



SISTER CITY UPDATE

Regular Meeting | February 3, 2026

Requested By: Councilmember Elizabeth Villafranca

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Purpose:

Facilitate Council discussion on reactivation and future scope of the Sister City Program

Background

- ❑ The existing Sister City program, → established in 1956, → to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation one community at a time.
- ❑ Council considered reactivation of the program at the prior council meeting and sought communication from partnering cities. Staff reached out to the existing Sister City locations to reactivate partnerships and pursue mutual business/economic development and cultural benefits, but to date, have received only a response from Bassetlaw expressing interest.
- ❑ The current approved budget for the program is set at \$20,000 per every five-year visitation.

Potential approaches for advancing the program:

- Use the sister city relationship to help **small and mid-sized firms** explore international markets with lower risk.
- Identify **1–3 priority industry sectors** shared by both cities (e.g., advanced manufacturing, logistics, life sciences, clean tech).
- Leverage universities, community colleges, and research institutions as anchors.

Possible Council Actions

- ☐ Reactivate the program in its current form
- ☐ Modify to prioritize cultural and business/economic development efforts to maximize return on investment.
- ☐ Table issue for further study or take no action



Questions



FARMERS BRANCH
TEXAS