



**CULTURAL COMMISSION**  
City of Santa Clara



**Minutes of the June 9, 2014 Meeting**

**Commissioners Present:** Bunny Lockwood, Kathleen Ryan, Loretta Beavers, Eversley Forte, Barbara Stahl and Carolyn Schuk

**Commissioners Absent:** Unexcused: Kent Neal

**Staff Liaison:** Yvonne Galletta

**Visitors:** Council Member Teresa O'Neill  
Kathy Watanabe, President of Santa Clara Sister Cities Association  
Raj Chahal, Santa Clara Sister Cities Association  
AJ Chahal  
Michael O'Halloran

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**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION** – That the Limerick, Ireland Memorandum of Understanding to be a Sister City with the City of Santa Clara be approved by Council and signed by the Mayor.

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Fatima Fagundes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. New Business:
  - a. Santa Clara Sister Cities Association
    - 1) Request for Cultural Commission to support Sister Cities Association's request for the City of Santa Clara to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") for a Sister Cities Relationship with Limerick, Ireland

Sister Cities Association President Kathy Watanabe presented the Limerick, Ireland MOU background and information. She referred to her letter of June 2, 2014 stating the request to the Cultural Commission to support the City entering into a sister city relationship with Limerick, Ireland (see attached). Previously, Sister Cities International required cooperative agreements between international cities and their U.S. sister cities when more than one relationship existed. President Watanabe confirmed with Sister Cities International the ability for foreign cities to have more than one Sister City in the U.S. They are currently amending their policy. Some international cities have as many as four sister city relationships.

Commissioner Forte asked about monetary considerations. Commissioner Lockwood asked about bandwidth considerations. President Watanabe said it is in process, but fundraising efforts will need to be increased accordingly. The City has not funded prior exchanges with our other sister cities in Coimbra, Portugal and Izumo, Japan. City Council Member O'Neill mentioned existing business and school relationships, and their fundraising efforts. There is some outreach to local Irish named or owned businesses. Commissioner Forte asked the difference between Friendship and Sister Cities. Watanabe answered the difference is the length of term: Friendship is temporary; Sister is permanent.

The City Council should review and approve the MOU with Limerick, Ireland with Santa Clara's Sister Cities Association. M/S/C

III. Public Presentations: None

IV. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
Loretta Beavers  
Acting Secretary



**Santa Clara Sister Cities Association**  
**Coimbra, Portugal**      **Izumo, Japan**  
*Established August 4, 1972*      *Established October 11, 1986*

June 2, 2014

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Ms. Yvonne Galletta  
Cultural Commission  
City of Santa Clara  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Yvonne:

On behalf of Santa Clara Sister Cities Association (“SCSCA”), I am writing to request that the Cultural Commission support SCSCA in requesting that the Santa Clara City Council approve our request to add the City of Limerick, Ireland to our Sister Cities family.

Attached for your review is the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) that SCSCA and the City of Limerick have been working on the last few months. The MOU has the key components of the relationship we are looking to establish but there is also room to add on if necessary.

Currently, Santa Clara has a Friendship City relationship with Limerick that will expire shortly. SCSCA would like to make this a more permanent relationship by making Limerick an official Sister City with Santa Clara.

Both cities are going through some exciting times in terms of growth, education, culture, business and sports. This seems like an opportune time for both cities to work together to explore opportunities with each other and build on the relationship already established through the Friendship City relationship.

SCSCA would like the Cultural Commission for this opportunity to request support of this endeavor before the City of Santa Clara City Council. Please let us know if you have any questions. .

Sincerely,

Kathy Watanabe  
President

**Whereas**, the cities of Santa Clara, California, United States of America and Limerick, Republic of Ireland share similar goals of international cooperation, mutual prosperity, and world peace; and

**Whereas**, many residents of Santa Clara trace their ancestry to Limerick as well as many other cities in Ireland and have built many friendships with its citizens; and

**Whereas**, many Irish citizens currently live and work in Santa Clara; and

**Whereas**, they believe it to be in their collective interest to broaden and strengthen ties between the two cities; and

**Whereas**, they place similar values on developing separate plans for developing joint activities centered including but not limited to exchanges to educate citizens and promote education, training, innovation, environmental stewardship and entrepreneurship, culture and athletics; and

**Whereas**, they will identify activities, common to all, that can generate new initiatives to further nurture economic, social, and cultural relationships; and

**Whereas**, the purpose of this relationship is to increase economic development, cultural exchanges, educational opportunities, technical exchanges for both cities, and to increase awareness of both cities as being centers for education, innovation and business development; and

**Whereas**, both cities are committed to mutual support for organizing and developing the experiences, common activities, and future programs of the Sister City relationship on the basis of previous agreements of mutual cooperation and directions set forth by this declaration;

**Now**, therefore, we, the Mayors of Santa Clara, California and Limerick, Ireland, do believe that this pact will further contribute to the cause of world peace and to the development of friendly relations between the peoples of Ireland and the United States and our two cities; and

Further, we affix our signatures and our city seals on this declaration to establish our relationship as Sister Cities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMIE MATTHEWS  
Mayor  
[DATE]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NAME OF ELECTED OFFICIAL]  
Lord Mayor  
[DATE]