



# AGENDA REPORT

City Council

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| <b>DATE:</b>                    | October 22, 2024   |
| <b>TO:</b>                      | Mayor Martinez and Members of the City Council   |
| <b>FROM:</b>                    | Council Member Zepeda  |
| <b>Subject:</b>                 | Presentation of Mid-year report from the Richmond-Shimada Friendship Committee   |
| <b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b>        | The commission has requested \$10,000 towards Richmond Friendship Ambassadors travel and for creating a commemorative gift to present to the Shimada delegates at the 65 <sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. An official \$10,000 funding request will be made during mid-year budget review or during the FY 2025/26 budget session. |
| <b>PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:</b> | December 19, 2023  |
| <b>STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:</b>  | The City of Richmond established a sister city relationship with Shimada, Japan in 1961. The Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission will present a mid-year report on activities and projects.   |
| <b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>      | PRESENTATION from the Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission on mid-year activities and projects - Councilmember Zepeda (510-620-6593).  |

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Richmond Shimada Friendship Commission has coordinated in-person exchanges with Richmond's Sister City Shimada, Japan for over sixty years. In-person exchanges continue to be an invaluable tool for furthering cross-cultural understanding and peacebuilding by creating lifelong friendships between the people of Richmond and Shimada. In 2024, Richmond hosted ten Shimada Friendship Ambassadors for ten days in March. In June the first post-pandemic delegation of five Richmond Friendship Ambassadors visited Shimada for three weeks.

The Commission is engaged in planning for our 2025 in-person exchanges as well as planning for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City relationship in 2026. It is our intent to invite an adult delegation from Shimada to visit Richmond in 2026 as part of the anniversary celebration. To facilitate these programs, the Commission has requested \$10,000: \$8500 to significantly reduce the costs of airfare for the four student Richmond Friendship Ambassadors and provide a small honorarium to the adult Friendship Ambassador/Chaperone; \$1500 for creating a commemorative gift to present to the Shimada delegates at the anniversary. The official funding request will be made during mid-year review or for the 2025/26 FY budget.

## **DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:**

Attachment - Richmond Shimada Friendship Commission Mid-Year Presentation