




CITY OF CLEARWATER

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TO: Mayor George Cretekos, Vice Mayor Hoyt Hamilton, Councilmember Doreen Caudell, Councilmember Dr. Bob Cundiff, Councilmember Bill Tonson

FROM: Terrence Gourdine 
Sister Cities Advisory Board Chairman

SUBJECT: Hardship funding for Sister Cities Exchange program to Nagano

CC: William B. Horne, City Manager; Rosemarie Call, City Clerk; Kevin Dunbar, Director of Parks & Recreation; Art Kader, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation

DATE: January 26, 2018

At the Sister Cities Advisory Board meeting on January 25, 2018 the board discussed a unanimously passed motion from July 27, 2017 that has not yet been addressed by the City Council.

The Advisory Board encourages the City to establish 2 permanently sustained Special Hardship Funds in the amount of \$3,700 each. These funds will provide financial aid to cover the cost of a Clearwater Sister Cities student exchange for up to 2 middle school-aged children from economically distressed Clearwater families. An exchange program to Nagano, Japan is a cultural and learning opportunity that would otherwise be beyond the economic means and abilities of these families to offer their children. The total requested funding for these 2 sustained Special Hardship Funds equals \$7,400 annually.

The board also passed a unanimous motion recommending that the City Council appoint an official entity or specific designee to determine the eligibility of each family requesting such funding. Upon qualifying, these funds will be disbursed to Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. to be used solely for the selected qualifying family or families. These funds would cover travel throughout Japan for a 14 day trip along with airfare, lodging, and \$300 in spending money to cover assorted expenses.



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