



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 6866)

Report Type: Consent Calendar

Meeting Date: 5/9/2016

Summary Title: Donation of a Surplus Ambulance to Oaxaca, Mexico

Title: Approval of the Donation of a Surplus Ambulance to Oaxaca, Mexico

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Fire

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached resolution donating a surplus ambulance to Oaxaca, Mexico.

Background

NEIGHBORS ABROAD, a volunteer community organization operating under the auspices of the City of Palo Alto, directs the activities of Palo Alto's officially recognized Sister Cities program. Its purpose is to promote international and intercultural understanding.

Neighbors Abroad was founded on January 18, 1963 after the Palo Alto City Council initiated a Sister City organization in concert with President Eisenhower's Town Affiliation Program. Neighbors Abroad has received recognition from the United Nations and was given the Tall Tree Award from the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce for Outstanding Community Organization. It has also received awards from Sister Cities International for several of its programs, including the 25th Anniversary Celebration, the Observatory and Planetarium in Oaxaca, a Reforestation Program in Oaxaca, and the Vocational Resource Center in Palo.

Oaxaca became a sister city in 1964. Summer exchanges by groups of high-school students have been a longtime tradition, along with periodic visits by groups of Palo Altans organized by Neighbors Abroad. The City of Palo Alto has contributed surplus fire equipment to Oaxaca and provided training for its firefighters. The Fire Department will soon have a surplus ambulance that is no longer used by the Fire Department as it has exceeded its useful life.

Discussion

The Fire Department recently purchased two new Leader ambulances to add to the fleet of fire apparatus. This will provide 6 nearly identical ambulances for the Palo Alto Fire Department to deliver services to the citizens of Palo Alto. We anticipate taking possession of the new ambulances in spring 2016.

The 2003 Ford F-450 ambulance with about 155,000 miles on it is being removed from reserve status and reduced from the City fleet. Although beyond its useful life for the City of Palo Alto, this ambulance would be of great benefit to the city of Oaxaca. Neighbors Abroad have agreed to coordinate the delivery of the ambulance to Oaxaca.

Timeline

After Council's approval of the resolution and the receipt of the replacement ambulances, Neighbors Abroad will support the transportation of the vehicle to the Mexico/United States border where the balance of the transportation will be provided by the State of Oaxaca. The goal is to transfer the vehicle in time for a May 2016 delivery.

Resource Impact

The ambulance has a salvage value of \$10,000. Neighbors Abroad asks the City to make an in-kind contribution of \$7,000 toward the salvage value, Neighbors Abroad will make a \$2,000 donation to the City for the benefit of Oaxaca and the State of Oaxaca will purchase the vehicle for the net of \$1,000.

Policy Implication

This donation is consistent with existing City policies and furthers international and intercultural understanding.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Oaxaca Ambulance (PDF)
- Attachment B: Oaxaca Engine Donation Resolution (DOC)

NEIGHBORS ABROAD



OF PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

March 16 ,2016

PO BOX 52004, PALO ALTO, CA 94303 USA
www.neighborsabroad.org

Mayor Burt and Honorable Council Members:

The Board of Neighbors Abroad requests the City of Palo Alto to make a donation to offset booked value of a retired ambulance, and thus facilitate a donation of the vehicle to our sister city of Oaxaca. Palo Alto has recently celebrated 50 years as a sister city with Oaxaca Mexico. The relationship has been mutually beneficial across cultural and humanitarian grounds. In June 2016, Palo Alto students will again return for summer family stays with their Oaxacan brothers and sisters returning for a stay later in the summer. Coincident with their arrival in Oaxaca in June, Neighbors Abroad has strived to have a retired City ambulance arrive in Oaxaca for use by our sister city.

The Request. The City will be retiring an ambulance in April 2016 as a replacement ambulance arrives. The retired ambulance is a 2003 Ford F-450 Ambulance with about 155,000 miles. The ambulance has a salvage value of \$10,000. Neighbors Abroad asks the City to make an in-kind contribution of \$7,000 toward the salvage value, Neighbors Abroad will make a \$2,000 donation to the City for the benefit of Oaxaca and the State of Oaxaca will purchase the vehicle for the net of \$1,000. Neighbors Abroad will further support the transportation of the vehicle to the Mexico/United States border where the balance of the transportation will be provided by State of Oaxaca.

Neighbors Abroad has worked with city staff, and believes they are ready to provide the administrative support to complete this transfer in time for a send off in May 2016. Bob Wenzlau, of Neighbors Abroad, has worked closely with staff, and will be in Oaxaca as a chaperone to the students as the students and hopefully ambulance arrive.

A Tradition. The effort has been broader than just Neighbors Abroad, and has included Kiwanis, the Palo Alto and University Rotary, as well as individual donations by citizens. The donation maintains a nearly 20 year tradition of surplus fire safety vehicles serving a second life in Oaxaca.

Thank you for your consideration,

Barbara and Joe Evans., Co-Presidents, Neighbors Abroad

RESOLUTION NO. _____
RESOLUION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PALO ALTO DONATING SURPLUS FIRE EQUIPMENT TO
OAXACA, MEXICO

WHEREAS, the Council did in 1964, establish a sister city affiliation with Oaxaca, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, 2016 marks the 52nd anniversary of the sister city relationship between City of Palo Alto and Oaxaca, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to continue to serve the community interests of international and intercultural understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has a surplus ambulance; and

WHEREAS, Neighbors Abroad is a volunteer organization that maintains and carries out the activities of the City of Palo Alto's officially recognized Sister City Program; and

WHEREAS, Neighbors Abroad has collaborated with the Fire Department to donate this surplus ambulance to Oaxaca, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the surplus ambulance would serve the Fire Department of Oaxaca, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Palo Alto Fire Department has communicated with the Fire Chief of Oaxaca and has confirmed the desire to accept the ambulance; and

WHEREAS, Neighbors Abroad has agreed to coordinated the transfer of said ambulance; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 3711.0 authorizes a city to spend money for promotion of sister city and town affiliation programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Palo Alto does RESOLVE as follows:

SECTION 1. To authorize the City Manager to cause the donation and transfer of the surplus ambulance to the City of Palo Alto's Sister City of Oaxaca, Mexico.

SECTION 2. To authorize the Fire Chief of Palo Alto to coordinate with the Fire Chief of Oaxaca, Mexico, and the Palo Alto Neighbors Abroad for the delivery of the surplus ambulance.

Attachment B

SECTION 3. The Council finds that this is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act and, therefore, no environmental impact assessment is necessary.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES;

NOES;

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Manager

Senior Asst. City Attorney

Fire Chief