

MONTPELLIER France • QUITO Ecuador
LA PLATA Argentina • PERM Russia
ADAPAZARI Turkey



TAMALE Ghana • MAINZ Germany
JIUJIANG China • LEEDS England
CHENGDU China

Transcript to be entered into official record of
Special Budget Committee Meeting on 4 March 2019

Good evening Metro Council members,

As you make considerations for the budget, I am here to ask for your continued funding of Sister Cities of Louisville, an organization that plays a vital role in a city that prides itself on being internationally welcoming & compassionate.

From running the 65-year long work exchange of university students with Montpellier to co-organizing the visit of Ambassadors of South Eastern Asia, we are a conduit for international exchange, cultural diversity, and business development.

Recently the Consul General of France and the German Embassy to the US visited Louisville, highlighting the importance of global connections – connections that Sister Cities of Louisville fosters and facilitates. Visiting foreign delegations from the city's Sister Cities Tamale (Ghana) to Chengdu (China) have sought economic partnerships with Louisville. In fact, over the past decade, Sister Cities has welcomed over 700 people to Louisville and sent nearly 600 ambassadors for our city abroad. All of these trips, be they business, educational exchanges or vacation tourism, improved Louisville's connections and recognition throughout the globe.

However, we don't just focus on the current economic drivers, we also support tomorrow's leaders through JCPS' Backpack of Skills Initiative in particular, by assisting with the Globally & Culturally Competent Citizens component & encouraging global career pathways at the Academies.

In fact in the past month, Sister Cities of Louisville has:

- facilitated an Ecuadorian jazz music exchange, which included a visit to Hawthorne Elementary Spanish Immersion School & Eastern High School
- hosted "Love Ghana" community events at Kosair Charities, WEB DuBois Academy, and Central High School

Over 250 JCPS students participated in these events alone!

In addition to our yearly summer exchange with Montpellier, this June we are hosting a Perm, Russian delegation sponsored by the US Congress' Open World Leadership Center.

Over the years, Sister Cities of Louisville has directly impacted the international economic growth, local community's cultural experience and the global workforce readiness of our students and future leaders. The loss of funding to Sister Cities, one of the many organizations that make up Louisville's

vibrant and diverse scene, would be detrimental to the city's future growth and current attractiveness. Our work is critical to building our city's ability to compete on a global scale; without long-term deeply-held international connections, Louisville will not be a globally competitive city in the future.

Sister Cities of Louisville works on behalf of the city's future vitality for the current community.

We are in favor of the proposed premium insurance tax increase.
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight.