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**File ID:** 2023-00831

6/27/2023

**Consent Item 31.**

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**Endorsing the Establishment of a Sister City Relationship with the City of Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine**

File ID: 2023-00831

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Adopt a **Resolution** endorsing the establishment of a Sister City relationship with Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine and authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding.

**Contact:** Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk, (916) 808-5442, mcuppy@cityofsacramento.org, Office of the City Clerk

**Presenter:** None.

**Attachments:**

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Letter of Intention Signed by Mayors Oleksandr Lysenko and Darrell Steinberg
- 3-Resolution Endorsing
- 4-Draft Memorandum of Understanding

**Additional Description/Analysis**

**Issue Detail:** The Mayor has received a formal request to enter into a sister city relationship between the City of Sumy and the City of Sacramento. The City of Sacramento and the City of Sumy recognize the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise and experiences between the two cities, and will encourage visits, exchanges, and joint initiatives by their respective citizens, institutions, and organizations and wish to enter into a formal sister city relationship.

On June 20, 2023 the City Council adopted a Resolution of Intention which initiated the establishment of a sister city relationship. Adoption of this Resolution will endorse this sister city relationship and authorize the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mayor of the City of Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine.

**Policy Considerations:** Staff support has been historically limited to coordination of Mayor and Council participation in sister city activities. Therefore, new sister city relationships must demonstrate community interest and participation in each city since the community is responsible for developing and implementing activities.

**Economic Impacts:** Not applicable.

**Environmental Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Sustainability:** Not applicable.

**Commission/Committee Action:** Not applicable.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Sister city relationships encourage multi-cultural and cross-cultural learning and foster opportunities for social, cultural, and professional exchanges through the guidance of the Sacramento Sister Cities Council. Endorsing a sister city relationship with the City of Sumy will further strengthen the existing ties between Sacramento and Sumy.

**Financial Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Not applicable.

**Background:** The City of Sacramento has a Sister City program with eleven relationships across the world. The program is managed by the Sacramento Sister City Council (SSCC). Sacramento's sister cities and their respective establishment dates include:

- Manila, Philippines (1961)
- Matsuyama, Japan (1981)
- Jinan, China (1984)
- Hamilton, New Zealand (1988)
- Liestal, Switzerland (1989)
- Chisinau, Moldova (1989)
- Youngsan-gu, Korea (1997)
- San Juan de Oriente (2006)
- Bethlehem, Palestine (2009)
- Ashkelon, Israel (2012)
- Mexicali, Mexico (2013)

The SSCC is comprised of a president, or designee, from each of the sister cities. Guided by their mission statement, "Promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation," SSCC

meets five to six times a year to develop mutually beneficial cultural, educational, social and/or economic relationships between the citizens of Sacramento and its sister cities. SSCC activities include dissemination of newsletters, announcements of events, engaging in joint activities, and networking with other internationally oriented organizations. The City Clerk attends these meetings and provides staff support.

Dear Recipient,

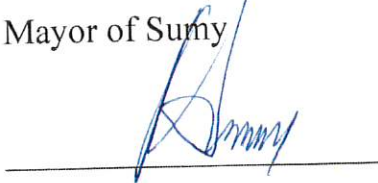
We are writing to express our desire to establish a Sister City relationship between the City of Sacramento, California, USA and the City of Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine. We hope that by agreement, we can foster a partnership that will support the citizens of Ukraine as a whole and the residents of the Sumy City Territorial Community in their efforts to protect and rebuild their homes and country, and provide an opportunity for enriching cultural exchange and trade between the cities of Sumy and Sacramento.

We are writing this letter to bring the issue of cooperation between the cities to a formal vote of the Sacramento City Council to approve the Sister Cities Partnership Agreement.

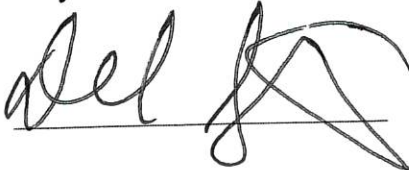
With the support of both mayors and the International Aid to Ukraine, we are confident that this partnership will be mutually beneficial for both municipalities for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Oleksandr Lysenko,  
Mayor of Sumy



Darrell Steinberg,  
Mayor of the City of Sacramento



## **RESOLUTION NO.**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Endorsing the Sister City Relationship  
Between the City of Sacramento, California, United States  
and the City of Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine

### **BACKGROUND**

- A. The mission of the Sister Cities Council of Sacramento is to develop mutually beneficial cultural, educational, social, and/or economic relationships between the citizens of Sacramento and its Sister Cities.
- B. The City of Sacramento has benefitted from having Sister Cities in eleven countries around the world but has not yet established a Sister City relationship with a city in Ukraine.
- C. The Mayors of Sumy and Sacramento have signed a letter expressing the desire to establish a sister city relationship to foster a partnership that will support the citizens of Ukraine as a whole and the residents of the Sumy City Territorial Community in their efforts to protect and rebuild their homes and country and to provide an opportunity for enriching cultural exchange and trade between the cities of Sumy and Sacramento.
- D. On June 20, 2023, the Sacramento City Council adopted a Resolution of Intention to establish a sister city relationship with Sumy, under the guidance of the Sacramento Sister Cities Council.
- E. A formal sister city relationship will further enhance the ties that already exist between Sumy and Sacramento.

### **BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1: The Sacramento City Council gives its endorsement to formalize a sister city relationship with City of Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine under the guidance of the Sacramento Sister Cities Council.
- Section 2: The Mayor is authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mayor of the City of Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine.
- Section 3: The City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to the Sacramento Sister Cities Council.
- Section 4: The City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to the City of Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine.

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Between the City of Sacramento, California, United States  
and the City of Sumy, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento and the City of Sumy seek to promote international understanding and friendship through the establishment of sister city relationships; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has caused immense suffering for the people of Ukraine and has tested the resilience of its cities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento acknowledges the role that it can play in supporting the Ukrainian people and promoting peace through citizen diplomacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Sacramento and the City of Sumy agree as follows:

1. The City of Sacramento and the City of Sumy hereby establish a sister city relationship.
2. The City of Sacramento and the City of Sumy recognize the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise and experiences between the two cities, and will encourage visits, exchanges, and joint initiatives by their respective citizens, institutions, and organizations.
3. The City of Sacramento and the City of Sumy commit to exploring ways in which their respective cities can support each other, including through the sharing of best practices and expertise in areas such as community development, infrastructure, and municipal governance.
4. The City of Sacramento and the City of Sumy agree to work together in promoting people-to-people exchanges, cultural understanding, and educational programs between the two cities.
5. The City of Sacramento and the City of Sumy agree that the establishment of a sister city relationship is a symbol of hope and friendship between the United States and Ukraine, and a commitment to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective City Councils, have signed this memorandum of understanding on this [insert date] day of [insert month], [insert year].

For the City of Sacramento

For the City of Sumy

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Darrell Steinberg  
Mayor

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Oleksandr Lysenko  
Mayor