



Legislation Text

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DATE: August 2, 2016

TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator

SUBJECT:

*Consideration of Resolution 2016-48, a Resolution Concerning a Sister City Relationship with Bad Soden, Taunus, Germany.

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) concerning the adoption of Resolution 2016-48, which authorizes the City of Franklin to enter into a Sister City relationship with the City of Bad Soden, Germany.

Background

In 2001, the Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County, Tennessee was incorporated as a non-profit organization. The formation of the local sister city organization was initiated through one of Leadership Franklin's project teams. The stated goal of the sister city organization/program is to create and strengthen international partnerships, increase global cooperation at a municipal level, promote cultural understanding, and stimulate economic growth.

In 2005, the City of Franklin formally established a sister city relationship with the City of Carlton Place, Canada. In 2008, the City of Franklin also established a sister city relationship with County Loais, Ireland. Since 2012, the Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County has been exploring a partnership with the City of Bad Soden, Taunus, Germany. Bad Soden is a historic city of approximately 21,000 people located near Frankfurt. Since 2012, there have been several successful youth exchanges between the two communities. City officials and leaders from the Sister Cities organizations from both cities have also visited one another. As a result of these many interactions, the Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County along with the concurrence of their counterparts in Bad Soden are recommending that the two cities enter into a sister city partnership or "twinning." If approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Moore and Alderman Pearl Bransford will represent the City in an official ceremony authorizing the sister city agreement or "treaty" between the two communities on September 3, 2016.

Financial Impact

There is not a direct financial impact to the City of Franklin as a result of the proposed sister city relationship. The Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County organization is a non-profit organization that receives an annual contribution from the City. The FY17 budget includes a contribution of \$5,076. The Sister Cities organization also conducts other fund raising efforts to support their programming.

Recommendation

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2016-48, which authorizes the City of Franklin to enter into a Sister City relationship with the City of Bad Soden, Germany.