



City of Chicago



R2016-101

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date:	2/10/2016
Sponsor(s):	Emanuel (Mayor)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Commemoration of Chicago's 30th Sister City anniversary with Shanghai, China
Committee(s) Assignment:	



CONS.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

February 10, 2016

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith resolutions regarding the anniversaries of six of Chicago's Sister Cities.

Your favorable consideration of these resolutions will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor



R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan national membership organization for cities around the world that unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers to promote world peace through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Sister Cities International seeks to promote global peace and prosperity by providing private citizens from communities around the world, and the leaders of the cities in which they live, with an opportunity to meet face-to-face to celebrate their respective cultures, to appreciate their differences, and to develop mutual understanding, friendships and long-term partnerships to reduce international conflict and secure global prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Since 1960, when the City of Chicago signed its first Sister Cities agreement, Chicago Sister Cities International has established official relationships with 28 Sister Cities in almost every region of the world. Today, Chicago Sister Cities International is the most active Sister Cities Organization in the world; and

WHEREAS, The people-to-people and community relationships formed through the Sister Cities network have produced mutually beneficial city-to-city ties resulting in increased international trade, economic development, tourism, cultural exchanges, and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of Chicago's Sister Cities relationship with the City of Shanghai in China; and

WHEREAS, Chicago is proud of the Sister City partnership it has formed with Shanghai, and of its long history of friendship and cooperation with the people of China; and

WHEREAS, Chicago and Shanghai shared the 2014 Award for Best Overall U.S.-China Sister City conferred by Sister Cities International; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Chicago has benefitted from the many vital contributions that the Chinese community has made to the cultural, civic and economic life of our City. Chicago's vibrant Chinatown neighborhood is a testament to the strong relationship that exists between the people of Chicago and Shanghai; and

WHEREAS, Chicago hosts one of the most popular Chinese New Year celebrations in the world; and

WHEREAS, Chicagoans have always been cognizant of the similarities between Chicago and Shanghai, two cities which are known as economic engines in their respective countries. Chicago and Shanghai are both signatories to the Gateway Cities Agreement signed by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, China's Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Chao and the leadership representatives of Shanghai establishing the "U.S. Chicago and China Gateway Cities Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment Cooperation" to facilitate economic collaboration and growth; and

WHEREAS, Chicago looks forward to its own continued participation in Sister Cities International, and to renewing and strengthening Chicago's relationship with Shanghai and its people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this tenth day of February, 2016, do hereby commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of Chicago's Sister City relationship with Shanghai, China; acknowledge the many benefits that this productive relationship has reaped for the people of Chicago; express our desire to continue this relationship; and extend to Shanghai, and to its people, our best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to The Honorable Weiping Zhao, Consul General, Consulate General of China, and The Honorable Mayor of Shanghai Yang Xiong.