

ORDINANCE

THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH ORDAINS

That Chapter 1, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, Article IV – COMMISSIONS AND AUTHORITIES, Section 1.415, be added to establish a permanent Sister City Committee, of the Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth, as follows (deletions from existing language **stricken**; additions to existing language **bolded**; remaining language unchanged from existing):

A. Mission: The mission of the Sister City Committee is to foster international friendship and understanding through cultural, educational, and economic exchanges with our sister cities and friendship cities. Our goal is to enrich our community's global perspective, promote cultural awareness, and build lasting relationships that benefit both Portsmouth and our international partners.

B. Membership and Term: The Sister City Committee will consist of at least 7 members, including at least three citizens and at least one City Councilor to be designated by the Mayor to serve concurrently with their two year Council term. The three community members to serve three year terms each. As attrition causes the number of community members to drop below three, the Mayor will appoint, with Council approval, new members to three year staggered terms. In addition, the Library Director will serve as a member of the committee.

C. Qualifications: Members will have demonstrated knowledge of and interest in the City's history and affiliation with its sister and friendship cities.

D. Powers and Duties: The Sister City Committee of Portsmouth, NH, aims to foster international friendship and understanding through cultural, educational, and economic exchanges with our sister cities and friendship cities. Our goal is to enrich our community's global perspective, promote cultural awareness, and build lasting relationships that benefit both Portsmouth and our international partners.

The Sister City Committee will provide advice, guidance and assistance to the City Council, the City Manager, and City Boards with respect to the following goals and shall, with the advice and consent of the City Council;

1. Organize and promote cultural events that celebrate traditions, arts, and heritage of our sister and friendship cities.
2. Facilitate artist and performer exchanges to showcase diverse cultural expressions.
3. Develop student exchange programs that allow local youth to experience life in sister and friendship cities, enhancing their global awareness and understanding.

4. Create opportunities for local businesses to connect with counterparts in our sister and friendship cities, thereby fostering trade and collaboration.
5. Promote tourism initiatives that encourage residents and visitors to explore the unique offerings of our sister and friendship cities.
6. Engage Portsmouth residents through volunteer opportunities.
7. Support initiatives that address global challenges and encourage global citizenship.
8. Foster healthy international relationships through common international languages, such as sports and mathematics.
9. Celebrate Portsmouth's historical connections, such as Nichinan and the 1905 Peace Treaty and Santarcangelo and the families who came here; both are unique to the Sister City program and should be honored by permanence.
10. Demonstrate what it means to be the City of the Open Door with people-to-people diplomacy that extends for decades into the past and into the future.

The City Clerk shall properly alphabetize and/or re-number the ordinances as necessary in accordance with this amendment.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby deleted.

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

APPROVED:

Deaglan McEachern, Mayor

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL:

**Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/NHCMC
City Clerk**