

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: SISTER CITY VISIT TO MESA, ARIZONA IN 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council accept the invitation from Mesa, Arizona and authorize a delegation of Council to visit in 2020, and that all associated expenses be approved for payment in accordance with the City Expense Claim Policy.
2. THAT representatives from Tourism Burnaby, Burnaby Board of Trade, and Burnaby Board of Education be invited to participate in the Official Sister City visit.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The City of Burnaby maintains Sister and Friendship City relationships that meet the goals and objectives of Burnaby's International Relations and Friendship Cities Program.

At its meeting held on 2019 October 15, the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee, received correspondence from the Chair of the Mesa Sister Cities Host Committee extending an invitation to participate in a joint Sister City visit in Mesa, Arizona in the fall of 2020.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

This report supports the following goals and sub-goals of the City's *Corporate Strategic Plan*:

- A Connected Community
 - Partnership –
Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- A Dynamic Community
 - Economic opportunity –
Foster an environment that attracts new and supports existing jobs, businesses and industries

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: International Relations & Friendship Cities Committee
Re: Sister City Visit to Mesa, Arizona in 2020
2019 October 29 Page 2

3.0 BACKGROUND

In 1998, Burnaby City Council entered into a Sister City Agreement with the City of Mesa, Arizona. Mesa is the second largest City in a broad Phoenix metropolitan area and is the third largest city in Arizona. There is a fundamental commonality between our two communities given Burnaby is also part of a large metropolitan area and is the third largest City in BC. Both communities are fast growing, have a significant retail component, support the development of clean industry and are concerned about their respective environments. The two communities share common services and issues including victim assistance programs, affordable housing, historic preservation, regional transportation, traffic management and crime prevention.

Since 1998, there have been several exchanges between Burnaby and Mesa. These exchanges have proven very successful and have resulted in mutually beneficial economic development, tourism and educational opportunities. Burnaby's last visit to Mesa occurred in 2016 November. This past summer, Burnaby and Mesa participated in a student exchange.

In addition to the City of Burnaby, the City of Mesa has extended an invitation to their four other Sister Cities (in Mexico, China, Peru and New Zealand) to visit in the fall of 2020 (Appendix A).

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends approval for a delegation of Council to visit Mesa, Arizona to attend a joint Sister City visit in the fall of 2020, and to invite Tourism Burnaby, Burnaby Board of Trade, and Burnaby Board of Education to join the delegation.

Council approval of this report is required in order for staff to proceed with planning and making arrangements for the Sister/Friendship City visit.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Wang
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Vice Chair

Copied to: City Manager Director Corporate Services Director Finance Executive Assistant to the Mayor
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From: Dennis Kavanaugh [REDACTED]
Sent: September-12-19 10:35 AM
To: Mayor
Cc: Mayor Giles; Candice Copple; Cheryl Laflen
Subject: Mesa Sister Cities

Dear Mayor Hurley and staff:

I am the immediate past president of Mesa Sister Cities and continue to serve on our nonprofit board. I am a former Mesa Vice-Mayor and Councilmember and have visited Burnaby many times over the past twenty years (most recently in May 2018). I appreciate that your community once again participated in our student exchange program this past summer.

The City of Mesa and Mesa Sister Cities are joint partners in our Sister City program. Our Mayor, John Giles, has advised our board that he hopes to invite representatives of all five of our Sister Cities to visit Mesa in fall 2020. I will be chairing the host committee for this visit. Burnaby's last visit to Mesa occurred in November 2016.

Could you kindly advise me if the City of Burnaby might have interest in coming to Mesa in 2020? We have many details to work on over the next year but we are hoping that most if not all of our Sister Cities can have representatives attend. Our other Sister Cities are in Mexico, China, Peru and New Zealand.

Thank you for considering my inquiry. If there is a particular staff member I should be working with, please let me know.

Dennis P. Kavanaugh, Esq.
DENNIS KAVANAUGH PC

[REDACTED]
Mesa, AZ
[REDACTED]