



Peace and Justice Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR  
February 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Peace and Justice Commission  
 Submitted by: Alex Mabanta, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission  
 Subject: Establishment of a Sister City Relationship with Gongju, Republic of Korea

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution establishing a sister city relationship with the municipality of Gongju in the South Chungcheong Province of the Republic of Korea.

SUMMARY

The Peace and Justice Commission is tasked with recommending the establishments of new Sister Cities. Gongju, Korea, a university town with a similar population size to Berkeley, has approached Berkeley with the request of becoming a Sister City. Certain criteria must be met to become a Sister City, which Gongju meets.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Pursuant to Resolution 56,069-N.S., the City of Berkeley has an established criteria for the establishment of a Sister City relationship. Below is a list of what the proposal must require:

- A) A description of the proposed sister city, township, or community; and
- B) A list of similarities between Berkeley and the proposed sister community;
- C) An explanation of why this particular sister city should be selected by showing how it fits the below listed criteria.

There are seven criteria points that must be met:

- 1) The Sister City relationship should benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture, and education of the citizens of Berkeley; and
- 2) New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment or curriculum enhancement should result from the relationship; and

- 3) From these new opportunities, there should accrue direct benefits to the students of the Berkeley Unified School District; and
- 4) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of Berkeley residents are committed to pursuing this relationship, and that such a group is also capable of representing Berkeley's interest in such a relationship; and
- 5) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed Sister City are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship; and
- 6) There should be no direct nor indirect costs to the City of Berkeley; and
- 7) The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interests of the City.

#### BACKGROUND

Berkeley currently has 16 Sister City relationships throughout the world, including two with Native American tribes. There are no Sister Cities in Korea. The first establishment of a Sister City was in 1967 with Sakai, Japan, and latest took place in 2002, with Palma Soriano, Cuba.

The City of Gongju has sent two delegations to the City of Berkeley over the past several months to talk about setting up a Sister City relationship. The Korean-American Community Center of San Francisco & Bay Area has also been in communication with the Mayor's office in both Berkeley and Gongju on the creation of such a relationship.

#### **A) Description of Gongju**

Gongju is a historic city in South Korea with a population similar to Berkeley (116,870 in 2013). Gongju, formerly known as Ungjin, was the capital of the Baekje Dynasty from AD 475 - 538, and is home to many national cultural sites, including the Gongsanseong Fortress and Tomb of King Muryeong, which were designated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site in 2015. The City of Berkeley does not have any Sister Cities in South Korea.

#### **B) List of similarities between Berkeley and Gongju**

- 1) Similar population: Gongju had a population of 116,870 in 2013; Berkeley was 112,580 in 2010.
- 2) University town: Approximately 30% of the population are students.
- 3) Cultural preservation: Gongju is home to historic buildings which are central to its identity.
- 4) Arts/Education: There are many schools and museums located within the city.

**C) List of criteria**

**1) The Sister City relationship should benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture, and education of the citizens of Berkeley**

There currently is no Sister City located in Korea. Establishing one would provide new opportunities to experience Korean culture and share ideas that can mutually benefit our cities on a variety of fronts.

**2) New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment or curriculum enhancement should result from the relationship**

The proposal would proposal calls for mutual visits of delegations during festivals, for Gongju during their Baekje Cultural Festival, and for Berkeley during the Kite Festival. There are also several student exchange programs which are described below.

**3) From these new opportunities, there should accrue direct benefits to the students of the Berkeley Unified School District**

Part of the proposal includes a youth homestay and culture which will involve 10 middle and high school students traveling to Gongju to learn about Korean culture, and a language training program.

**4) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of Berkeley residents are committed to pursuing this relationship, and that such a group is also capable of representing Berkeley's interest in such a relationship**

The Korean American Community Center of San Francisco & Bay Area has met with the Mayor's office to discuss their involvement in maintaining a Sister City Association.

**5) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed Sister City are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship**

Twice this year, a delegation from Gongju visited Berkeley to discuss setting up a relationship and have expressed their commitment to sustaining it.

**6) There should be no direct nor indirect costs to the City of Berkeley**

The Korean American Community Center will provide funding for any related expenses.

**7) The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interests of the City**

Berkeley has a large Korean-American community, and establishing a Sister City with a city in Korea would be beneficial to promoting their culture. Given the current political climate surrounding the Korean Peninsula, it is even more important to form a relationship that will promote peace and good will.

M/S/C        Bohn/Agrawal

Ayes:        Agrawal, Bohn, Gorrocino, Hariri, Lippman, Meola, Mabanta, Maran, Meola, Watson

Abstain:     None

Absent:      Marchesini, Orozco, Rodriguez

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental effects.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Establishing a new Sister City, the first in 15 years, would continue Berkeley's legacy of being an international city.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Shallon Allen, Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission, 510-981-7071

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ESTABLISHING A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF GONGJU IN THE SOUTH CHUNGCHEONG PROVINCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission has been charged by the Berkeley City Council with reviewing proposals for new Sister City relationships; and

WHEREAS, the Korean-American Community Center of San Francisco & Bay Area has presented a proposal for a Sister City relationship with the Municipality of Gongju in the South Chungcheong Province of the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, Gongju is an educational hub and University town, with an emphasis on culture and historic preservation, like Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission has concluded that the proposal meets the City's criteria for establishing a Sister City, namely:

1. The Sister City relationship should benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture and education of the citizens of Berkeley; and
2. New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment, or curriculum enhancement should result from the relationship; and
3. From these new opportunities there should accrue direct benefits to the students of the Berkeley Unified School District; and
4. It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of Berkeley residents are committed to pursuing this relationship, and that such a group is also capable of representing Berkeley's interest in such a relationship; and
5. It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed Sister City are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship; and
6. There should be no direct or indirect costs to the City of Berkeley; and
7. The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interest of the City; and

WHEREAS, officials of the Municipality of Gongju have expressed their own desire for a Sister City relationship with Berkeley.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley hereby approves the establishment of a Sister City relationship with the Municipality of Gongju in the South Chungcheong Province of the Republic of Korea.

ESTABLISHING THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF SISTER CITIES TO THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, on March 5, 1991, the City Council voted to direct the Peace and Justice Commission to develop the criteria for selection of Sister Cities; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 1991, the subcommittee made a recommendation to the Peace and Justice Commission who approved the recommended criteria;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that a Sister City proposal include the following: A) A description of the proposed sister city, township, or community; B) a list of similarities between Berkeley and the proposed sister community; C) an explanation of why this particular sister city should be selected by showing how it fits the below listed criteria.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the criteria used by the City Council to select a Sister City include the following: 1) The sister city relationship should benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture and education of the citizens of Berkeley; 2) New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment or curriculum enhancement should result from the relationship. 3) From these new opportunities, there should accrue direct benefits to the students of the Berkeley Unified School District; 4) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of Berkeley residents are committed to pursuing this relationship, and that such a group is also capable of representing Berkeley's interest in such a relationship; 5) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed sister city are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship; 6) There should be no direct nor indirect costs to the City of Berkeley; and 7) The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interests of the City.

Copies sent 9/17/91

To: Peace and Justice Commission

**RESOLUTION**

No. 56,069 N.S.

Dated September 10, 1991

Adopted by the Council of the City of Berkeley by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Chandler, Collignon, Dean, Goldfarb, Shirek, Skinner, Wainwright, Woodworth, and President Hancock.

Noes: None.

Abstaining: None.

Absent: None.

LONI HANCOCK  
Mayor and President of the Council

Attest MARIE MCKECHNIE  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council

