

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting held Wednesday, September 2, 2026

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 3:45 o'clock p.m.)
Councillor Fred Francis, via Zoom video conference
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Jerry Barycki
L.T. Zhao, via Zoom video conference

Regrets received from:

Lubna Barakat
Saiful Bhuiyan
Ronnie Haidar

Also present are the following resource personnel"

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:30 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. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held May 20, 2026, **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Request for Twin City Partnership between Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine and the City of Windsor

Sandra Gebauer refers to the letter sent to Mayor Dilkens Office on behalf of the City of Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding next steps, Sandra Gebauer responds if the Committee wishes to pursue this further, that an invitation be sent to Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine to present to the IRC.

Councillor Ed Sleiman expresses concern that there may be an insufficient number of resources and staff to deal with additional Twin Cities, Sister Cities, etc.

Jerry Barycki suggests this matter be discussed at a future meeting. Councillor Fred Francis proposes that the next steps would include a presentation however, this matter will be determined ultimately by the next term of City Council.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Jerry Barycki,
That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to contact Mr. Yuri Krasnozhom to inform that the request for a twin city relationship with the City of Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, will be reviewed by the International relations Committee during the next term of Council.
Carried.

4.2 Request for Twin City Partnership between Bondy/Paris, France and the City of Windsor

Councillor Ed Sleiman advises at this time the City of Windsor has a Twin City Relationship with St. Etienne, France.

L.T. Zhao remarks he is not opposed to having a second sister city. Councillor Renaldo Agostino concurs as the relationship with St. Etienne; France is not active at this time and suggests a conversation to renew the connection.

Sandra Gebauer adds that contact with the Twin Cities/Sister Cities is done on a regular basis and no response from St. Etienne, France has been received. Councillor Fred Francis states in the last twelve years, the relationship with St. Etienne has been dormant.

Sandra Gebauer indicates that Bondy/Paris, France is a suburb of Paris.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,
That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to contact Ms. Jennifer Bondy to inform that the request for a twin city relationship with Bondy/Paris, France will be reviewed by the International Relations Committee during the next term of Council.
Carried.

4.3 Verbal Update – San Juan del Rio, Mexico

Sandra Gebauer advises that Council at its meeting held July 27, 2026, approved the recommendation to enter into a Friendship City with San Juan del Rio, Mexico. She notes this information was communicated to San Juan del Rio and states that the Mayor of Windsor will contact the Mayor of San Juan del Rio in 2027.

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Fred Francis,
That the update regarding the recommendation for the City of Windsor to enter into a Friendship City relationship with San Juan del Rio **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

4.4 Verbal Update – Shkodra, Albania

Sandra Gebauer advises that Council at its meeting held July 27, 2026, approved the recommendation for the City of Windsor to enter into a Sister City relationship with Shkodra, Albania. She remarks that this information was communicated to the applicant and that next steps include communication between the two Mayors, which will take place during the next term of Council.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That the update regarding the recommendation for the City of Windsor to enter into a Sister City Relationship with Shkodra, Albania **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

4.5 Verbal Update – Children’s Art Exhibition

Sandra Gebauer remarks that the physical display for the Children’s Art Exhibition will arrive at Devonshire Mall on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, and will remain until September 14, 2026. She asks if the members are interested in participating once again in a “Meet and Greet” on Friday, September 11, 2026, which is met with approval.

In terms of the Media Art Centre, Sandra Gebauer states that the film camp has been working on animating drawings that have been received. Once completed, a

website will be created and will be available on social media, including Face Book and Instagram.

Moved by L.T. Zhao, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That the verbal update of the Children's Art Exhibition provided by Sandra Gebauer
BE RECEIVED.
Carried.

5. Communications

5.1 Letter from Mayor Jae-jun KIM of Gunsan to Mayor Dilkens

The Chair remarks that Mayor Jae-jun KIM is the new Mayor of Gunsan.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That the letter from Mayor Jae-jun KIM of Gunsan to Mayor Dilkens expressing a
continuance to work closely with the City of Windsor **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

5.2 Profile of Mayor Jae-jun KIM of Gunsan, South Korea

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,
That the profile of Mayor Jae-jun KIM of Gunsan **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

5.3 Farewell Letter from Mr. Krzysztof Stanowski, Director, International Cooperation Centre, Lublin Municipal Office

In the letter written by Mr. Stanowski, he thanks the City of Windsor for the friendship and partnership built between Lublin and Windsor. He further adds that working with the City of Windsor has been a privilege, a constant source of inspiration and, above all, an opportunity to build lasting friendships across borders.

Jerry Barycki states that Mr. Krzysztof Stanowski did a great deal of international work.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That the farewell letter from Mr. Krzysztof Stanowski, Director, International Cooperation Centre, Lublin Municipal Office **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

5.4 Pictorial Report – Polish Heritage Month 2026

Jerry Barycki indicates that the Pictorial Report of Polish Heritage Month in Windsor held May 2026 outlines the events, activities and community celebrations that took place including institutions such as the University, City Hall and others. It reflects the dedication and hard work of the volunteers, organizations, sponsors and supporters who made this a memorable success.

The Chair thanks Jerry Barycki for photographing the historical documentation of the Polish Community in the City of Windsor.

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by L.T. Zhao,
That the Pictorial Report – Polish Heritage Month 2026 **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

5.5 Report from Three Seas Congress in Lublin, Poland

Jerry Barycki reports that the Three Seas Local Government Congress in Lublin, Poland held May 27-28, 2026 brings together political leaders, diplomats, local government representatives, academics and business experts from the 13 member states of the Three Seas Initiative as well as delegates from 37 countries (including Canada).

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by L.T. Zhao,
That the report from the Three Seas Congress in Lublin, Poland held May 27-28, 2026, **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

6. New Business

Sandra Gebauer comments that the delegation from Arlington, Texas was scheduled to visit the City of Windsor from September 9 – 11, 2026. Due to participant availability and the upcoming election, it was determined that the visit from Arlington will be scheduled for the next term of Council and for the newly appointed IRC Committee.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting date to be determined.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:02 o'clock p.m.