

Motion following Notice of Motion

Exploration of Municipal Partnership with Vung Tau City, Vietnam

1. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter to Vung Tau City to initiate formal discussions for strengthening the current municipal relationship through a friendship or sister city agreement, and send copies of the letter to the Ambassador of Vietnam to Canada and the Chairman of Ba Ria –Vung Tau Province to make them aware of this correspondence; and
2. THAT, subject to receipt of a favourable reply, Administration develop, for Council's consideration, a framework for such an agreement.

Background

On December 11th, 2018, Council unanimously approved a motion to direct Administration to return in Q1 2019 with a report, outlining the feasibility and steps to take to strengthen the pre-existing, municipal-to-municipal relationship Strathcona County and Vung Tau City share.

This relationship dates back to 2010, when Strathcona County, through FCM, assisted Vung Tau City with a census project. After that project concluded, Strathcona County built a playground on a prominent beach in Vung Tau City, along with two plaques, to commemorate the relationship.

On March 5th, 2019, The Ambassador of Vietnam to Canada, His Excellency Duc Hau Nguyen, returned to Strathcona County for the second time in less than a year.

His Excellency met with Strathcona County Economic Development & Tourism, the Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce, Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association, Edmonton Global, and the Provincial Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

During the meeting, and through subsequent correspondence, it became clear that there are many potential economic opportunities that could exist between Strathcona County and Vung Tau City, and that these future opportunities would be significantly enhanced by pursuing a Friendship or Sister City agreement.

In Q1 of 2019, Economic Development and Tourism returned with their report. One recommendation was for the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to send a letter to begin formal discussions.

Enclosure

- 1 Draft Letter