

**STAFF REPORT****City Council**

**Meeting Date:** 5/3/2016  
**Staff Report Number:** 16-077-CC

**Consent Calendar:** **Authorize the Mayor to sign a Sister City Agreement between the City of Menlo Park and City of Galway, Ireland**

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the language for the Sister City Agreement between the City of Menlo Park and the City of Galway, Ireland.

**Policy Issues**

This recommendation is consistent with prior action of the Council to develop opportunities for cultural exchange and mutual economic benefit with foreign city governments as outlined below. It is also consistent with the Economic Development Plan Goals: *1. Diversify and Growing City Revenue Sources* and *7. Enhance Cultural and Arts Offerings*.

**Background**Galway

In 2013, the City in partnership with the Community Organization Two Menlos, investigated and developed a friendship agreement between the City of Menlo Park and the City of Galway, Ireland. The Friendship Agreement was signed by former Mayor Peter Ohtaki and former Galway Mayor Padraig Conneely on October 17, 2013. Over the last two and a half years there have been multiple visits of representatives from Galway to Menlo Park and of representatives of Menlo Park to Galway. As a result of the strengthening relationship the Galway City Council took action to expand the relationship with the City of Menlo Park to a sister/twinning cities relationship on September 14, 2015.

Sister City and Friendship Committee

On November 17, 2015, the City Council voted to establish the Menlo Park Sister City and Friendship Committee and directed staff join Sister Cities International and draft a Sister City Agreement between the City of Menlo Park and the City of Galway, Ireland. On April 12, 2016, the City Council appointed three residents and two business leaders to serve on the Committee.

Agreement with Galway

Staff has worked with staff from the City of Galway to develop language for a Sister City Agreement (Attachment A).

### **Analysis**

Mayor Rich Cline will be traveling on business and has planned to attend a signing ceremony on May 19<sup>th</sup> with Mayor Frank Fahy in order to formalize the Sister City Agreement. Staff will make any revisions to the Sister City Agreement that Council approves and provide two revised copies for Mayor Cline to bring with him to Galway.

### **Impact on City Resources**

The Fiscal Year 2015-16 City Budget allocated funding to support the City Council's efforts to develop friendship agreements with foreign cities. Staff will bring forward any additional necessary funding requests through the Fiscal Year 2016-17 City Budget process.

### **Environmental Review**

This action is not a project under CEQA.

### **Public Notice**

Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

### **Attachments**

A. Draft Sister City Agreement Between the City of Menlo Park and the City of Galway, Ireland

Report prepared by:

Jim Cogan, Economic Development and Housing Manager

**An Agreement****Between the City of Galway, Republic of Ireland and the City of Menlo Park in the State of California, United States of America.**

The City of Menlo Park in the State of California, United States of America, is represented by the Honourable Mayor Rich Cline and the City of Galway in the Republic of Ireland is represented by the Honourable Mayor Frank Fahy; and

Whereas, the cities of Menlo Park and Galway share a historical bond that dates back over 150 years when two Galway-men, Dennis J. Oliver and Daniel C. McGlynn, from the village of Menlo in the city of Galway, travelled to California and purchased a ranch they named Menlo Park; and

Whereas, a joint interest in establishing a protocol of friendship guided by the desire to establish friendly relations and cooperation between the cities of Galway and Menlo Park, which reflects the interests and efforts of our governments to strengthen friendly relations and cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and the United States of America; and

Whereas, friendship and cooperation between Galway City and Menlo Park will contribute to the development and strengthening of relations between our two countries; to the consolidation of peace all over the world; and to the growth and improvement of humanity; and

Whereas, the mutual interests of the citizens of Galway City and Menlo Park towards each other's life and culture, manifested in the representative bodies of the Galway City Council and the Menlo Park City Council, in the efforts of friendship and cooperation, have decided and agreed to the following;

**ARTICLE 1**

The present agreement is designed to determine the main spheres of cooperation and exchange between Menlo Park and Galway City, within the framework of existing relations between our countries and with the purpose of enriching them and giving them a more lively and dynamic character, taking into account all of the values of life and interests of both cities, thereby increasing mutual respect and regard for the shared history, customs and ways of life of each city.

**ARTICLE 2**

In order to implement the present Agreement, Galway City and Menlo Park will develop an appropriate program of cooperation and exchanges. Under the Program of Cooperation and Exchanges, Galway City and Menlo Park agree to implement an ongoing, substantive exchange of both information and representatives in the fields of culture, economy, education and scholarship, history, science, sports, tourism, community life and the activities of the respective City Councils and their various departments. Menlo Park and Galway City agree that these exchanges may take various forms, including bilateral meetings, celebrations, concerts and performances, exchanges of exhibitions, films, literature and other articles of culture, collaboration between educational institutions, joint research and economic projects, professional seminars, tour groups, and official delegations.

### **ARTICLE 3**

To encourage the broadest possible participation of the citizens of Galway City and Menlo Park in the activities outlined in the present Agreement, each city shall endeavour to:

- a) Promote a positive atmosphere of cooperation and mutual understanding, encourage the participation of the broadest spectrum of the population in Sister City exchanges, and foster a free and open exchanges of ideas, values and experiences.
- b) Encourage free contact between groups and individuals of the two cities, within the framework of the present Agreement.
- c) Regularly inform the citizens of their respective cities and each other about Sister City activities, and promote and exchange print and broadcast media reports on Sister City activities in both cities.

### **ARTICLE 4**

Galway City and Menlo Park agree that, in order to implement the present Agreement, each city will work with the representatives of a recognized association, commission or non-profit organization to:

- a) Develop and manage the proposed Programs of Cooperation and Exchanges.
- b) Act as official representation for their respective City Council in the facilitation of the ongoing aspects of the Sister City relationship, and periodically report to them.

### **ARTICLE 5**

The present Agreement shall come into effect after its adoption by the City Council of the City of Galway and by the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, and shall be deemed in effect on May 19, 2016 and shall remain in effect thenceforth.

In confirmation thereof, we have signed this Agreement today, in two copies both being identical and equally valid.

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Frank Fahy  
Mayor  
City of Galway

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Rich Cline  
Mayor  
City of Menlo Park