

AGENDA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
meeting held Thursday, January 30, 2025
at 3:30 o'clock p.m.
Room 522a, 350 City Hall Square West

1. Call to Order

READING OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie. The City of Windsor honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land

2. Declaration of Conflict

3. Minutes

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held December 11, 2024 – ***attached.***

4. Business Items

4.1 Request from Changchun, China for a delegation to visit the City of Windsor in early March 2025 – ***attached.***

4.2 Letter from Mayor Zuk, Lublin, Poland regarding a delegation to Lublin in June 2025 and a visit to Windsor in November 2025 – ***attached.***

4.3 IRC Mandate and Terms of Reference
Included as suggested by Councillor Fred Francis at the IRC meeting held November 7, 2024 -***attached***

4.4 Twin City/Friendship Policy and Mandate
Included as suggested by Councillor Fred Francis at the IRC meeting held November 7, 2024 – ***attached.***

5. Communications

- 5.1 Information on Glowing Bike Path in Poland – ***attached.***

- 5.2 Twin Cities and Date of Twinning – ***attached.***

- 6 Updates by Sandra Gebauer**
 - 6.1 Communication with the Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce regarding the City of Changchun’s request.

 - 6.2 2025 Children’s Art Exhibition

- 7. New Business**

- 8. Date of Next Meeting**

- 9. Adjournment**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Meeting held Wednesday, December 11, 2024

A hybrid 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 Agostini
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Lubna Barakat
Jerry Barycki
Saiful Bhuiyan
Ronnie Haidar
William Ma

Regrets received from:

Councillor Fred Francis
L.T. Zhao

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 3:32 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A, attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Business Items

3.1 Update regarding Arlington, Texas and the request for a Twin City Agreement

The Chair advises that a virtual meeting was held on November 22, 2024, with Sheri Capehart, Program Director, Arlington Sister Cities, City of Arlington, himself, and Sandra Gebauer to discuss a potential partnership with Arlington, Texas.

The remarks as provided by Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair are as follows:

- Windsor frequently receives partnership requests
- The IRC is interested in pursuing a relationship with Arlington.
- The **Friendship City Policy** was developed to allow for municipal driven partnerships and to manage precedents.
- The 5-year review period falls in line with the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provided by Arlington.

Sheri Capehart, Arlington, Texas brought forward the following comments including options for a Windsor-Arlington relationship:

- Arlington is eager for a Sister city partnership in Canada and the City of Windsor as a border city was their first choice.
- A partnership should be a full twin/sister city partnership as per Sister Cities International (SSI).
- Sister City benefits include direct affiliation with SSI's global directory but no fee requirement for Windsor.
- **Sister City Partnership:**
 - Formal and long-term (typically 5+ years).
 - Requires alignment with SSI membership and program.
- **Alternative- Letter of Interest:**
 - Start with a mutual Letter of Interest to establish initial steps.
 - Delegation visits to Arlington/Windsor could:
 - Demonstrate commitment and build rapport.
 - Identify potential community or economic connections.
 - A shorter-term agreement (e.g., 1-2 years) could be proposed as a pilot
- **Exploration without formal Label:**
 - Initiate actions informally:
 - Exchange city staff for short periods to foster operational understanding.
 - Collaborate on mutual interests (tourism, economic development, cultural ties).

The Chair reports that the process will begin with a Letter of Interest from both parties which will demonstrate the City of Windsor's commitment to Arlington. He adds that the Letter of Interest will seek to identify potential community or economic connections that are outside of the municipal spectrum. Once the Letter of Interest has been received by both, delegation visits to Windsor and Arlington will be arranged. Sandra Gebauer advises that the possible next steps would be draft a Letter of Interest, outline the shared goals, and to position the letter as a flexible, exploratory agreement on a trial basis. Ultimately, Arlington, Texas is interested in being a Sister City.

Councillor Ed Sleiman questions if there is any financial commitment to this process. Sandra Gebauer responds that any financial costs would be derived from the visit by the Arlington delegation which would include accommodations, and meals. She adds that the cost of flights would be paid for outgoing delegations.

Councillor Ed Sleiman expresses concern that there may be an influx of cities that wish to be sister cities with the City of Windsor. Sandra Gebauer responds that many requests are received, and notes that the requests are vetted through the IRC.

Ronnie Haidar asks if Arlington is expecting a decision within the next few months. The Chair responds that Arlington expects this relationship to happen within the next year. Ronnie Haidar advises that this is a learning process for the IRC in terms of how we engage with new sister cities by beginning with the friendship city relationship.

Saiful Bhuiyan supports moving forward with this initiative with Arlington, Texas.

Jerry Barycki refers to the opening of the Gordie Howe Bridge and the Chair advises that the City of Windsor has the number one gross domestic product exchange border link in North America.

Sandra Gebauer adds that Sherri Capehart suggested a city staff exchange, i.e. if we are interested in sending city staff (economic development) to Arlington for a short period of time to foster operational understanding.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That City of Windsor Administration **BE REQUESTED** to prepare a Letter of Interest to be sent to Arlington, Texas to begin the process of exploring a Friendship City/Sister City relationship.
Carried.

4. Communications

E-mail to L.T. Zhao from Changchun, China – Inquiry about opportunities with the Windsor Chamber of Commerce

Sandra Gebauer advises in 2022, the IRC was approached by the former Chair of the Chamber of Commerce who asked if an introduction could be arranged between our Chamber of Commerce and our Twin Cities. A letter was drafted and sent to the Twin Cities to determine if there was interest in collaborating and becoming “pseudo” members. She adds that Mannheim, Germany responded to the Chamber of Commerce. She suggests reaching out to the Acting Chair of the Windsor Chamber of Commerce to establish if there is an interest in this initiative.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Saiful Bhuiyan,

That the initiative in 2022 of the Chamber of Commerce to reach out to the Twin Cities of the City of Windsor to determine if there is interest in collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce **BE RESENT** to the Acting Chair of the WindsorEssex Chamber of Commerce for a response.

Carried.

5. New Business

Jerry Barycki announces that Polish Heritage Month will be held in May 2025.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in January 2025 on a date to be determined.

7. Adjourned

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:10 o'clock p.m.

Gebauer, Sandra

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: January 14, 2025 3:17 AM
To: Gebauer, Sandra
Subject: Inquiry Regarding Visit to Windsor in March 2025 and Exploration of Cooperation Opportunities
Attachments: Changchun- A Thriving Hub of Industry, Innovation, and Future Growth.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sandra,

It's been a while since we last communicated, but I was delighted to learn about the successful conclusion of the 2024 International Children's Art Exhibition.

The Foreign Affairs Office of Changchun Municipal Government is planning to send a small delegation to Windsor in March this year. We would like to pay a visit to the Mayor, the International Relations Committee, and other municipal departments, with the aim of facilitating official exchanges between our two cities' leadership groups. We are eager to explore potential cooperation opportunities in the fields of culture and tourism, automobiles, education, economy and trade, as well as science and technology.

We would like to inquire about the possibility of visiting Windsor in March 2025 and whether we could receive an invitation letter for our delegation. To provide you with some background information and facilitate our discussions on cooperation opportunities, I have attached a brief introduction to the latest developments in Changchun.

We look forward to your positive response and to the opportunity to further strengthen the ties between our two cities. Please let us know if there are any specific requirements or procedures we need to follow to make this visit a reality.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and we hope to hear from you soon.

Best regards,

Changchun: A Thriving Hub of Industry, Innovation, and Future Growth

Changchun, the capital city of Jilin Province, is located at the geographical center of Northeast China. With an area of 24,700 square kilometers and a permanent resident population of 9.08 million, it is renowned as the Automobile City, Film City, Science and Education City, and Forest City. The city boasts four distinct seasons and picturesque scenery, with four national 5A-level tourist attractions.

Changchun is rich in science and education resources and boasts strong innovation capabilities, housing numerous higher education institutions and research institutions. As the cradle of industrial development in China, Changchun has a solid industrial foundation covering various sectors such as automobiles, railway vehicles, and optoelectronic technology. Nearly half of the world's top 100 automotive parts enterprises have settled here, and railway vehicles are exported to many countries.

Moreover, Changchun is a vital commodity grain base in China, with grain production leading the nation. Currently, Changchun is actively applying to establish a national high-quality development pilot zone for manufacturing, promoting the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, and accelerating the cultivation of emerging industries such as biomedicine and optoelectronic information.

Furthermore, Changchun is fully committed to laying out new tracks, focusing on future industries such as hydrogen energy and aerospace, accelerating its layout, and striving for early development.



Prezydent Miasta Lublin



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ePUAP: /UMLublin/SkrytkaESP,www.um.lublin.eu



WM-PR-I.0340.8.2024

Lublin, 7 October 2024

Drew Dilkens
Mayor of the City of Windsor

Dear Mr Mayor,

Thank you very much for your kind congratulations and warm words. I am truly pleased to continue our cooperation, which I am confident will contribute to the further development of our cities. The partnership between Lublin and Windsor has lasted for nearly a quarter of a century, and it has undoubtedly brought many benefits to both of our communities. It is with great satisfaction that we observe how our collaboration in the political, educational, and cultural spheres strengthens the ties between our cities and creates new opportunities for growth.

I am delighted to hear about the celebrations of Polish Heritage Month in Windsor and the efforts of the local Polish community. This is a wonderful example of multiculturalism and integration, which are values cherished by both Windsor and Lublin.

In the context of the upcoming 25th anniversary of our partnership, I would like to share with you the outcomes of the meeting that took place on August 12, 2024, with Mr. Jerry Barycki and Ms. Małgorzata Holec, a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish-Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor (PCBPAW). In June 2025, we are planning for your visit to Lublin, along with two representatives from Windsor. On this occasion, we hope to organize a scientific conference in cooperation with Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, which will take place at the Crown Tribunal or the Old Theatre. This event will be an excellent opportunity for an exchange of knowledge and experience between our cities. Additionally, in November 2025, we are planning a visit from a representative of Lublin, likely myself or one of the Deputy Mayors, to Windsor. We are also considering extending this visit to include an economic component, which could foster further business cooperation between our cities.

Please confirm these dates and feel free to share any suggestions regarding the plans for our upcoming anniversary celebrations. We look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation, which will undoubtedly bring benefits to both the residents of Windsor and Lublin.

Sincerely,

International Relations Committee – Terms of Reference and Mandate **MAY 2015**

Introduction/Preface

The International Relations Committee continues to promote Windsor's international interests and image through its focus on strengthening the current community based twin city relationships both abroad and in the local community. This is achieved through the committee's continued support towards educational, cultural, social and economic based exchanges. The committee also devotes its energies towards the exploration of potential new or emerging twin city relationships where there is a desire to twin based on a strong local community commitment, and where long term, valuable exchanges are realized.

Mandate

To support the efforts of the Mayor and Council in the enhancement of Windsor's international image.

To promote and enhance our relationship with Twin Cities.

To support international educational and cultural initiatives.

Composition/Membership

The International Relations Committee for the 2014-2018 term consists of 4 City Councillors and 9 members.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the committee are:

- Assist the Mayor and Council in hosting international visitors.
- Co-ordinate agendas and itineraries for trade, culture, education, and government exchanges.
- Consistently reflect the priorities and goals of the Mayor and Council.
- Search out opportunities to tie into provincial and federal efforts.
- Assist the Mayor with international communications and protocol.
- Maintain a network of community representatives from within business, labour, education, arts, services clubs, and multicultural groups.
- Communicate the goals and objectives of the Committee.

- Liaison with Community groups interested in the furtherance of our Twin City relationships.
- Encourage the establishment of cultural and educational ties between interested parties in our respective communities, especially involving children.
- Encourage local business interests to take advantage of our established network of Twin City relationships when considering international business ventures.
- Encourage Trade Missions and exchanges involving our Twin Cities.
- Ensure that visiting dignitaries and representatives of our Twin Cities are properly accommodated and introduced to the appropriate officials and business or community leaders.

Appointment and Term

The Striking Committee of Council appoints members for a period of 4 years.

Agenda and Minutes

In accordance with the City of Windsor's Procedure By-law 98-2011, the Committee Chair will review, identify and prepare agenda items and priorities prior to each meeting. Though the Committee Chair is responsible for conducting meetings and providing direction, they are to ensure a fair and open discussion of agenda items, enabling members to suggest items for the agenda.

Minutes shall be taken of all Committee meetings by a designate of the City Clerk who shall subsequently distribute them as soon as possible to all Committee members.

All matters related to recording and distributing the minutes shall comply with the City of Windsor Policies governing the recording and distribution of the minutes of a Committee of City Council.

Rules of Order

Elections and meetings will be conducted in accordance with Bourinot's Rules of Order and the City of Windsor's Procedural By-Law 98-2011.

Reporting Structure

The International Relations Committee will report to the Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee.

Remuneration

Advisory Committee members receive no compensation for their service on the City's Advisory Committees.

Quorum

Quorum for the International Relations Committee is seven members.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR POLICY

Service Area:	Corporate Services	Policy No.:	
Department:	Office of the City Clerk	Approval Date:	April 22, 2024
Division:	Council Services	Approved By:	CR162/2024
		Effective Date:	April 22, 2024
Subject:	Twin City/Friendship City Policy	Procedure Ref.:	N/A
Review Date:		Pages:	Replaces:
Prepared By:	Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant		Date:

1. POLICY

1.1. A policy outlining the criteria necessary for entering into international friendship and twin city relationships with the City of Windsor.

2. PURPOSE

2.1. This Policy outlines the necessary steps and processes associated in the creation or establishment of entering into a new friendship and/or twin city agreement with another international municipality.

3. SCOPE

3.1. This policy will apply to all proposed friendship and twin city requests made from within the Windsor community or received by the Mayor of the City of Windsor from any international city, municipality or district.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. **Twin City** refers to a form of legal agreement between two geographically and politically distinct localities for the purpose of promoting cultural and commercial tie. For the purposes of this policy, Twin Cities are defined by a formal request brought to and approved by Council upon recommendation of the International Relations Committee.

4.2. **Friendship City** refers to a less formal agreement between localities. For the purposes of his report, Friendship Cities are characterized by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mayor's Offices. It is to be used as a first stage in the 'Twinning' relationship and if successful may lead to a formal Twin-City Agreement

5. RESPONSIBILITY

5.1. City Council will be responsible for:

- 5.1.1. Reviewing and approving new twin city agreements or partnerships as well as Friendship City MOU agreements.
- 5.2. The Mayor's Office will be responsible for:
 - 5.2.1. Communicating City Council's resolution regarding a proposed new twin city relationship.
 - 5.2.2. Reviewing recommendations from the International Relations Committee regarding Friendship City requests and approving, if desired, the relationship through a Memorandum of Agreement.
- 5.3. The Office of the City Clerk will be responsible for:
 - 5.3.1. The collection and cataloguing of official records, letters, agreements or charters when entering into a Friendship City or Twinning Agreement with the City of Windsor, including future correspondence between cities.
- 5.4. The International Relations Committee (IRC) will be responsible for:
 - 5.4.1. Exploring and investigating new friendship and twin city relationships.
 - 5.4.2. Submitting a recommendation to the Mayor and Council regarding proposed friendship or twinning requests after a formal request has passed through the Mayor's Office and/or a formal investigation has been completed by the committee. Recommendations to City Council will follow normal protocols in the governance model process.
 - 5.4.3. Reviewing this policy and any associated procedures and forms every five years.

6. GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 6.1. Request for Friendship City Relationships should be community driven, or driven by local municipal governments, supported by a formal organized cultural/ethnic association and must demonstrate that a sustainable relationship can be maintained.
 - 6.1.1. Legitimate and active organizational structure should exist in the related ethnic community to support friendship-based activities (i.e. hosting visiting delegations, providing translation services, conducting meetings/tours/receptions with their business community).
 - 6.1.2. The proposed friendship city should demonstrate certain identifiable similarities or mutual interests with potential for reciprocal cultural, educational and economic benefits.
 - 6.1.3. Friendship City relationships should be maintained for a minimum 5-year term, with the option to extend for an additional 5-year term. Extensions will be made in 5-year increments and will include an MOU.
 - 6.1.4. Friendship City relationships should be evaluated at the end of each defined term to determine if the relationship has seen any benefit and/or measurable results that the City of Windsor and the partner organization expect as a result of the Partnership.
 - 6.1.5. If Friendship City partnerships receive a successful evaluation, the option to formalize the relationship into a twinning relationship may be exercised as per section 6.2 of this policy

6.2. Request for twinning's should also be community driven, supported by a formal organized cultural/ethnic association and must demonstrate that a sustainable relationship can be maintained.

6.2.1. As with Friendship Cities, legitimate and active organizational structure should exist in the related ethnic community to support twinning activities and The proposed twin city should demonstrate certain identifiable similarities or mutual interests with potential for reciprocal cultural, educational and economic benefits.

6.2.2. Details of a twinning proposal must be submitted in writing to the Mayor of Windsor, outlining a long-term plan and the community's responsibility for sustaining ongoing activities.

6.2.3. If recommended by the IRC and approved by Council, a formal letter of interest is to be forwarded to the Mayor of the proposed twin city.

6.2.4. If the proposed twin city approves Windsor's proposal, a formal signing protocol will be arranged.

6.2.5. The twinning charter can be dissolved upon the mutual agreement between the twin cities.

6.2.6. If a twinning request is received from another city outside of the friendship city realm, the request will be reviewed by the IRC and one or more of the following actions may occur;

6.2.6.1. Investigate and forward a recommendation to the Mayor's Office for decision on Twinning Agreement.

6.2.6.2. Review the request and offer a recommendation to the Friendship City program.

7. RECORDS, FORMS AND ATTACHMENTS

7.1. Records are the responsibility of The Office of the City Clerk and will be kept in accordance with the Records Retention Bylaw #21-2013 as amended from time to time.

On Thu, Dec 12, 2024, at 6:32 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Oh, look, the first mention of this path was already 8 years ago!
First glowing bike path in Poland opened! - rowery.pl

[Pierwsza w Polsce świecąca droga rowerowa otwarta! - rowery.pl](#)

First Glowing Bike Path in Poland Opened!
Written: October 7, 2016



Near the town of Lidzbark Warmiński, the first bike path in our country that glows at night has been opened—it is illuminated by so-called luminophores, a synthetic material powered by solar energy.

The inspiration for TPA Technical Research Institute Sp. z o.o., the company that designed it, was the *Starry Night* bike path by Studio Roosegaarde. You might have read about the solar-powered bike path in our article from 2014.

According to Igor Ruttmar, the president of TPA Sp. z o.o., the material from which the path is made can emit light continuously for 10 hours. Each day, the material accumulates energy, allowing it to glow at night. Waldemar Królikowski, the director of the General Directorate for National Roads and Highways, states that this type of bike path was built to enhance road safety. According to Next Nature Network, luminophores, or as some call them "material particles," can emit light in various colors. However, the designers chose blue, as they believed it blends best with the surroundings. The ratio of quality to price and the durability of the materials used were thoroughly examined.



Although the Starry Night bike path provided inspiration, the technology used in producing the Polish bike path differs slightly. Studio Roosegaarde used LED lamps, solar panels, and "light-accumulating paint." The bike path designed by TPA Sp. z o.o. does not require any alternative power sources. The path is still being tested to gather information about its wear and durability.

Received info and link from Jacek Drazkowski, Lidzbark
Warminski, Poland

Prepared for the International Relations Committee,
City of Windsor only.

By Jerry Barycki

Twin Cities with the Corporation of the City of Windsor

(Chronological Order)

<u>City and Country</u>	<u>Year of Twinning</u>	<u>2024/2025 Anniversary</u>
Granby, Canada	1956 (May)	68/69
Coventry, England	1963	61/62
St. Etienne, France	1963 (June)	61/62
Udine, Italy	1977 (November 14)	47/48
Mannheim, Germany	1980 (April 14)	44/45
Ohrid, Macedonia	1981 (June 29)	43/44
Las Vueltas, El Salvador	1987 (April 13)	37/38
Fujisawa, Japan	1987 (December 2)	37/38
Changchun, China	1992 (June 16)	32/33
Saltillo, Mexico	1994 (November 6)	30/31
Lublin, Poland	2000 (June 26)	24/25
Gunsan, South Korea	2005 (June 20)	19/20