

Tarpon Springs Sister Cities Program Procedures

Sister Cities Definition (Sister Cities International Website):

A Sister City relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. Sister City relationships provide mutual benefits to communities far beyond traditional exchanges. Sister City relationships enable communities to realize and strengthen cultural and historical bonds, education, and collaboratively tackle emerging issues.

Introduction

In 1979, the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 79-28. This resolution authorized the City Manager to execute all documents necessary in order to join the National Sister City Program with the intent to establish cultural exchange with an affiliate City in the nation of Greece in order to reflect the special relationship between the nation of Greece and the City of Tarpon Springs. On April 19, 1983, the City named all twelve Dodecanese Islands as Sister Cities for consideration.

The Sister City Committee was not formed until 2001, and became a 501 C (3) non-profit organization in 2003 to allow for fundraising. The Sister City Committee is a volunteer group of citizens who, with the support of the local elected officials, formed a long-term relationship with people and organizations in cities abroad. Committee members play an important role in developing and forming international relationships that bring a positive influence on education, culture and economic development, which is vital for the economy.

The program has also contributed multiple educational opportunities in Tarpon Springs. Partnerships with the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture brought forth the Hellenic Studies Program at St. Petersburg College in Tarpon Springs and an educational exchange between the children of Tarpon Springs Elementary School and Plato Academy of Tarpon Springs.

Sister Cities Mission/Goals: (Also see attached by-laws)

Mission: The Sister Cities main mission is to promote and exchange cultural, education, and economic development.

Goals:

- Develop partnerships between selected world cities and the City of Tarpon Springs.
- Create opportunities for the Citizens of the City of Tarpon Springs to experience and explore other cultures through long-term partnerships.
- Create an atmosphere in which Economic Development and trade can be explored, implemented and strengthened.
- Open a dialogue and address issues ranging from the cultural, technical, municipal, medical, environment, and education and beyond.

Our Sister Cities:

The City of Tarpon Springs currently has seven Sister Cities partnerships. Those sister cities include:

- Kalymnos, Greece
- Halki, Greece
- Symi, Greece
- Larnica, Cyprus
- Chania, Greece
- Hydra, Greece
- Iliada, Greece

Selection of a Sister City:

Initiation of Sister City Partnership

- Two mayors or city officials meet, discover common interests and then encourage their communities to initiate exchange, or
- A community leader (Mayor or city official) sends or receives a letter requesting that a partnership be formed, or
- A group (service club or ethnic association) or individual in the community with a particular interest in a region, culture, economic market or development issue lobby their elected officials to initiate exchange.

Acceptance process:

- The requested sister city is first brought before the Sister City Committee to evaluate similarities in common such as population; size; geography; historical connection; previous collaboration by other organizations; or similar names and similar industries or exports.
- The Sister Cities Committee decides whether the proposal for a new sister city meets the **program's established criteria; and if it does, then** makes a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for ratification.
- Resolution brought before the Board of Commissioners authorizing partnership with selected Sister City.
- Mayor sends letter notifying new Sister City of their acceptance.
- **Sister Cities Committee with the assistance of the City Clerk's and Mayor's** Office begin to plan and schedule the ceremonial twinning after relationship has been formed and approved.

Formalization process:

- **The Sister Cities Committee with the assistance of the City Clerk's and Mayor's** Office prepare for delegation visiting. All expenses paid by the City are first approved by the Board of Commissioners prior to being expensed.
- **The City Clerk's Office prepares official Sister City agreement** for execution and plans official program for the twinning event.

OVERVIEW

Budget: The City of Tarpon Springs has budgeted \$ 20,000 towards the Sister Cities Program in its 2020-2021 budget. This was the first time funds have ever been budgeted. These budgeted funds do not mean they would have to be expended; however, the budget would be re-evaluated every year.

These City budgeted funds may be used for:

- Annual dues (Sister City International)
- Visiting dignitary hotel expense (if no sponsorship)
- Official Twinning/or City Lunch/Dinner honoring visiting Sister City guest
- Travel and other expenses for City representative(s) visiting Sister Cities
- Promotional/welcome materials
- Dignitary Gifts

All City expenses for City budgeted funds must be approved by the Board of Commissioners prior to expensing. Once expensed, the invoice must then be signed off by the City Manager prior to payment to ensure that the expense was approved by the Board of Commissioners. The invoice is then forwarded to the Finance Department for payment and recording to the Sister Cities Project number.

Protocol for Visiting Sister Cities: The Mayor sends out an invitation officially inviting the selected Sister City to visit. The City of Tarpon Springs is responsible to pay for one hotel room for a week for the visiting Mayor or representative during that visit, unless sponsorships are received. All other visiting members of the delegation would be responsible to pay for their own lodging, unless there are sponsorships to cover this or invited as a guest of a host family.

Protocol for City Visits to a Sister City: The City of Tarpon Springs delegation (Mayor or representative) should travel to one of the selected Sister Cities once every three years **if possible**. Usually the Sister City visited, covers lodging cost for the week for the Mayor or representative. The City of Tarpon Springs covers airfare for the Mayor or representative while on an official visit and would cover cost for lodging if it were not covered by the host City. Airfare and lodging could be covered for additional delegation if requested and approved by the Board of Commissioners, otherwise, the delegation would pay for their own expense. Upon return from the official visit, a report by the Mayor or representative would be made to the Board of Commissioners on the trip and accomplishments.

Gifts to visiting/visited Sister Cities: The City of Tarpon Springs greets visiting delegation with a welcome bag for each delegate. Items included are such things like: a welcome letter, maps, city information and trinkets. Official gifts are determined by the Mayor with the assistance of the Sister City Committee, **City Clerk's or Mayor's office**, and approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Community Partners

- Advent Health North Pinellas
- St. Petersburg College (Tarpon Springs)
- Plato Academy Charter Schools
- Pinellas County School District
- Kalymnian Society
- Halki Society
- Symian Society
- Cyprian Society



OFFICE OF
MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

324 E. Pine Street
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
Telephone (727) 938-3711
FAX (727) 937-8199

MEMORANDUM

TO: JACOB KARR, VICE MAYOR
TOWNSEND TARAPANI, COMMISSIONER
CONNOR DONOVAN, COMMISSIONER
COSTA VATIKIOTIS, COMMISSIONER

FROM: CHRIS ALAHOUZOS, MAYOR

DATE: JULY 27, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the purchase of gifts which include a flag, crystal plate, and sponge diver statue for each of our new Sister Cities (Chania, Hydra, and Ilida).

BACKGROUND: Attached are photos showing standard gifts that have been presented to our current Sister Cities. I am requesting your approval to purchase and present these same gifts at the twinning of our new Sister Cities of Chania, Hydra, and Ilida.





31958 US 19 North
 Palm Harbor, FL 34684
 (727) 786-7446

ESTIMATE

E-9862

www.signsbytomorrow.com/palmharbor/

Created Date: 4/2/2021

DESCRIPTION: Tarpon flag

Bill To: City of Tarpon Springs
 324 E PineStreet
 Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
 US

Pickup At: Signs By Tomorrow - Palm Harbor
 324 E PineStreet
 Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
 US

Requested By: Nick Makris
 Email: nmakris@ctsfl.us
 Cell Phone: (727) 942-5638

Salesperson: Hunter Kennedy
 Email: hunter@sbtpalmharborfl.com
 Entered By: Hunter Kennedy

NO.	Product Summary	QTY	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
1	Flag 5x8 single sided	1	\$190.67	\$190.67
1.1	Stock Sign - Part Qty: 1 Sides: 1 Text: -QTY 1 -single sided print bleed through -5'hx8'w -grommets left side and hemmed white background logo centered			
2	Flag 5x8 double sided	1	\$266.57	\$266.57
2.1	Stock Sign - Part Qty: 1 Sides: 1 - Retail Price: \$0.00 Text: -QTY 1 -double sided -5'hx8'w -grommets left side and hemmed white background logo centered			
3	Flag 4x8 single sided	1	\$160.41	\$160.41



In the spirit of
friendship and goodwill,
the Sister Cities of
Tarpon Springs, Florida
present this gift to
our Sister City of
Halki, Greece.

Jan 9 2010



Corporate Crystal Wreath Plate

These Corporate Crystal Wreath Plates come with a matching crystal base and are ideal to recognize the ultimate in achievement. A wreath design runs along the outside of the plate that frames the center area for your personalization needs. With a choice of 3 plate sizes, 6" X 5 7/8", 7 1/2" X 7" and 8 1/2" X 7 3/4" these crystal wreath plates will be a hit. All crystal awards can be lasered or sandblasted for personalization. A handsome blue presentation box is also included with these items. Imagine the expression of the person when they see their name on one of these impressive awards.

Customization Options
[Include Logo?](#)

Production lead time for this award is 6 days.



Share this Award:



Prod #	Description	1-9	10-24	25-49	
PD94306	Wreath Plate - 6" X 5 7/8"	\$53.72	\$51.03	\$48.35	Add To Cart
PD94307	Wreath Plate - 7 1/2" X 7"	\$64.57	\$61.34	\$58.11	Add To Cart
PD94308	Wreath Plate - 8 1/2" X 7 3/4"	\$75.97	\$72.17	\$68.37	Add To Cart

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\$73.00



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MEMORANDUM

TO: JACOB KARR, VICE MAYOR
TOWNSEND TARAPANI, COMMISSIONER
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COSTA VATIKIOTIS, COMMISSIONER

FROM: CHRIS ALAHOUZOS, MAYOR

DATE: JULY 27, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: To approve airline ticket from Tampa, Florida to Athens, Greece and back as presented and approve that additional transportation travel expenses from Athens to the Sister Cities, along with cost of lodging/or other cost that could occur be approved if not covered by the host City.

BACKGROUND: Currently I am presenting the airline ticket for approval for my travel from Tampa, Florida to Athens, Greece. Additionally, there would be travel expenses from Athens to Chania, Hydra, and Iliada; however, I have been advised that travel schedules and rates at this time are not available. Due to that, I am requesting authority to book and pay for these charges when determined. In addition, I am asking to have your approval to place items such as lodging or other cost that could occur on my purchasing card if not cover by the host city, in which I would bring back receipts.

Traveler **Chrisostomos John Alahouzos**

General Information

- \$1493.99 WITH ONE CHECKED BAG

Ecological information

Calculated average CO2 emission is 1,101.50 kg/person

Source: ICAO Carbon Emissions Calculator

<http://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CarbonOffset/Pages/default.aspx>

Data Protection Notice: Your personal data will be processed in accordance with the applicable carrier's privacy policy and, if your booking is made through a reservation system provider ("GDS"), with its privacy policy. These are available at <http://www.iatatravelcenter.com/privacy> or from the carrier or GDS directly. You should read this documentation, which applies to your booking and specifies, for example, how your personal data is collected, stored, used, disclosed and transferred. (applicable for interline carriage).