



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of October 15, 2019

DATE: October 15, 2019

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Arlene Medrano, Business Liaison
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Invitation to Linz, Austria to Become Sister City of Corpus Christi, Texas

CAPTION:

Resolution inviting the City of Linz, Austria to become a Sister City of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas.

SUMMARY:

The attached resolution extends a formal invitation from the City of Corpus Christi to the City of Linz, Austria to become Sister Cities.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Corpus Christi's Sister City Program was founded on October 18, 1962. The City of Corpus Christi has established affiliations with seven cities as follows:

1962	Yokosuka, Japan
1986	Veracruz, Mexico
1987	Keelung, Taiwan
1989	Toledo, Spain
1993	Monterrey, Mexico
1996	Agen, France
2008	Playa Del Carmen, Mexico

Representatives of Linz, Austria have expressed interest in establishing a Sister City relationship between the cities of Corpus Christi and Linz.

The third-largest city in Austria and capital of the state of Upper Austria, Linz is located in the north center of Austria, approximately 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of the Czech border, on both sides of the Danube River. The population is approximately 210,000. Linz is home to the voestalpine group, an international steel-based technology and capital good group which brought \$1 billion in investment to the Corpus Christi area. While undoubtedly an important economic center in Austria, in recent years Linz has gained a

reputation in the world of culture and the performing arts, particularly along its riverfront 'Cultural Mile' (Kulturmeile). Linz earned the prestigious title of European Capital of Culture 2009, which created a boost to tourism in the area.

The City's Sister City Committee believes a Sister City relationship between our two cities would be mutually beneficial in the areas of economic development, tourism and cultural enhancement. Becoming a Sister City with Linz would also allow for the opportunity to create a technological exchange. With its voestalpine group subsidiary, voestalpine Texas, and with other steel industry plant projects recently being announced in the area such as SDI in Sinton, pursuing a Sister City relationship will continue to strengthen the Steel Industry development in the Corpus Christi area. Furthermore, our current sister city of Monterrey, Mexico, also has a very active steel industry. This would permit for an even greater opportunity to create partnerships and exchanges of ideas and technology to further economic development in the three cities.

If the Council approves the resolution as recommended, then the next steps would be:

- Mayor Joe McComb would send an invitation letter to the Mayor of Linz, Austria along with the Resolution;
- The Honorable Klaus Luger, SPÖ, Mayor from Linz, Austria, would send a letter of confirmation to Corpus Christi Mayor Joe McComb;
- The Sister City Committees of both cities will work on a Sister City Agreement between Linz, Austria and Corpus Christi, Texas;
- Work on Logistics for the Signing Ceremony in Corpus Christi (place, date and times of events); and
- Sister City Committee sets up meetings with Sister Cities Counterparts - Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development and Tourism offices - to explore future opportunities that will benefit both communities.

ALTERNATIVES:

An alternative is to not establish a Sister City relationship with Linz, Austria.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Funding Detail:

Fund:	Not Applicable
Organization/Activity:	Not Applicable
Mission Element:	Not Applicable
Project # (CIP Only):	Not Applicable
Account:	Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION:

The City's Sister City Committee recommends approval of the Sister City designation for Linz, Austria.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution