

19 September 2017

Dear Mayor and City Commissioners,

Pursuant to our appearance before you at your recent Work/ Study Session pertaining to the consolidation/retirement of advisory boards, the Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board has discussed the subject of relinquishing our official relationship with the Lawrence City Commission over the past two meetings.

Our conclusion, by unanimous vote, is that we ask that you do not change our status as being officially advisory to you, the Lawrence City Commission, in matters directly relative to our three sister cities Eutin, Germany, Hiratsuka, Japan and Iniades, Greece for the following reasons.

A. Advisory Board Official Status, - The Board believes that a departure from the existing official relationship between the City of Lawrence and our three sister cities may be viewed by our sister city affiliates as a diminution of our role in carrying out our official duties relative to programs and exchanges. Furthermore all of our agreements are signed by presiding mayors of Lawrence as well as their counterparts from our sister cities. Our sister cities may well misunderstand any attempts to dilute our board's relationship with the governing body and therefore be concerned about their future role with us.

B. Fundraising – The Board has managed very effectively to live with a static budget for the last several years. This has been accomplished by fundraising and the sale of memberships. The Board thinks that our fundraising efforts may be hampered if we lose "official status" with the City Commission.

C. The Board found it to be advantageous to become a 501c3 not for profit corporation in order to allow for donations to be made for scholarships as tax deductible. We have awarded many scholarships over the past several year allowing for many more students to participate in exchanges than otherwise would have been possible. The Board believes that scholarship fund raising may be negatively impacted without the full backing from the City Commission.

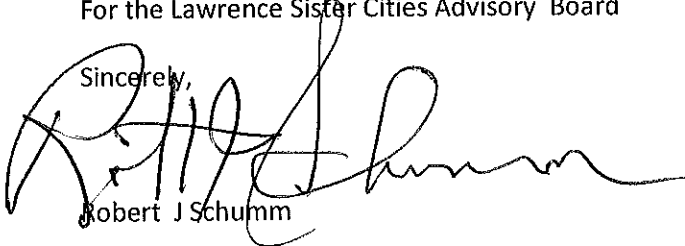
D. The board has continued to address liability issues. We have purchased a liability policy that protects the City from inadvertent circumstances that may arise through the course of performing our service to the City. The Board recently made it mandatory that all chaperones for exchanges undergo a background check so as to insure us that we are selecting individuals of high moral character and dependability.

The Board wants to convey our warm thanks for all your support that we have enjoyed over the past 27 years both financially as well as the genuine personal endorsements and involvements with visiting officials when they are with us in Lawrence. We have deeply enjoyed our charge from you which is to involve our city in the cultural enrichment for our citizens by maintaining and enhancing our relationships with citizens of different cultures.

The Board believes we have been very successful with our mission. Therefore we also believe any other kind of arrangement other than what we have now would be significantly less beneficial in accomplishing our mission.

For the Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J Schumm', written over the printed name.

Robert J Schumm

Chair



SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT

The City of Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A. and the City of Hiratsuka, Kanagawa, Japan hereby jointly declare that the two cities enter into this relationship in order to deepen the understanding and friendship between the two cities through programs in such fields as education, culture, industry, economy and youth.

It is our intent that this relationship will contribute to promoting better relations between the two countries and consequently to the peace and prosperity of the world.

Dated this twenty-first day of September, 1990

Shirley Martin-Smith
The Mayor of Lawrence

Kyoichi Ishikawa
The Mayor of Hiratsuka

DECLARATION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE CITIES OF
EUTIN AND LAWRENCE

In the twenty-five years since the establishment of ties between the cities of Eutin (Federal Republic of Germany) and Lawrence, Kansas (USA) numerous friendships have evolved.

We believe that the contacts between nations and cultures foster international understanding, cooperation, and peace. Awareness and appreciation of other cultures are essential in today's world. The knowledge gained through visits and exchanges will enhance the quality of life in our respective communities.

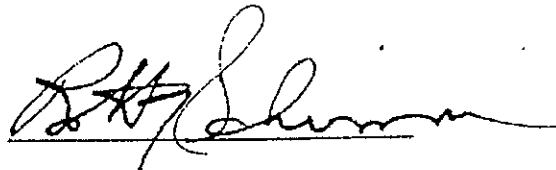
In order to deepen and strengthen the existing ties between our cities, the citizens of Eutin and Lawrence have agreed to establish a sister-city affiliation, to provide greater opportunities for reciprocal exchanges in education, and in arts and sciences as well as in commerce.

We resolve to work together to facilitate visits and contacts between organizations, professional groups, and especially between families and individuals.

Lawrence, Kansas
27 October 1982



Gernot-E. Grimm, Mayor
Eutin



Robert Schumm, Mayor
Lawrence

Office of the Mayor

Sister Cities Agreement

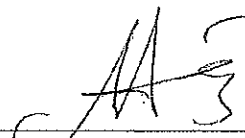
Lawrence, Kansas

Our two communities of Lawrence, Kansas (USA) and the City of Iniades, Greece have benefited from a growing relationship for almost twenty years;

We believe in strong relationships between nations and communities. Close contacts with international cultures are an essential component toward the mutual goals of understanding and peace. Visits and exchanges have and will continue to enrich the lives of our citizens;

In order to deepen the ties and exchanges between our two communities, we hereby jointly declare that Lawrence and Iniades enter into this Sister City relationship. We seek to foster exchanges between both cities so as to share our cultural, artistic, and historic heritage and work together in areas of education, commerce, and all other areas of mutual interest that will jointly benefit both parties. Through sharing and understanding we hope to leave the world a better place for our children.

Dated this 20th day of October, 2009.



Adonios Aletras
Mayor
Iniades, Greece



Robert Chestnut
Mayor
Lawrence, Kansas

