



SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIPS

POLICY

The International Exchange Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to sister-city relationships, and is responsible for making recommendations to the City Council on any future sister-city relationships, using the following criteria:

- Preference will be given to international cities that do not already have an affiliation in the United States.
- Preference will be given to cities in countries in which Santa Clara does not already have an existing sister city.
- Cities should have established diplomatic relations with the United States.
- Preference will be given to cities with elements in common with Santa Clara (e.g., similar in character, size, population, etc.) or with other elements Council may deem of interest/importance.

Community interest and involvement are necessary for these additional criteria:

- That there exists in Santa Clara a long-term, broad-base interest in establishing the sister-city relationship; that this interest transcends transitory, political or social concerns and that it reflects ongoing community involvement with the sister city's region or people.
- That consideration be given to forming an additional community organization/committee to support the new sister-city relationship; or that the existing Santa Clara Sister Cities Association is prepared to support the new relationship.
- That, prior to the acceptance of formal affiliation, the additional community organization/committee/Sister Cities Association be asked to present to the City Council a comprehensive work plan for the twelve month period following the potential acceptance of formal affiliation. This plan should show how their activities would further the objectives of the sister-city program.

None of these criteria is intended to prevent the city Council from exploring a sister-city relationship with any city with which they believe affiliation



SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS (cont.)

PROCEDURE

would prove beneficial to Santa Clara and its citizens.

1. If the above criteria are met, requests to establish a sister-city relationship shall be directed in writing to the International Exchange Commission.
2. The International Exchange Commission shall agendize the request for review and discussion at a regularly scheduled commission meeting.
3. The International Exchange Commission shall review the request and make a recommendation to the City Council.

Reference:

City Council-approved policy dated January 11, 1994