardt advised that some city officials have travel, but it had been either at their own expense or funds were supply by community organizations. No public funds have been used in the past for sister city international travel. Mr. Leonhardt further noted that he believes that the Sister City International does recommend that public funds be available for this purpose. Further discussion took place by members relative to department budget funds being restrictive in some departments. Mr. Leonhardt than noted that at the last meeting they discussed city funds to be budgeted and establish a special purpose account for sister city relationship expenditures. Dr. Chen recommended that no city funds should be use for sister city relationship travel unless approved by this committee. Mr. Leonhardt suggested that they could strike Item #8 and amend the travel ordinance to include international sister city relationship travels. Mr. Leonhardt noted that item #7 is also related to expenditures. He further indicated that at a prior meeting this committee discussed that a special fund be created in the budget and since the mayor's office has oversight responsibility, a special fund created within the Mayor's office in the city budget approved by the Common Council with x number of dollars and appropriating it for sister city relationships expenditures and that could include travel. Dr. Chen agreed with Mr. Leonhardt.

Dr. Chen moved to delete item #8 of section 335-3. The motion prevailed. (3-0)

Mr. Leonhardt advised that they could asked the Mayor to put it into the budget or Chairman Davis could amend the budget by adding a special purpose account in the Mayor's Office with X number of dollars. Ald. Davis asked that they hold further discussion on item #8 and he could talk to the Mayor's Office on the creation of a special purpose account.

Mr. Leonhardt asked for clarification on section 335-5 relative to the application process. He explained the process and asked how this committee wants the process to be, since the recently requested sister city relationships has taken a different process. Chairman Davis advised that the procedure would be that a file be introduce and referred to this committee, so that they have a file is on record within the Common Council.

Mr. Vang moved to approve ordinance chapter 335 as amended by this committee and have it submitted to the appropriate committee and the Common Council for their actions. The motion prevailed.

8. Next meeting date, time and agenda.

Chairman Davis advised that Ms. Terry MacDonald will contact each of the members to set up the next meeting date.

Chairman Davis asked the members to bring to the next meeting some specific weekday (s) that they can consider so that this committee could meet on a set monthly basis. Mr. Leonhardt advised that he could supply a list of proposed meeting dates for 2007.

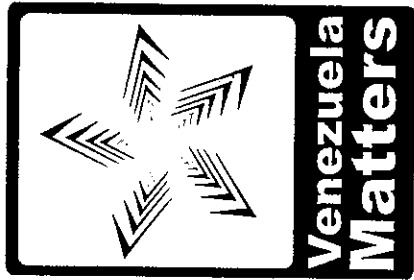
Meeting Adjourned: 11:24 A.M.

*Terry J. MacDonald
Staff Assistant*

EXHIBIT

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Boiler



Wisconsin Coalition of Asian Indian Organizations, Inc.

Alderman Joe Davis, Sr., Chairman
Sisters Cities Committee
City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI. 53202

July 16, 2006

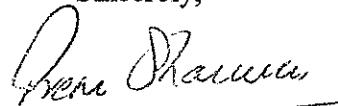
Dear Chairman Davis:

The Wisconsin Coalition of Asian Indian Organizations, Inc. (WCAIO) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association formed as a unified group of representatives from seventeen Asian Indian Community organizations in the greater Milwaukee area and Madison. The purpose of WCAIO is to help promote communication, cooperation and collaboration between Asian Indians and the Wisconsin community at large.

The Board of Directors of WCAIO unanimously voted to support the proposal for the establishment of a Sister Cities Relationship between Milwaukee and Patiala, India. The Board has further directed me to represent WCAIO and appear before your Committee while you consider the proposal.

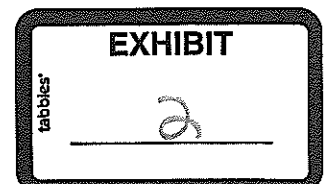
I shall be pleased to provide any additional information that may be needed.

Sincerely,



c.c Mr. Bob Dhir, President WCAIO

Prem S. Sharma
Immediate Past President and
member of the WCAIO Board
1900 W. Woodbury Lane,
Glendale, WI. 53209
414 352 5858





PUNJABI COMMUNITY

ORGANIZATION OF WISCONSIN
P.O. Box 16143 • Milwaukee, WI 53216

July 19, 2006

Alderman Joe Davis, Sr., Chairman
Sisters Cities Committee
City Hall, Room 205
200 E Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Punjabi Community Organization of Wisconsin is honored to provide total support to the proposal for securing Sister City Relationship between our city of Milwaukee and the city of Patiala in Punjab Province, India.

We envision a great deal of benefit to both the cities from this relationship and pledge our full commitment to help fulfill the objectives of this relationship.

Sincerely,

Balbir Singh
President





SHIROMINI AKALI DAL

(NRI WING)



PRESIDENT

S. Surjeet Singh Rakhra

Alderman Joe Davis, Sr., Chairman
Sisters Cities Committee
City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI. 53202

July 14, 2006

Dear Chairman Davis:

It is with great pleasure that I lend my enthusiastic support to the proposal for the establishment of friendly relations between your great city of Milwaukee and Patiala in the province of Punjab, India. It is my hope that this preliminary step will eventually lead to the creation of a permanent Sister Cities Relationship.

India and the United States of America share their passionate commitment to the principles of democracy and peace. The state of Wisconsin and the Province of Punjab both lead their nation in agriculture and dairy production.

Patiala, like Milwaukee is a progressive city with a rich heritage and a population representing a variety of cultures and religions living in harmony. We have a major university and a number of additional educational institutions dedicated to learning, advancement of knowledge, research and service to the community. We are being recognized as a fast emerging industrial center in the manufacture of agricultural implements, pesticides, small cutting tools, power cables and bicycles. We have active civic and social organizations that are very much similar to those in your city.

Patiala is located 130 miles north-north west of India's capitol New Delhi. Three flights a day as well as a comfortable train service and good roadways make travel to our city pleasant and convenient. I firmly believe that Milwaukee and Patiala can provide valuable assistance to each other by working in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation. The following are some of the avenues that would help achieve our goals:

- Trade missions
- Business opportunities
- Cultural exchanges
- Promotion of tourism
- Sharing of educational information
- Health care benefits

Please feel free to contact me should you need any additional information,

Sincerely,

EXHIBIT

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**CHAPTER 335
SISTER CITIES**

335-1. Definition. In this chapter:

1. COMMITTEE means the sister cities committee established under s. 320-47.
2. SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP means a formal sister city relationship approved by the common council under this chapter, or the establishment of friendly relations by the common council leading to a formal sister city relationship.

335-3. Policy. The following policies shall be followed in selecting and maintaining sister city relationships:

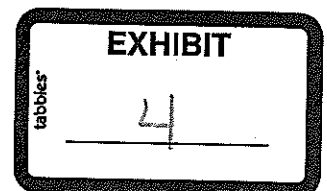
1. There should exist a logical area of mutual interest and involvement with the prospective sister city in the areas of culture and business.
2. Strong consideration should be given to factors that contribute to a good balance between the cities, including but not limited to geographic location, governmental structure, comparable size, population composition and education.
3. There should be evidence of strong local community support for the prospective sister city relationship in order to assure a strong financial base and interest in exchange.
4. During the selection process, there should be consultation and communication between the city and other related agencies such as Sister Cities International.
5. The total number of sister city relationships adopted should not exceed 10 and no more than 2 sister city relationships should be adopted within a 2-year period.
6. Consideration should be given to the number of prior relationships held by the prospective city. Some flexibility may be allowed for unusual circumstances.
7. Any expenditure associated with a sister city relationship must be approved by the common council.
8. No city funds shall be used for travel expenses by city officials in connection with any sister city relationship.
9. The mayor's office shall have oversight responsibility for the sister city program.

335-5. Application. An entity that wishes to sponsor a sister city relationship shall submit an application to the city clerk on a form created by the committee. The application shall require the following information:

1. Name of the entity seeking to establish the sister city relationship
2. Name of the person in charge of the entity.
3. Description of the goals of the sister city relationship.
4. Methods entity will use to meet the goals of the sister city relationship.
5. Any other relevant information that the committee finds necessary or useful.

335-7. Committee Review. 1. The city clerk shall transmit each new or resubmitted application and all attached materials to the committee.

2. The committee shall determine whether an application complies with the requirements of Sister Cities International and the committee.



3. Whenever the committee finds that an application is deficient, the committee shall return the application and notify the applicant in writing of the specific deficiencies.

4. The committee shall consider at a public hearing each application that it deems sufficient.

5. Based on the information in the application, comments received at the public hearing, and any additional information received, the committee shall determine whether the application complies with the requirements for establishing a sister city relationship and whether the applicant will manage a sister city relationship that has a reasonable prospect of meeting the goals identified in its application.

6. Whenever the committee's finding is positive, the committee shall:

a. Transmit the application, all related reports, findings, recommendations and information to the city clerk and request preparation and introduction of a common council resolution to establish a sister city relationship.

b. Notify the applicant in writing of the committee's findings and recommendation.

335-11. City Clerk and Common Council Action. Whenever the city clerk receives a request from the committee for preparation of a resolution establishing a sister city relationship, the city clerk shall have a resolution prepared and introduced. The resolution shall:

1. Express the common council's approval of the committee's recommendation to establish a sister city relationship.

2. Authorize and direct the appropriate city officials to establish the proposed sister city relationship.

3. Provide that the sister city relationship shall expire after 5 years unless extended for another 5 years by council resolution.

4. Require the sponsoring entity to submit annual reports to the committee.

330-13. Termination of Sister City Relationship. The common council may terminate a sister city relationship whenever it finds that the applicant has failed to make sufficient progress toward attaining the goals of the sister city relationship or the applicant has failed to comply with standards established by Sister Cities International or the committee.

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Council/sistercityrules.doc

5/26/06