

Council Representative (insert name)
City of Fort Worth
200 Texas Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Council Representative (insert name):

I understand that you are currently participating in budget workshops for the new City budget.

After extensive discussions with the city staff and members of the Council over the last year, Fort Worth Sister Cities International (FWSCI) learned that the City Manager has proposed no increase in the budget item to support the organization.

I realize that the budget discussions this year are difficult, but in fact, they are difficult each and every year!

Five years ago, the City reduced the budget for FWSCI from \$378,000 to \$50,000, a figure that has remained constant for the last 5 years. Today, it represents less than \$45,000 in constant dollars.

Despite this, the citizens of Fort Worth have stepped forward to fill the gap and to allow the organization to thrive in support of its mission of global outreach on behalf of the City of Fort Worth and its residents. As you are probably aware, FWSCI has just been awarded the trophy for the best program of ANY Sister Cities program in the nation.

Through on-going efforts, FWSCI makes a significant contribution to the economic growth of Fort Worth and works diligently to build the brand of Fort Worth across the world. As you also know we are in the last stages of adding yet another Sister City in France to further the reputation of Fort Worth with this important global partner. We were actively supporting the new strategic plan of the City even before it was written, and we expect to continue to do so.

FWSCI proposed to the City Manager an increased role in this endeavor through expansion of our programming and support for the City. We asked for an increase in our annual budget allocation to \$150,000. We think this is a reasonable request and will allow us to expand our connections around the world, as well as exchange and outreach services and further support the City with our protocol expertise in an expanded way. We would expect a significant multiplier benefit for the City from this increase consistent with our past performance.

We ask now for you and the entire Council to join the citizens who have supported Fort Worth Sister Cities International by increasing the budget allocation for this program to \$150,000 in the 2018-19 budget. Specifically, I would ask that you propose this increase to your fellow Council members during your on-going workshops.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Name
Address