



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 14, 2025 - City Commission Meeting
Category	8. CONSENT
Subject	8.15 Sunset Review of City Commission Policy 142, International and Sister City Relationships -- James O. Cooke, IV, City Treasurer-Clerk
Access	Public
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	Adopt Options 1 & 2 -- Option 1: Reauthorize City Commission Policy 142, as amended; Option 2: Abolish the relationship with the four inactive sister cities.

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 November 2019. It is now due for a periodic review under the Sunset Review provision. In order to continue existing Sister City relationships and provide governance thereof, it is recommended that the City Commission reauthorize the policy.

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 formal 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 Tallahassee Sister Cities since 1967, the City Commission's first guiding policy was approved in 1990, originally identified as Administrative Policy 303, which was later renumbered as City Commission Policy 142. In the late 1990s, the focus of the program shifted from friendship and international good will to promoting relationships that would foster greater economic benefit to Tallahassee via economic and community development, international trade, and cultural and educational activities.

At this time, the City has only one remaining active Sister City partnership with St. Maarten, located in the Netherlands Antilles (Lesser Antilles islands in the Caribbean, approximately 190 miles east of Puerto Rico). This relationship dates to September 1999.

A July 2011 amendment to Policy 142 provided for declaring relationships "inactive" if a local grass-roots committee ceased to be active and did not submit an annual report to the City Treasurer-Clerk. Since that provision was enacted, five Sister City programs transitioned to inactive status, one of which was abolished in 2022. During a period of inactivity, a sister city can return to active status by meeting the requirements set forth in the policy.

Formerly, Tallahassee had active relationships with the following cities:

- Popayon, Columbia (1967-1985) (abolished 1992)
- Krasnodar, Russia (1984-2019; abolished 2022)
- Sligo, Ireland (1995-2019; inactive)
- Konongo-Odumasi, Ghana (2001-2013; inactive)
- Ramat-Hasharon, Israel (2006-2019; inactive)
- Rugao, China (2011-2019; inactive)

Staff's recommendation is to reauthorize and continue City Commission Policy 142, and to formally abolish the relationships with the four cities which have remained in inactive status for more than 5 years (Sligo, Ireland; Konongo-Odumasi, Ghana; Ramat-Hasharon, Israel; and Rugao, China).

Options

Option 1: Reauthorize City Commission Policy 142, as amended.

Option 2: Abolish the relationship with the four inactive sister cities.

Option 3: Provide other direction.

Attachments/References

Attachment 1 - Draft City Commission Policy 142

[Attachment 1_ Policy 142 as proposed 051425.pdf \(218 KB\)](#)