



# Corporate Report

NO: R226

COUNCIL DATE: October 30, 2006

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: October 30, 2006  
FROM: City Manager FILE:  
SUBJECT Delegation to Wuxi, China - Councillor Higginbotham

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## RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider approving travel and per-diem costs for Councillor Higginbotham to travel to Wuxi, China to attend the Wuxi Educational Internationalization Forum as part of the Wuxi International Sister Cities Forum.

## DISCUSSION

The Mayor of Wuxi, China and the Wuxi Municipal Education Bureau have invited Councillor Judy Higginbotham to travel to the City of Wuxi to attend their Wuxi Educational Internationalization Forum as part of Wuxi International Sister Cities Forum taking place November 12 – 15, 2006, (please see letters attached).

Travel costs of approximately \$2,500 including round-trip airfare, train fare, ground transportation and per diem would be funded by the City of Surrey. The City of Wuxi would cover the Councillor's costs during her stay including hotel, meals and local transportation.

Surrey School District 36, as part of their International Education Program, has an existing relationship with Wuxi. In April of this year the School District's Manager of International Education visited the City of Wuxi, at their invitation, to establish partnerships and relationships. The School District will be sending two delegates to the Wuxi Educational Internationalization Forum/Sister City Forum in November. Please note that in China the educational system is under the authority of local government.

As stated in the attached correspondence, the Wuxi Municipal Education Bureau is asking that an MOU be signed at the Forum expressing mutual interest to work together as sister cities. The City of Surrey currently has two official Sister City relationships, one with Zhuhai, China and the other with Koto-Ku, Japan.

At Regular Council on July 8, 1996, Council approved a recommendation contained in Corporate Report (R962) which stated, *“That Council establish a policy to consider new sister city relationships only if substantial economic exchanges and benefits have already been established”*.

The cost to the City to send Councillor Higginbotham on this delegation would be approximately \$2,500. The benefits to the City that could be realized through her participation include, developing new international contacts and relationships, exploring issues related to youth and education on an international level in support of Surrey’s ‘youth friendly city’ initiative, and identifying potential tourism related opportunities.

Murray Dinwoodie  
Acting City Manager

**Attachments (2)**

<http://surrey.ihostez.com/content/uploaded/79f19180bef8471195e052f69071e3be-r226.doc>  
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