

MOTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The City of Kyiv, Ukraine is the country's capital and most populous city, with a population of 2.9 million people. This city boasts nearly 1,500 years of history and Russia's unjustified invasion threatens its future. Invaders have attacked Kyiv before, with the Mongols destroying the city in 1240, and Lithuanians, Poles, and Crussacks later ruling the city. But it must not happen again. The people of Kyiv have said loud and clear that they are Ukranians and want to remain free and independent.

Kyiv, as the capital of Ukraine, has important administrative functions and employs many people through jobs related to its government. The city is also a center for industry, with a wide range of manufacturers. There are factories throughout the city, especially on the bank of the Dnieper river. Kyiv's manufacturing sector includes engineering, chemical plants, and more.

Like Los Angeles, Kyiv is one of the leading cultural centers in its nation. Kyiv has well-known centers including the Taras Schevchenko National Opera, theaters, cinemas, and concert venues including the National Music Academy of Ukraine and the National Palace of the Arts. Major museums include the National Historical Museum and the National Art Museum of Ukraine.

San Francisco has an Ukrainian Consulate which can be called upon to assist in facilitating documentary and other travel/transfer requirements to facilitate Sister City exchange programs. Los Angeles' Ukrainian population presents a large pool of ordinary experiences which are the core of the people-to-people philosophy of Sister Cities International.

The adoption of Kyiv as a Sister City is a symbolic gesture of solidarity from Los Angeles to the Ukrainian people that the City of LA stands for democracy and the freedom of speech. Los Angeles stands strongly in support of Ukraine and acknowledges that it has been attacked unilaterally and without provocation by Russia.

While the City of Los Angeles knows this motion is literally the last thing on the minds of the leaders of Kyiv, we wish to move this forward immediately now in a show of our support and we know the practical details will need to be worked out far in the future.

Under normal circumstances, citizens and governments of both cities would meet and move forward with a formal process that would take close to a year to complete. Seeing how this is not currently possible, the Council should move forward with the adoption and complete the formal process at such a time that is appropriate. It is important to move forward with this designation because it means the City can more easily provide aid to Ukraine in the months ahead.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council's Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee initiate the process to consider and ultimately adopt Kyiv, Ukraine as a Sister City to Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: Paul Krutz
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