



**CITY OF LOS ALTOS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 12, 2015**

CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item # 5

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution No. 2015-07, terminating the City's Sister City status with Shih Lin, Taiwan and direct the Mayor to send a letter to the Mayor of Shih Lin stating such

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Altos currently has four Sister Cities: Bendigo, Australia; Rustington, England; Shih Lin, Taiwan; and Syktyvkar, Russia. Los Altos Sister Cities, Inc. (LASCI) manages the Sister Cities program for the City of Los Altos. One Council member serves on the Board of LASCI.

In September 1992, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 1992-22 endorsing a de facto Sister City relationship with Shih Lin, Taipei, Taiwan.

EXISTING POLICY

Resolution No. 1992-22

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

None

DISCUSSION

Since the establishment of the Sister City relationship, representatives from both agencies have enjoyed numerous cultural exchanges. However, interest on both sides has waned in recent years and in 2014, unsuccessful attempts were made by members of LASCI to contact previously known associates in Shih Lin.

In January 2015, the LASCI Board of Directors determined that due to decreased interest by both parties, it would be best if the cities terminated the Sister City relationship. According to Sister Cities International, in order to make the termination official, the Mayor should write a letter to the Mayor of Shih Lin (Attachment 2).

PUBLIC CONTACT

The President of Los Altos Sister Cities, Inc. has received a copy of this report.

Posting of the meeting agenda serves as notice to the general public.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT

None

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 2015-xx, terminating the City's Sister City status with Shih Lin, Taiwan and direct the Mayor to send a letter to the Mayor of Shih Lin stating such

ALTERNATIVES

Do not terminate the City's Sister City status with Shih Lin, Taiwan

Prepared by: Jon Maginot, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No. 2015-xx
2. Draft letter from Mayor Pepper to Mayor Ko of Shih Lin

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-07

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS
ALTOS TERMINATING THE CITY'S SISTER CITY STATUS WITH
SHIH LIN, TAIWAN**

WHEREAS, in 1992 the City entered into a Sister City relationship with Shih Lin, Taipei, Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Los Altos Sister Cities, Inc. manages the Sister City program within the City of Los Altos; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Los Altos Sister Cities, Inc. has determined that, due to decreased interest by both parties, it is in the mutual interest of both Los Altos and Shih Lin to terminate the Sister City relationship.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby terminate its Sister City relationship with Shih Lin, Taipei, Taiwan and authorizes the Mayor to send a letter to the Mayor of Shih Lin stating the City's action.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the 12th day of May, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Janis C. Pepper, MAYOR

Attest:

Jon Maginot, CMC, CITY CLERK



**1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087**

May 12, 2015

The Honorable Ko Wen-Je
Mayor of Taipei City
Number 1 City Hall Road
Xinji District
Taipei City 11008
Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Mayor Ko,

During the spring of 1991 the City of Los Altos, California U.S.A., a member of Sister Cities International, entered into a friendly partnership with the Taipei Administrative District of Shih-Lin.

This partnership was effected through the social and cultural relationships that were enjoyed at that time between certain members of the Los Altos Sister Cities Inc. and certain Shih Lin residents who shared cultural as well as social interests in both the city of Los Altos and the Shih Lin business and residential area of Taipei.

Over a several year period, peaking at the beginning of the 21st Century, both Los Altos and Shih Lin residents enjoyed a number of cultural exchanges. These ranged from attending Double Ten celebrations in San Francisco, to cultural exchanges including the Los Altos choral group "Main Street Singers" visiting and performing in Shih Lin, and a women's choral group from Taipei performing in Los Altos.

Through numerous invitations over the years from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco, Los Altos Sister Cities members attended many Taiwanese celebrations here in the San Francisco Bay Area. Both parties also enjoyed some student exchanges over the years.

Members of Los Altos Sister Cities traveled to Taipei in March, September and October of 2014. During these travels, contacts were attempted with the previously known associates in Shih Lin District. However, neither telephone nor email contacts were successful.

The Los Altos Sister Cities organization Board of Directors met in January of 2015 and conducted an assessment of the relationship between Shih Lin and Los Altos. It was determined that, due to a decreased interest by both parties that it would be in our mutual best interest to terminate this Sister City relationship.

Sincerely,

Mayor Janis C. Pepper
City of Los Altos

ATTACHMENT 2