

DATE: 1998 JUNE 15

TO: MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: HIS WORSHIP, MAYOR DRUMMOND

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY LEADERS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To report on the interest expressed by Mesa, Arizona in exploring the possibility of entering into a sister city relationship with Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council extend a formal invitation to the city of Mesa to visit our City for the purpose of exploring a sister city partnership between the City of Mesa, Arizona and the City of Burnaby.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Mayor Wayne Brown, City of Mesa, wrote to me during 1997 advising that the City of Mesa, Arizona, was interested in exploring a sister city partnership with the City of Burnaby. In the letter Mayor Brown stated that "we believe, along with many others, that our two cities are very similar in that both are part of a metropolitan area, but still maintain their own identity. We are both also fast-growing urban communities with the retail sector playing a significant role in both our local economies." Mayor Brown also advised that members of the Burnaby Rotary Club, who visit Mesa during the winter, have discussed the sister city partnership with Mesa Rotary members and have encouraged the City of Mesa to pursue establishing a joint partnership. Letters of support for this partnership have also been received from Mr. Don Strauch, President of the Sister City Association of Mesa and Mr. Phillip E. Lowry on behalf of the Mesa Visitor and Convention Bureau.

PURPOSE

The establishing of a sister city relationship with the City of Mesa would be for the mutual benefit of both communities. It is intended that the relationship will lead to an expansion of

both cities' cultural, civic and economic horizons. A number of areas of mutual interest exist with the City of Mesa including Mesa's:

- ◆ Victim Assistance Program
- ◆ Megacorp, the City's Economic Development Division
- ◆ Affordable Housing Program
- ◆ Historic Preservation Committee
- ◆ Neighbourhood and Community Assistance Office - the Office is a one-stop shop for Mesa's residents looking to improve their neighbourhood
- ◆ Traffic Safety Committee
- ◆ Mayor's Youth Committee
- ◆ Crime-free Multi-housing Program

MESA, ARIZONA

Known for its Great People, Quality Service, Mesa, Arizona is a thriving community that ranks among the top cities in the United States for its business-friendly atmosphere and excellent quality of life. The second largest city in the Phoenix-Mesa metropolitan area and the third largest in Arizona, Mesa is the fastest growing city in America, among those with populations of 200,000 or more. (A Community Profile has been provided to Council under separate cover.)

CONCLUSION

Staff have indicated that the similarity in structure and issues of mutual concern could allow for an exchange of information and aid which has not been possible with our other sister city relationships. Therefore, considering the potential benefits to our City I am recommending that a sister city relationship with the City of Mesa be pursued.



Douglas P. Drummond
MAYOR

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