



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Nov 13, 2019 - City Commission Meeting
Category	13. POLICY FORMATION AND DIRECTION
Subject	13.13 Approval of Revisions to City Commission Policy 142, International and Sister City Relationships -- James O. Cooke, IV., City Treasurer-Clerk
Access	Public
Type	Action, Discussion
Recommended Action	Options 1, 2, and 3: Reauthorize City Commission Policy 142 as amended, providing for a five-year sunset review as is common with other City Commission policies; Deem relationships with Krasnodar, Ramat-Hasharon, Rugao, and Sligo to be inactive absent action by the respective Sister City Committees within 60 days; Direct staff to follow up with proper reports and documentation for the relationship with St. Maarten.

Public Content

For more information, please contact: Matt Lutz, Records Administrator at (850) 891-8130.

Statement of Issue

City Commission Policy 142, International and Sister City Relationships, established guidelines for the selection and recognition of sister city and other relationships between the City of Tallahassee and international cities. The policy was last revised in 2011. Under the Sunset review provision, the policy was repealed on July 6, 2014, because it had not been reauthorized by the City Commission. In order to establish and maintain sister city relationships in an organized fashion, it is recommended that the City Commission reauthorize the policy with changes as deemed appropriate. In addition, the City Commission needs to determine which relationships are inactive and which remain active.

Recommended Actions

Option 1: Reauthorize City Commission Policy 142 as amended, providing for a five-year sunset review as is common with other City Commission policies.

Option 2: Deem relationships with Krasnodar, Ramat-Hasharon, Rugao, and Sligo to be inactive absent action by the respective Sister City Committees within 60 days.

Option 3: Direct staff to follow up with proper reports and documentation for the relationship with St. Maarten.

Supplemental Material/Issue Analysis

History/Facts & Issues

The City of Tallahassee has shown interest in participation in relationships with sister cities around the world. Levels of participation have changed over time as have the cities with which Tallahassee has a relationship. From the time it formed its first sister city relationship in 1967, the City of Tallahassee has valued citizen participation in establishment and maintenance of these relationships. While there have been sister cities since 1967, the City Commission's first guiding policy was approved in 2001. Key measures to any relationship under City Commission Policy 142 include:

- Existence of a local Sister City Committee
- The Committee must have at least 15 members
- The Committee must provide evidence about its board of directors
- The Committee must provide evidence of its intent to file for not-for-profit status with the IRS
- The Committee must submit a proposal outlining its missions and goals. This proposal must be approved by the City Commission after review by the Mayor.
- An agreement is to be approved documenting the relationship between the City of Tallahassee and a prospective Sister City.

Prospective Sister Cities are to submit requests to the Office of the Mayor. The Office of the Mayor serves as the liaison between the cities if the request is approved by the City Commission. The Office of the Mayor is also responsible for matters of protocol in dealing with sister cities. Previously, City Commission Policy 142 provided for the Office of the Mayor to maintain related memorandums of understanding, resolutions, and proclamations and for the Office of the Mayor to request annual reports from each Sister City Committee. It is recommended that the Office of the Mayor continue to take the lead on such matters, and that the City Treasurer-Clerk maintain any such documentation in order to provide continuity of recordkeeping. Specifically, the Office of the Treasurer-Clerk will request, receive, and retain annual reports for those cities with active Sister City relationships under the policy. No changes are proposed to the existing policy regarding funding. Funding is to be provided by the Committees with no expenditures by the City of Tallahassee. While there has been a policy in place since 2001, relationships have often been more informal. Known relationships are described below:

- St. Maarten, Netherland Antilles is a relationship established in 1999. In November 2000, a trade mission visited St. Maarten. In 2009, a proclamation was issued for the 10-year anniversary of the St. Maarten relationship. In a July 10, 2013, update to city commission, St. Maarten was considered active. In November 2016, a St. Maarten delegation visited Tallahassee, and in 2019, the City recognized the relationship with St. Maarten at its October meeting.
- Ramat-Hasharon, Israel is a relationship established in 2006. A new agreement was signed in March 2006, following travel by a Tallahassee delegation to Israel in February 2006; the agreement was updated in January 2007. In a July 10, 2013, update to city commission, Ramat-Hasharon, Israel was deemed to be inactive effective October 30, 2013, unless a citizen committee were formed to keep it active. There has been no indication that the committee was formed; however, an Israeli delegation visited from Ramat-Hasharon on July 9, 2014.
- Krasnodar, Russia is a relationship established in 1984 with Resolution 88-R-0032 passed in 1988 inviting Krasnodar to officially become a sister city. In September 1988, Mayor Visconti traveled to Krasnodar and reached a final agreement. In 2006, Mayor Marks signed a renewal agreement with the Mayor of Krasnodar. In 2012, a visiting delegation from Krasnodar presented a proclamation to the City of Tallahassee. In a July 10, 2013, update to city commission, Krasnodar, Russia was considered active.
- Rugao, China is a relationship established in 2011 and approved by the City Commission. On November 9, an update was provided to the city commission on trade mission to Rugao. In a July 10, 2013, update to city commission, Rugao, China was considered active.
- Sligo, Ireland is a relationship established in 1995, and reaffirmed in 2005 via Resolution No. 05-R-21. In 2005, a Tallahassee delegation visited Ireland; an Irish delegation visited Tallahassee in April 2006. On March 10, 2010, a proclamation was issued for the 15-year anniversary of the Sligo relationship. In a July 10, 2013, update to city commission, Sligo, Ireland was considered active.
- Konongo-Odumasi, Ghana is a relationship established in May 2001. In a July 10, 2013, update to city commission, Konongo-Odumasi, Ghana was deemed to be inactive effective October 30, 2013, unless a citizen committee were formed to keep it active. There has been no indication that the committee was formed.
- Popayon, Columbia is a relationship formed in 1988 and dissolved in 1992.

Of the relationships described above, only St. Maarten appears to have had activity in the last five years.

Options:

1. Reauthorize City Commission Policy 142 as amended, providing for a five-year sunset review as is common with other City Commission policies.
2. Deem relationships with Krasnodar, Ramat-Hasharon, Rugao, and Sligo to be inactive absent action by the respective Sister City Committees within 60 days.
3. Direct staff to follow up with proper reports and documentation for the relationship with St. Maarten.
4. Provide alternate direction.

Attachments/References

City Commission 142 as proposed

[142 as proposed 111319.pdf \(80 KB\)](#)