

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting held December 17, 2025

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 522a, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair  
Councillor Renaldo Agostino (arrives at 3:36 p.m.)  
Councillor Ed Sleiman  
Lubna Barakat  
Jerry Barycki  
Ronnie Haidar  
L.T. Zhao (via Zoom video conference)

## ***Regrets received from:***

Councillor Fred Francis

## ***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:35 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follow:

### **2. Declaration of Conflict**

None disclosed.

### **3. Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Jerry Barycki,  
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held September 5, 2025, **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

### **4. Business Items**

#### 4.1 Confirm and Ratify E-mail Poll

That the results of the e-mail poll conducted on July 24, 2025, approving the following recommendation **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Jerry Barycki,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$10,000 for a delegation of ten (10) to visit the City of Windsor on August 9-12, 2025.  
Carried.

#### 4.2 Final Minutes of the Working Session in Mannheim, Germany

The Chair remarks that Mannheim is very keen on collaborations of all sorts, i.e. educational, industrial, economic and cultural.

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to provide information regarding WEtech Alliance to Mannheim, Germany in an effort to build collaborations with their tech centre and the City of Windsor's tech centre.

Carried.

#### 4.3 Letter from the Mayor of Mannheim to Mayor Dilkens

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by L.T. Zhao,

That the letter from the Mayor of Mannheim to Mayor Dilkens **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

#### 4.4 Pictorial Report from the 30<sup>th</sup> Polish Canadian Business Professional Association of Windsor Dinner and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Windsor Lublin Twinning

Jerry Barycki advises that Mayor Dilkens along with three members of Parliament were present at the 30<sup>th</sup> Polish Canadian Business Professional Association of Windsor Dinner.

Ronnie Haidar refers to the tour that was provided to the Lublin delegation at the University of Windsor. He notes that Ms. Kennedy Wonnacott, Global Partnership Coordinator, conducted tours of the campus, including the Science and Engineering buildings, and indicated that they look forward to welcoming future delegations and fostering continued collaboration.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Ronnie Haidar,

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Jerry Barycki,  
That the update regarding the 30<sup>th</sup> Polish Canadian Business Professional Association of Windsor Dinner and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Windsor Lublin Twinning **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

#### **4.5 Letter of appreciation from Mayor Kang of Gunsan to Mayor Dilkens**

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Jerry Barycki,  
That the letter of appreciation from Mayor Kang of Gunsan to Mayor Dilkens **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

#### **4.6 Letter of appreciation from Mayor Kang of Gunsan to Councillor Angelo Marignani**

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That the letter of appreciation from Mayor Kang of Gunsan to Councillor Angelo Marignani **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

#### **4.7 Twin City proposal from Shkodra, Albania and Ferizaj, Kosovo**

The Chair states that both Shkodra, Albania and Ferizaj, Kosovo are interested in having a Twin City relationship with the City of Windsor. It is noted that there is a large Albanian community in Windsor.

The Committee would like to further explore a possible relationship with Shkodra and it is suggested that representatives on behalf of Shkodra, Albania attend a future meeting to provide a presentation to the IRC. The Chair indicates that he will contact the President of the Albanian Windsor Association.

Ronnie Haidar proposes that a formal process of how to become a Sister City be made available on the city's website.

Sandra Gebauer confirms that the Twin City/Friendship City policy outlines the process and is currently available on the City of Windsor website but will ensure that it is easily accessible on the pages relating to the twin cities. .

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,

That the President of the Albanian Windsor Association **BE INVITED** to provide a Twin City proposal at the next meeting of the International Relations Committee.  
Carried.

#### **4.8 Friendship City proposal from San Juan del Rio, Queretaro, Mexico**

The Chair remarks that this request is government to government rather than people to people. It is noted that San Juan del Rio's proposal highlights the potential benefits of supply chain diversification, and it is suggested that it be forwarded to the Economic Development department and to Invest WindsorEssex for review and comment.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by  
That the Friendship City proposal from San Juan de Rio, Queretaro, Mexico **BE DIRECTED** to Invest Windsor Essex and to Jelena Payne, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Commissioner Economic Development for review and comment.  
Carried.

#### **4.9 Request from Fujisawa for Sister-City Awards for the male and female winners of the Shonan Fujisawa City Marathon**

Sandra Gebauer confirms that gifts for the first place male and female winners of the marathon are sent each year.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Ronnie Haidar,  
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an upset amount of \$500. to cover the mailing of awards for the male and female winners of the Shonan Fujisawa City Marathon.  
Carried.

### **5. New Business**

Ronnie Haidar reports he will be travelling to Arlington, Texas in January 2026 along with Jelena Payne, Gordon Orr, Councillor Renaldo Agostino, Councillor Angelo Marignani and asks if a meeting can be convened prior to going to Arlington. Sandra Gebauer suggests that a Teams meeting can be arranged to discuss logistings.

### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

### **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:12 o'clock, p.m.