

ENCL: NO

**DARWIN CITY COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 5/8/09

**REPORT**

**TO:** COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING/OPEN

**APPROVED:**

**FROM:** A/GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY &  
CULTURAL SERVICES

**APPROVED:** KC

**REPORT NO:** 09C0133 AF:kl

**APPROVED:** AF

**COMMON NO:**

**SUBJECT:** REPORT ON THE PROSPECT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
FRIENDSHIP CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONOLULU AND  
DARWIN

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**ITEM NO:**

**SYNOPSIS:**

This report provides an update to Council regarding the prospect of a Friendship City relationship between Council and the City of Honolulu.

**PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 31 March 2009**

<b><u>Status on Friendship City Relationship with Honolulu</u></b>				
<b><u>Hawaii - March 2009</u></b>				
Report No. 09C0042 SF:kl (06/03/09) Common No. 1071899				
A. THAT Report Number 09C0042 entitled, Status on Friendship City Relationship with Honolulu, Hawaii – March 2009, be received and noted.				
B. THAT it be recommended to Council that a Bombing of Darwin Committee be established and that a Report be prepared detailing potential terms of reference.				
DECISION NO.20\1355 (31/03/09)				

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**Sister Cities Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 10 February 2005**

**Status of Relationship with Honolulu, USA**

Report No.05C0005 AB:kl (28/01/05) Internal Ref No.289841

**COMMITTEE'S DECISION**

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority that Report Number 05C0005 entitled Status Of Relationship with Honolulu, USA, be received and noted.

DECISION NO.19\1092 (10/02/05)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 27 July 2004**

**Honolulu Friendship City Relationship – Consideration of Placement Within Council**

Report No.04C0194 LMG:kl (05/07/04) Internal Ref No.289841

- A. THAT Report Number 04C0194 LMG:kl entitled Honolulu Friendship City Relationship – Consideration of Placement within Council, be received and noted.
- B. THAT Council:
- i. Seek to clarify the terms of the establishment of the reciprocal friendship relationship with Honolulu.
  - ii. resolve that the administration of the Friendship with Honolulu if and when established, be managed by the Sister Cities Management Committee.

DECISION NO.19\226 (27/07/04)

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**Sister Cities Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 May 2004**

**Friendship City – Honolulu Hawaii**

*In relation to Item 8.1 of the Previous Notes.*

**COMMITTEE'S DECISION**

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority that a report be prepared on the background of the establishment of the Friendship Agreement with the City of Honolulu.

DECISION NO.18\6809 (18/05/04)

**Informal Sister Cities Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 15 April 2004**

**Friendship City – Honolulu Hawaii**

Internal Ref No. 289841

*The Council requested that the following Decision be referred to the Sister Cities Management Committee for information.*

**Decision No.18\6595 (30/03/04)**

- A. *THAT Council notes the brief verbal report from Alderman R Lesley on her visit with the City and County of Honolulu.*
- B. *THAT Council endorse the achievement the status of a "Friendship City" between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Darwin.*
- C. *THAT the Lord Mayor write to Mayor Jeremy Harris acknowledging the relationship, thanking him for the gift of the book and extending an invitation to meet to discuss opportunities of mutual benefit.*
- D. *THAT the Decision be referred to the Sister Cities Management Committee for information.*

**COMMITTEE'S DECISION**

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority that the Councils decision to endorse a Friendship Agreement with the County of Honolulu, be noted with surprise and that the Committee express the hope that future such actions be within the Councils approved policy and framework for establishing Sister Cities relationships.

DECISION NO.18\6709 (15/04/04)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 30 March 2004**

**Friendship City – Honolulu Hawaii**

Internal Ref No. 289841

- A. THAT Council notes the brief verbal report from Alderman R Lesley on her visit with the City and County of Honolulu.
- B. THAT Council endorse the achievement the status of a "Friendship City" between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Darwin.
- C. THAT the Lord Mayor write to Mayor Jeremy Harris acknowledging the relationship, thanking him for the gift of the book and extending an invitation to meet to discuss opportunities of mutual benefit.
- D. THAT the Decision be referred to the Sister Cities Management Committee for information.

DECISION NO.18\6595 (30/03/04)

The following extract from the Sister City Handbook clarifies the difference between a Sister City and Friendship City:

**ESTABLISHMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF NEW RELATIONSHIPS**

1. Council has adopted a two-tier level of affiliations with cities and towns seeking sister city status with Darwin:
  - i. Sister City relationships  
which provide a formal agreement to develop and maintain a substantial program with mutual long-term benefits.
  - ii. Friendship links  
consisting of a less formal arrangement with less administrative and financial expectation, which may be appropriate in meeting short term needs and supporting programs run by other sections of the community.
2. Prior to formalising a sister city agreement, Darwin City Council will enter into a friendship relationship to explore the potential benefits.
3. Friendship agreements are to be reviewed on an annual basis at which time any decision to upgrade the affiliation to that of a sister city relationship or to discontinue the affiliation may be made based on actual program outcomes.

4. The consideration of new sister cities will be based on an assessment of historical links, cultural, social, economic and educational benefits for the city which may flow from the identified relationship.
5. Existing relationships will be reviewed every five years based on the above criteria to ensure relevance in view of global change and to ensure that the original objectives are still appropriate and achievable.
6. Sister City relationships may be re-classified to become friendship links if sustainability is no longer a viable reality.
7. No more than one Sister City and one Friendship affiliation will be established with any one country, except in exceptional circumstances.
8. Potential Sister City relationships only be explored once mutual interest has been established between Darwin City Council and the municipal authority of the complementary city.

## **SISTER CITIES CRITERIA**

The following are factors to consider in choosing or reviewing a sister city or friendship relationship.

1. General
  - i. Population and demographics (nationals of one Sister City residing in the other)
  - ii. Geographic location and assets (e.g. Port, Frontier)
  - iii. Ease of access
  - iv. Comparison of key industries
  - v. Existing linkages (e.g. student exchanges)
  - vi. Relevance to local community
  - vii. History of diplomatic relations and/or cooperation in political, economic, commercial and cultural fields
2. Economic
  - i. Similar economic conditions
  - ii. Trade and investment climates and opportunities
  - iii. Tourism potential's
3. Social
  - i. Similar social infrastructure and issues
  - ii. Opportunity for broad based activity
  - iii. People to people interest, energy and commitment

4. Educational

- i. Across economic, social and environmental issues
- ii. Student / teacher exchange programs
- iii. University linkages

5. In considering the above factors, it is necessary to compare not only the similarities, but the potential for these similarities to provide mutual benefit within the existing scope and limitations of the program.

6. Existing relationships are also assessed against

- i. Level of communication with sister city
- ii. History, outcomes to date, benefits seen
- iii. Current and proposed projects

*DECISION NO 194604 (12/06/07)*

It should be noted that, following a restructure of the Sister City Program, Sister City matters are reported to Council via the Community and Cultural Services Committee.

**GENERAL:**

**BACKGROUND**

In 2004 Council received an invitation from Honolulu to become a Friendship City. There was a subsequent change in Elected Members in both Darwin and Honolulu and the Sister City Committee at that time did not pursue the matter further.

A visit by a delegation in 2007, including the Lord Mayor, was very positively received by Honolulu. During the visit the delegation met with the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, the Australian Consulate General, senior US military personnel and a veteran of the Pearl Harbour raid.

During the visit the delegation raised the prospect of US participation in the Bombing of Darwin commemoration which was received positively and established the groundwork for the possibility of a Friendship City relationship given shared military histories.

**CURRENT**

Alderman Lesley has indicated an interest in visiting Honolulu in November this year to progress linkages. In view of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Darwin in 2012, Alderman Lesley's proposed visit to Honolulu in November could be viewed as a good an opportunity to progress discussions and negotiations with both the military and the local government in relation to these two objectives.

Aside from shared military histories, Darwin and Honolulu also share a raft of themes including Indigenous matters, tourism and sub-tropicality which could add to the pertinence of developing a Friendship City relationship between the two cities.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS:**

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the Darwin City Council 2008 – 2012 as outlined in the 'Evolving Darwin Strategic Directions: Towards 2020 and Beyond':-

**Goal**

6 Promote Brand Darwin

**Outcome**

6.2 Promote our Darwin city

**Key Strategies**

6.2.1 Promote Darwin's history, particularly its WWII experiences

**Goal**

6 Promote Brand Darwin

**Outcome**

6.2 Promote our Darwin city

**Key Strategies**

6.2.4 Strengthen international relationships through Sister Cities and other activities

**Goal**

6 Promote Brand Darwin

**Outcome**

6.2 Promote our Darwin city

**Key Strategies**

6.2.5 Facilitate joint visits and delegations with business, government and the community to promote Darwin

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

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**PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

**COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

**DELEGATION:**

Nil

**CONSULTATION:**

Nil

**PROPOSED PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS:**

Nil

**APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE**

Nil



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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT it be a recommendation to Council:-

- A. THAT Report Number 09C0133 AF:kl entitled Report on the Prospect of the Development of a Friendship City Relationship Between Honolulu and Darwin, be received and noted.
- B. THAT Council write to the City of Honolulu to advance past discussions in relation to the formation of a Friendship City Relationship.
- C. THAT Council endorse Alderman Lesley's trip to the City of Honolulu to advance matters relating to the development of a Friendship City relationship and the Commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin, utilising her Professional Development Allowance.

**ANNIE FARRELL**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**KAREN CONWAY**  
**A/GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY**  
**& CULTURAL SERVICES**

Any queries on this report may be directed to Annie Farrell on 8930 0404