

RESOLUTION No. 21-59

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, REVISING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE DORAL SISTER CITIES PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Doral supports the mission of Sister Cities International through its City of Doral Sister Cities Program Policies for the purpose of fostering relationships between municipalities in the United States and international communities, for the exchange of cultural, educational, business, and other information for the mutual benefit of the linked communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Doral Sister Cities Program Policies and Procedures were approved and formalized by the City of Doral Mayor and City Council on September 9, 2015 through Resolution No. 15-172; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council desire to revise the Doral Sister Cities Policies and Procedures by stipulating that the Mayor shall appoint the members of the Doral Sister Cities Evaluation Committee, in accordance with the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council also desire to revise the Doral Sister Cities Policies and Procedures by adding the requirement that the Mayor and City Council shall discuss any international city's request to formalize a Sister Cities relationship with the City of Doral and provide direction to the City Manager before the request is considered by the Doral Sister Cities Evaluation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council desire to continue forming these relationships and administering them through the revised City of Doral Policies and Procedures approved by this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are confirmed, adopted, and incorporated herein and made part hereof by this reference.

Section 2. Approval. The revised Policies and Procedures for the Doral Sister Cities Program attached hereto as Exhibit "A", which are incorporated herein and made a part hereof by this reference, are hereby approved. This approval does not constitute a continuing approval for the establishing and entering into of Sister Cities Agreement(s) with any jurisdiction; each such agreement must be independently approved by the Mayor and City Council.

Section 3. Implementation. The City Manager and the City Attorney are hereby authorized to take such further action as may be necessary to implement the purpose and provisions of this Resolution and the subject Doral Sister Cities Program, including, but not limited to, variations of the approved policies and procedures which are not material to the overall program and/or are in the best interest of the City.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilmember Cabral who moved its adoption.

The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Cabrera and upon being put to a vote, the vote

was as follows:

Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez	Yes
Vice Mayor Pete Cabrera	Yes
Councilwoman Digna Cabral	Yes
Councilwoman Claudia Mariaca	Yes
Councilman Oscar Puig-Corve	Yes

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17 day of March, 2021.



JUAN CARLOS BERMUDEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CONNIE DIAZ, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF DORAL ONLY:



LUIS FIGUEREDO, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT “A”

Doral Sister Cities program – Policies & Procedures

Sister Cities International History and Mission

Sister Cities International (SCI) was created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House conference on citizen diplomacy. Eisenhower envisioned an organization that could be the hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. By forming these relationships, President Eisenhower reasoned that people of different cultures could celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.

Sister Cities International creates relationships based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, creating lifelong friendships that provide prosperity and peace through person-to-person "citizen diplomacy." Since then, every American president has served as the Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities International.

Doral Sister Cities Program Mission Statement

The City of Doral supports the mission of the Sister Cities International program and desires to implement policies and procedures to implement and administer a successful program in the city. The mission of the Doral Sister Cities program is to foster international relationships between the City of Doral and international cities that have similar interests by creating exchanges in areas of culture, education, tourism, sports, business and government. The program's objective is to develop respect, understanding and cooperation between the citizens, businesses and municipal governments of both cities. The program will maintain a special focus on areas with significant opportunities to facilitate cultural and educational exchanges, economic partnerships, and increased tourism through a sustained long-term relationship.

Municipal Exchange

In addition to increased business and community interaction, Sister City programs create peer-learning connections between municipal employees and elected officials and may facilitate sharing of innovative policies and management techniques in sanitation, water, health, transportation, tourism, economic development, and education. Sister city programs also often raise funds or collect supplies for natural disasters or other emergencies in their sister cities.

Evaluation and Selection Process

Sister Cities requests often originate with an expression of interest from one city to another, sometimes in the form of a letter from Mayor to Mayor. At the Mayor's request, Sister Cities opportunities are researched by an evaluation committee and a recommendation is made to the governing body. Both

City Councils pass a resolution calling for a Sister Cities affiliation, then an agreement is drafted with input from both sides and brought back for final approval. Both Mayors then sign the agreement which is then recorded with SSI. The length of the process can vary depending on the opportunities inherent to each relationship and the scope of each agreement.

The City of Doral desires to follow a similar process. At the request of the Mayor's office, the Economic Development department will research the opportunity and present data to the Doral Sister Cities Evaluation Committee. The committee, consisting of representatives appointed by the Mayor, ~~from the offices of the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, Economic Development and Public Affairs,~~ will evaluate the Sister City opportunity.

When a request for Sister Cities consideration is received from another city, the Mayor and City Council shall discuss any international city's request to formalize a Sister Cities relationship with the City of Doral and provide direction to the City Manager before the request is considered by the Doral Sister Cities Evaluation Committee.

Criteria for Sister Cities Evaluation

The Doral Sister Cities Evaluation Committee will review and evaluate the Sister Cities opportunities based on the following criteria:

1. Economic compatibility - Business climate offers economic development potential for both cities
2. Educational synergies – Both cities are home to academic institutions which could support bilateral affiliations and educational interactions
3. Cultural connections – The cities share artistic, cultural and historic ties with the potential for mutually beneficial exchanges
4. Connectivity – The cities are accessible to each other's citizens to enjoy bilateral travel, tourism and trade

The Doral Sister Cities Evaluation Committee will make a recommendation to the City Council. If both City Councils pass a resolution calling for a Sister Cities affiliation, then an agreement is drafted with input from both sides and brought back to the governing bodies for final approval. Both Mayors then sign the agreement which is then recorded with SSI.

Managing the Doral Sister Cities Program

The Doral Sister Cities Evaluation Committee will work with the city's key departments and the City Council to manage and administer opportunities for interaction with its formalized Sister Cities. The City of Doral may budget for Sister Cities activities through the city's regular budgeting process and may seek sponsorships for Sister Cities events, trade or diplomatic missions, cultural summits or educational

exchanges. The municipality may work closely with schools, arts groups, businesses and volunteers from the community to facilitate meaningful “citizen diplomacy” between partner cities.

Though no limitations currently exist or are recommended, the City Council may at any time choose to limit the number of Sister Cities affiliations for the purpose of effectively managing the program.