

RESOLUTION No. 15-172

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

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International (“Sister Cities”) is non-profit citizen diplomacy network that fosters programs that create relationships between municipalities in the United States and international communities, for the exchange cultural, educational, business, and other information for the mutual benefit of the linked communities; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities programs create peer-learning lines of communication between/amongst municipal employees and elected officials—connections that provide for the sharing of innovative policies, community solutions, and management techniques; and

WHEREAS, the City of Doral (the “City”) supports the mission of Sister Cities, has participated in the forming of these relationships, and expects to continue to do so in the future through the “Doral Sister Cities Program”; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council desire to implement policies and procedures for the implementation and administration of a successful Sister Cities program in the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

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

Section 2. Approval. The Policies and Procedures for 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 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 become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Mayor Boria who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cabrera and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Luigi Boria	Yes
Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz	Yes
Councilman Pete Cabrera	Yes
Councilwoman Christi Fraga	Absent/Excused
Councilwoman Ana Maria Rodriguez	Yes

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9 day of September, 2015.




LUIGI BORIA, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CONNIE DIAZ, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL
SUFFICIENCY FOR THE SOLE USE OF
THE CITY OF DORAL



WEISS, SEROTA, HELFMAN, COLE AND BIERMAN, PL
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. President Eisenhower envisioned an organization that could be a hub for peace and prosperity by creating bonds between different cities from around the world. By forming these relationships (“Sister City(ies)”), 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.

SCI creates relationships based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, creating lifelong friendships that provide prosperity and peace through person-to-person “citizen diplomacy.” 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.

Doral Sister Cities Program Mission Statement

The City of Doral (the “City”) supports the mission of SCI and desires to adopt policies and procedures to implement and administer a successful program in the City (“Doral Sister Cities Program” or the “Program”). The mission of the Doral Sister Cities Program is to foster international relationships between the City and international cities that have similar interests by creating exchanges in areas such as, without limitation, 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.

Evaluation and Selection Process

Sister Cities requests may 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 or at the request of any member of the City Council to the City Manager, Sister Cities

opportunities shall be researched by the administration, specifically the City's Economic Development Division. All information garnered shall be presented to an "Evaluation Committee," which shall be charged with vetting the information against the criteria below, as well as legal sufficiency by the City Attorney. The committee shall consist of representatives from the offices of the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, Economic Development and Public Affairs Divisions. The make-up of the committee may change from time to time at the discretion of the City Manager. A report and recommendation from the Evaluation Committee shall be presented to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and action at a duly-called Regular or Special Council meeting.

If the Mayor and City Council approve the establishment of a Sister Cities Relationship, the administration will continue its dialogue with the international city and reach a tentative agreement to formalize the relationship. Upon review and finalization, the agreement will be presented to the City Council for final approval. Both the intent to establish the relationship and the approval of the agreement shall be approved by resolution of the Mayor and City Council.

Sister Cities agreement shall be executed by the Mayor. The execution of the agreements may include a ceremony, the approval for which shall be sought from the Mayor and City Council at the time or after the approval of the corresponding agreement. The executed agreements are then transmitted to and recorded with SCI. The length of the process can vary depending on the opportunities inherent to each relationship and the scope of each agreement.

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.

Managing the Doral Sister Cities Program

The City administration 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 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.