

**3.7 Shenzhen Sister City Affiliation. – DEFERRED; RECOMMEND DEFERRAL TO 3/26/2024**

**Recommendation:**

As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on February 21, 2024:

- (a) Approve a Sister City affiliation with Shenzhen, China; and
- (b) Work with the Mayor’s Office to identify non-profit community partners that can help provide fundraising and community building capacity for the Sister City relationship.

CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organizational and Administrative activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment. (Mayor, Kamei, and Foley)

[Rules Committee referral 2/21/2024 - Item C.2]

**DEFERRED TO 4/9/2024 PER ADMINISTRATION**

**RECOMMEND DEFERRAL TO 3/26/2024 PER ADMINISTRATION**



**COUNCIL AGENDA:** 3/5/2024  
**ITEM:** 3.7  
**FILE NO:** 24-73498

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Toni J. Taber, CMC  
City Clerk

**SUBJECT: SEE BELOW**

**DATE:** March 5, 2024

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**SUBJECT: Shenzhen Sister City Affiliation**

**Recommendation**

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- (a) Approve a Sister City affiliation with Shenzhen, China; and
- (b) Work with the Mayor's Office to identify non-profit community partners that can help provide fundraising and community building capacity for the Sister City relationship.

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[Rules Committee referral 2/21/2024 - Item C.2]



# Memorandum

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**TO:** RULES AND OPEN  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Mayor Matt Mahan  
Vice Mayor Rosemary Kamei  
Councilmember Pam Foley

**SUBJECT:** Shenzhen Sister City Affiliation

**DATE:** February 15, 2024

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Approved

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Direct the City Manager's Office to:

1. Return to Council on March 5, 2024 with a recommendation to approve a Sister City affiliation with Shenzhen, China and,
2. Work with the Mayor's Office to identify non-profit community partners that can help provide fundraising and community building capacity for the Sister City relationship.

**BACKGROUND:**

California is home to more than 2 million Chinese Americans - more than any other state - with more than seventy-five thousand Chinese Americans in San José alone. California and China's economies generate \$166 billion in trade activity with each other, making China California's largest trading partner. San José has also seen significant investment from Chinese companies such as ByteDance that have created hundreds of local jobs.

Governor Gavin Newsom visited China in October of 2023 to strengthen relationships and forge cooperative partnerships on issues from climate action to economic development and tourism. After that visit, the Governor's Office reached out directly to the Mayor's Office to encourage a sister city relationship between San José and Shenzhen.

Located in the Chinese province of Guangdong, Shenzhen is a fast-growing city with over 17.5 million people. Like San José, Shenzhen is known for innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, a robust high tech and startup industry, and manufacturing.

Establishing a Sister City relationship with Shenzhen presents a tremendous opportunity to build educational, cultural, and economic ties that will benefit both cities. With our educational, community, and corporate partners, we can focus on sharing knowledge, creating jobs, and spurring investment in both cities. Because San José's Chinese American community supports stronger relationships with China, we believe a local or regional non-profit could help shoulder the cost and logistical effort needed to sustain a Sister City relationship.

*The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.*

## Fwd: Sister City

Quevedo, Matthew <Matthew.Quevedo@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 2/21/2024 9:22 AM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Rocha, Vincent <Vincent.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov>

I received a letter of support regarding the Sister City item on today's agenda.

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**From:** c lin [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:03:32 AM

**To:** Quevedo, Matthew <Matthew.Quevedo@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Sister City

[External Email]

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Councilmembers, the Sister Cities program is about building people to people relationships all across the world. Shenzhen is known as the Silicon Valley of China and would be a great match for San Jose to build cultural, educational, and economic ties. I believe in the mission of the the Sister City program to promote peace, understanding, and cooperation, one community at a time.

Therefore I support the memo from Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Kamei, and Councilmember Foley to establish a Sister City affiliation between San Jose, CA and Shenzhen China. Thank you.

Chin Lin

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