

INTRODUCED: July 13, 2009

A RESOLUTION No. 2009-R **99-109**

To extend an invitation to Segou, Mali to become a sister city and to invite the people of Segou, Mali to participate in the Sister Cities program.

Patron – Mr. Tyler

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JUL **27** 2009 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America inaugurated the Sister City concept in 1956 to establish greater friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and other nations through the medium of direct personal contact; and

WHEREAS, succeeding Presidents of the United States of America have endorsed said program, to be conducted for the broad purposes of the exchange of ideas between citizens of the United States of America and the people of other nations; and

WHEREAS, to implement this program, Sister Cities International has requested the City of Richmond and other communities in the United States to affiliate with cities of similar characteristics and mutual interest in other nations; and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JUL 27 2009 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond, through its Council, does recognize and endorse this program with the hope that it will lead to a lasting friendship between the people of the City of Richmond and Segou, Mali;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

1. That this Council on behalf of the people of the City of Richmond does hereby extend an invitation to the government and the people of Segou, Mali to participate with the City of Richmond as its Sister City for the purpose of creating greater mutual understanding between the people of our two great cities and nations.

2. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to act as the official representative of the City of Richmond to carry out this program.

3. That the City Clerk, with the assistance of the Sister Cities Commission, is hereby directed to send copies of this resolution to the Mayor and Council of Segou, Mali; Sister Cities International; the Embassy of Mali in the United States of America; the Embassy of the United States of America in Mali; and the Virginia Friends of Mali.

A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:


City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Daisy E. Weaver
Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Norman Sales, Richmond City Attorney

THROUGH Daisy E. Weaver, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

COPY Bruce Tyler, Councilmember

DATE June 30, 2009

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE SISTER CITIES RESOLUTION AMENDMENTS

Handwritten signature: Daisy E. Weaver
Handwritten signature: Joyce Davis

RECEIVED
JUL 1 2009

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Councilman Bruce Tyler, Patron

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Governmental Operations

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

This Resolution is to amend Resolution 2006-R118-126 by changing the membership of the Sister Cities Commission from 19 members to 13 members, to change the Council Standing Committee from Health, Human Services and Education to Governmental Operations and proposes to pursue and develop a Sister City relationship with Segou, Mali.

BACKGROUND

Created in 1980, the Sister Cities Commission (SCC) membership has been comprised of 19 members with members appointed by the Mayor. In 2006, Resolution 2006-R118-126 changed the appointment of the members of the Commission from Mayor to City Council. Since 2008 and after a brief period of inactivity, Council has appointed nine members to the Commission. The Commission recommends changing the membership of the Sister Cities Commission from 19 to 13 members to allow for a more cohesive work group and the ability to have all members present and in attendance at meetings for a quorum. As there are currently 9 members appointed to the Commission, there would be four vacancies.

On June 25, 2009, Council Staff recommended to the Government Operations Standing Committee to change the oversight of the Commission from the Health, Human Services and Education Standing Committee. The change is recommended because the Commission is better aligned with the Governmental Operations Committee because of its universal scope and oversight over issues that would fall under the auspices of City

Administration. Placement would allow an opportunity for staffing from City Administration and for the Commission to receive resource development. The Council Governmental Operations Standing Committee accepted this recommendation.

In accordance with Resolution 2006-R118-126, the Commission is charged with developing and fostering a sister city affiliation program through the auspices of Sister Cities International. Currently, Richmond has relationships established with six Sister Cities. On June 3, 2009, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that Richmond invite the City of Segou, Mali to become Richmond Virginia's Sister City.

The Commission has collaborated with the Virginia Friends of Mali, a civic organization to facilitate a relationship with Segou, Mali. The Commission will build upon the relationship by the Friends of Mali with citizens of Segou, Mali. The Friends of Mali have initiated numerous successful visits and exchanges with teachers, students, diplomats, business people, musicians and general tourism. Virginia Friends of Mali has current relationships and the full support of the Malian Ambassador, H.E. Abdoulaye DIOP, Segou Mayor Ousmane SIMAGA, and the President of the Segou Council for Economic Development, Mr. Mamou DAFFE, and others in the economic, cultural and political communities.

In summary, a Sister City relationship between the cities of Richmond VA and Segou Mali, building on the commonalities of our experience, the historic and cultural relationships which have existed, and the opportunities to build further relationships in the areas of economic development and educational exchanges, will bring lasting gain to both Richmond and Segou.

Attached is a chart of Commonalities between Richmond, VA and Segou, Mali.

Recommendations are to Amend Resolution 2006-R118-126 as follows:

- To change the oversight of the Sister Cities Commission from Health, Human Services and Education to Governmental Operations Standing Committee
- To change the membership of the Commission from 19 to 13 members
- To pursue and develop a Sister City relationship with Segou, Mali as recommended by the Sister City Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$ 0	
Fiscal Summary		

Attachment/s Yes No

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 12.22.08/srs

Commonalities between Richmond and Segou

On June 3, 2009, the Richmond sister City Commission voted unanimously to recommend that Richmond City Council invite the City of Segou Mali to become Richmond Virginia's Sister City.

	Richmond, VA (U.S.A.)	Segou, Mali (Africa)
Regional Administrative Capital	Richmond	Segou
Political Organization - Country	Multi-Party Democracy with directly elected President	Constitutional Multi-Party Democracy Universal Suffrage at 18 years With directly elected President
Municipal Organization	City Council elected with two political party labels, headed by a President and directly elected Mayor	City Council elected by the citizens, with 5-6 political party labels and the council elects its Mayor.
Economic Organization	Greater Richmond Partnership	Segou Region Economic Development Council
Primary Language	English	French
Situated on a great river	James River	Niger River
Music Festivals, both started 6 years ago	Richmond Folk Festival on the James succeeded the National Folk Festival	Segou Music Festival of the Niger 6 th edition in 2010
Music exchanges and common musical roots	2 Malian bands have played the Richmond festival	2 Virginian bands have played the Segou festival
Center of Tourism	Civil War Battlefields, Capitol of Confederacy, Black History,	Festival on the Niger Pottery, Masks, Dance, Music Historic Villages Colonial Architecture
Important Nearby Tourist Sites	Jamestown, Yorktown, Williamsburg,	Djenne Mosque: World's Largest Adobe Building Timbuktu

	University of Virginia, Monticello.	Port of Mopti.
Historic Capital cities	Historical capital city	Historical capital city 19 th century
Center of History & Culture	Early Capitol of the Region, Center of Commerce, Capitol of Confederacy.	Historic Bambara Kingdom, Dynasties of Coulibaly & Diarra, Kingdom of Amadou Tall (Peul), French Colonial Period.
Common History of Slavery	1600s and 1700s most Virginia slaves came from the Empire of Mali through Goree Island.	Mali also had slavery, and some Malian kings must have sold slaves to the native traders who carried them to the coast.
Racism and brutality	Richmond had the largest slave market in North America	Monzon Diarra kept albino slaves in a hole beneath his throne, and sacrificed one from time to time
Cult of great heroes	Lee and Jackson Arthur Ashe and Gabriel	Sunjata Keita and Mansa Musa Keita Biton Coulibaly and Monzon Diarra
Cult of great explorers	William Byrd Lewis & Clark	Dr Mungo Park, the first European to reach the Niger, came to Segou in 1795
Common African Heritage	Music – 5 String Banjo Food House and Family Structure	Music – Akonting & Ngoni Food House & Family Structure
Both cities have very religious societies, strongly divided by their faiths. Most people are tolerant of each other, but some are not.	Many churches and many different denominations in Richmond.	Head of Tijania (Sufi) is in Segou. Important Bozo Marabout (Teacher) is in Segou. Catholic Bishop is in Segou. Many small Protestant groups are out in the villages.
Center of Commerce	Light Manufacturing, C.F.Sauer is big importer to West Africa. Tobacco, Medical & Tech Research.	Comatex: Textile Manufacturer Other Cotton Manufacturers Bogalon – traditional dye works Segou Lait: Major Dairy Niger River Fishing Agriculture (Cotton, Cereals, Rice) Cattle for Milk & Meat
Sports	Richmond Kickers	Segou Football Team (Soccer) called

		'Biton' after the founding king (1743) Basketball.
Very active and dynamic urban civil society	Dozens of associations work in Richmond	There is an office coordinating the NGOs of Segou
Media Outlets Newspaper Radio Television	The Times-Dispatch WRIR Rich. Independent Radio WRVA and National TV	The Segovien Newspaper Radio Sikoro National TV from Bamako
Population	200,000	200,000
Regional Population	1, 250,000	1,750,000
Poverty Rate	22.9% -40% Concentrated areas of poverty	Unknown (estimate of 40-50%) Poverty has varying cultural interpretation
Median Income	\$38,348 with the per capita income as \$20,337	1,600 – Skilled Worker = \$3,000/year (est)