

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 12-1384**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON,
APPROVING AND ADOPTING A SISTER CITIES
AFFILIATION POLICY**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Prosser desire to learn more about the people of other cultures, and to enhance international communication and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Prosser want to participate in an exchange of cultural, educational, economic, artistic, athletic, and governmental ideas and practices with the global community; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to provide the citizens of Prosser with an opportunity to act as a part of the global community and benefit from the exchange of relations; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to encourage trade and economic development between Prosser and its sister cities; and

WHEREAS, selection of a sister city affiliation shall be made in congruence to the Mission Statement of Prosser, so that a productive and mutually beneficial relationship occurs;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Prosser, Washington, that the Sister Cities Association Policy, as set forth on Attachment A is hereby approved and adopted, as the Sister Cities Association Policy of the City of Prosser.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Prosser, Washington, this 28th day of February 2012.

Paul Warden

Paul Warden, Mayor

Attest:

Rachel M. Shaw

Rachel Shaw, City Clerk



Approved as to form:

[Signature]

Howard Saxton, City Attorney

PROSSER SISTER CITIES POLICY

Section 1. Statement of Objectives.

The City of Prosser, Washington, seeks international relationships that enhance its citizens' understanding of other cultures. The City will support and encourage the establishment of the Prosser Sister Cities Association (PSCA), which serves the following objectives:

- A. To provide an opportunity for citizens to interact and exchange social, technical and educational ideas within the global community;
- B. To provide awareness of, and sensitivity to, cultural diversity;
- C. To share expertise in solving municipal problems; and
- D. To develop business and economic ties in Prosser and other parts of the world.

Section 2. Selection Guidelines.

To ensure that sister city affiliations reflect the community's interest and are managed effectively by the City of Prosser in partnership with PSCA to address the above goals and objectives, qualifications and compatibility of potential affiliations should consider the following:

- A. Sustainable community presence showing support and forming an organization willing to work closely with the City of Prosser;
- B. The city being considered shall have congruence in its own charter to the Mission and Vision Statement of the City of Prosser;
- C. Similarity in size, demographic characteristics, economy, historical development or proximity to a major urban center;
- D. A strong system of education or demonstrated commitment to serving the educational needs of its citizens.

Section 3. Guidelines for Conduct.

To assure that the Prosser Sister Cities Association Program reflects the interests of the community and works effectively with the City of Prosser, the volunteer organization and any requests for an affiliation through the Sister Cities program shall follow the guidelines listed below:

- A. The PSCA will be comprised of members of the community who have a variety of cultural and commercial interests in the success and continued operation of the program.
- B. The PSCA shall be a non-profit Washington incorporated organization that will be considered a separate entity from the City of Prosser.
- C. The process to become affiliated with the City of Prosser is as follows:

1. The PSCA is responsible for all requested Sister City relationships.
2. A request to establish a Sister City relationship must be made in writing to the PSCA by a sponsoring group or organization willing to make a long term commitment to the activities necessary for such relationship.
 - a. Requests must include a description of the petitioning City.
 - b. Requests must include a description of the sponsoring group.
3. The PSCA will review the submitted information on each nominated city as to its compatibility to the City of Prosser.
4. The PSCA will submit its recommendations to the Mayor. The Mayor will then review and present the nominated city to the City Council.
5. If approved, the City Council will then authorize a two-year trial period. The nominated city will be called a "Friendship City."
 - a. "Friendship City" means there is no formal structure to the city-to-city relationship and there are no formal obligations between the cities.
 - b. The two-year trial period is meant to provide both cities the opportunity to visit each other's cities to gauge compatibility and to determine if there is a long-term commitment from both cities to form a Sister City relationship.
6. Two months prior to expiration of the two-year trial period, the PSCA shall submit a trial period review memo to the Mayor, who within two months, shall make one of three recommendations to the City Council:
 - a. Continue the relationship with the nominated city as a "Friendship City."
 - b. Terminate the relationship with the nominated city.
 - c. Change the status of the nominated city from "Friendship City" to "Sister City."
7. The City Council upon approval of a change in status from "Friendship City" to "Sister City" shall formally recognize said status.

Section 4. Minimum Criteria for Retaining Status as an Active Sister City.

If the objectives outlines in the Policy are no longer being met for a period of two years of more based upon a review by the Mayor, the PSCA Board of Directors and sponsoring volunteer organization, the Mayor shall recommend one of the following alternatives:

- A. To change the status of the Sister City to a "Friendship City."
- B. To terminate the Sister City relationship; or
- C. To maintain the relationship with no changes.