

TONY ZIELINSKI - [Fwd: Request for Resolution supporting project]

From: "Leticia M. Smith" <lmsmith@execpc.com>
To: <bzalbe@milwaukee.gov>
Date: 9/5/02 4:07 PM
Subject: [Fwd: Request for Resolution supporting project]

Dear Barry,

Marin [signature]

Below is the e-mail I sent to Alderman Richards requesting for his sponsorship of a resolution supporting our project that we are proposing to the U.S. Department of State. The project (titled "Religious Institutions in a Democracy") only refers to Filipino community leaders coming to Milwaukee. However, since I sent this to him, our partners in the Philippines have suggested that we send a group of American community leaders to the Philippines first, and then the Filipino group should come to the U.S. afterwards. That is now the format we are using in our proposal.

Our project's format is to bring about ten U.S. community leaders to the Philippines during the first phase (approximately in June 2003), and during the second phase (approximately September 2003), bring about ten Filipino community leaders, primarily from Mindanao, for a three-week visit to the United States. The format of the visits is an intense three weeks of dialogue with religious, governmental, educational, civic, business, health care, and justice system leaders, as well as observations of various social and political institutions in action. In the U.S. the Filipino participants will be brought primarily to Milwaukee, though we'll bring them to a couple of cities in Illinois as well. The locations in the Philippines will depend on our partner organizations there. The topics of the discussion and observations will be the principles and practice of religious freedom and religious tolerance in both the Philippines and the United States, and strategies for promoting these values in social and political institutions.

Our hope is that the visit will 1) assist the Filipino participants in gaining ideas to be more effective in their change efforts, 2) inform American community leaders of Filipino concepts of religious freedom and religious tolerance and how these concepts work in the Philippines, 3) initiate a network of contacts among the Filipino participants and American local community leaders. About ten months after the Filipino participants' return, there will be a group from the US, and possibly a counterpart group in the Philippines who will be evaluating the results of the project in terms of its goals. We look at the project as potentially the beginning of a multi-year program, and an opportunity to develop a format that will be effective and beneficial to the Filipinos and to our local communities here in the U.S. as well.

Alderman Richards said that the resolution should indicate that no funds of the City of Milwaukee is required by this resolution. (Maybe a zero- fiscal note can take care of this? Or at least, please ask the drafter to use "subtle" language to express this so that the resolution keeps a positive, enthusiastic note..)

Many thanks for your help. If you have questions, please call me at 760-8585 or at 659-4095 (cellular).

Leticia

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Request for Resolution supporting project

Date: Fri, 30 Aug 2002 10:21:41 -0500

From: "Leticia M. Smith" <lmsmith@execpc.com>

To: Alderman Don Richards

Dear Alderman Richards:

First of all, thank you for your continuing support for the Nonprofit Center where I serve on the board of directors. Your support for keeping the technical assistance portion of the CDBG has allowed us to have the opportunity to continue to develop the services we provide the nonprofit community in the city.

Today though, I am also writing you about a completely different matter. I am writing on behalf of my project team that is planning to write a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of State to bring Filipino community leaders to the United States for a three-week dialogue with Milwaukee civic and religious leaders. The goal is to assist these leaders in their efforts to foster religious freedom and religious tolerance in the Philippines. For this proposal to be successful, we are requesting for your help in sponsoring a Common Council resolution that supports our project. The resolution should state what policies and initiatives of the Common Council will be helped by the project, and indicate the Council's interest in meeting with the project participants and sharing ideas with them on the role of municipal government in promoting religious freedom and religious tolerance.

Our project topic is "Religious Institutions in a Democracy". The proposal is being written for the Freeport Area International Visitors Council (FAIVC) and the Institute of World Affairs - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UW-M). Below is a brief description of the requirements from the grant solicitation:

" Proposals should build a better understanding of the role religion plays in each country, with emphasis on how religious groups and institutions participate in a democratic, secular society in which the separation of church and state and tolerance are the guiding principles. Participants could be religious as well as lay leaders. Activities should illustrate how American religious leaders, both lay and ordained, function free of state control, contribute to society at large, and provide spiritual and ethical guidance. Balanced, two-way exchanges are essential."

More information on this grant is available in the following web site:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/oct4rfgp.htm>

We believe that this project is complementary to city policies relating to diversity and will contribute to city and community efforts to achieve greater tolerance. In our proposal, the Filipino visitors are scheduled to be in Milwaukee during the first three weeks in June 2003 to participate in various educational and community activities. If we are successful in obtaining this grant, we would like to arrange for a visit of the project participants with the Common Council.

Since the proposal solicitation only recently came to our attention, we are working on a rather short time line to complete our proposal : we must have it ready to go to the funding agency by October 1, 2002. We hope to have a Common Council resolution to be included in our submission.

I will give you a call on Monday, September 2 in the afternoon to discuss this request with you.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Leticia M. Smith

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