



**SUPPLEMENTARY
BUSINESS PAPER 1**

for

**COUNCIL
MEETING
11/05**

**6.30 PM, TUESDAY,
13 DECEMBER, 2005**

Distributed 9 December, 2005

SUPPLEMENTARY PRECIS

The following report appears as a late item with Mayoral approval as information required for the preparation of the report was not available at the time of distribution of the Business Paper.

MAYORAL MINUTES

MM 16 UPDATE ON THE INVITATION TO THE MAYOR OF SAFITA 1
TO VISIT MARRICKVILLE in 2006

File Ref: 190

Following Council's endorsement of Mayoral Minute MM10 at the September 2005 Council Meeting, an invitation was forwarded to the Mayor of Safita inviting a delegation to visit Marrickville in early 2006. It is noted that each invitation for a sister cities delegation to visit Marrickville should be dealt with on its merits, with consideration given to the social, cultural and economic circumstances of that relationship. In relation to Safita, having considered the specific circumstances of this sister city, including the generous hospitality Council received, I propose that Council cover the cost of accommodation for the delegation while they visit the Marrickville area, as a one-off arrangement that is not intended to set a precedent for other sister city visits. It is therefore recommended that Council endorses the provision of accommodation for the Safita delegation to facilitate their visit to Marrickville in early 2006.

***MM 16 - UPDATE ON THE INVITATION TO THE MAYOR OF SAFITA
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For Decision***

File Ref: 190

Councillors

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Background

Council received an invitation from the President of Tartous City Council in May 2005 extending an invitation for a delegation to visit Safita and Tartous in Syria to sign the proposed sister city agreement. Council resolved to accept the invitation (Meeting 04/05, Mayoral Minute MM 5), and a delegation comprising Councillor Morris Hanna, Councillor Dimitrios Thanos, Councillor Victor Macri, Councillor Sam Iskandar, the General Manager and myself visited Tartous City and the City of Safita in early July 2005 (Meeting 06/05, Mayoral Minute MM8).

During this visit, Council's delegation was treated to the most generous hospitality of the Mayor of Safita and the Syrian Government, which signalled the significance of the visit and the sister city relationship. On this basis, an invitation was sent to the Mayor of Safita to visit Marrickville in February 2006, a decision unanimously supported by the Sister Cities Committee at its August 2005 meeting.

Discussion

The Mayor of Safita has previously expressed his interest in learning about Council's achievements so they could be applied in Safita. Particular areas of interest include the community services structure, childcare centres, improvements to water quality, clean-up campaigns to reduce litter, and increasing civic pride. As previously advised, the visit would also include a formal reception, a dinner and tours of the Marrickville local government area, to which all Councillors would be invited to attend (Meeting 08/05, Mayoral Minute MM10).

It is with a view to reciprocating the generous hospitality Council received and facilitating the delegation's visit to Marrickville, that I propose that Council cover the cost of the delegation's accommodation while it is visiting the Marrickville local government area. It is expected that the cost of accommodation will be approximately \$1,500 per delegate, with a total cost of \$7,500 if five

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delegates attend. A budget adjustment can be done once final arrangements are made for the visit. The costs of flights would be covered by the Syrian Government.

Conclusion

Safita is Marrickville's newest sister city and one where information exchange and learning would be highly valued both by Marrickville and its new friends in Safita. Assisting the delegation from Safita to visit Marrickville through the provision of accommodation would further confirm Council's commitment to the development of this relationship.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council endorses the provision of accommodation for the Safita delegation to facilitate their visit to Marrickville in early 2006.

Clr Sam Byrne
Mayor

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