

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – JUNE 22, 2009

TRAVEL TO BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES

Recommendation

The Mayor recommends:

THAT the Economic Development Committee approve travel to Baguio City, Philippines for the period of August 28 to September 10, 2009.

Contribution to Sustainability

Not applicable

Economic Impact

Should the Economic Development Committee approve travel to Baguio City, the only costs incurred by the Council Members' Operating Budget will be airfare and incidentals. Baguio City will provide ground transportation and two hotel rooms within Baguio. The Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV) will cover meals and additional accommodations.

Communications Plan

A media release will be distributed to media outlets by the Corporate Communications Department.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for travel to Baguio City in celebration of our Friendship City's Centenary.

Background – Analysis and Options

Baguio City, Philippines has been a friendship city with Vaughan since 1997. Since the signing of the friendship agreement, several delegations from Baguio City have visited Vaughan. With the assistance of the FCAV, Vaughan has maintained an active friendship relationship including: a student visit from Baguio, product displays in the Vaughan Civic Centre, and in 2007, an official delegation from Baguio City to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our friendship.

A letter was received from Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. inviting the Mayor to travel to Baguio City to celebrate its 100th year as a Chartered City and to participate in the Sister Cities and Town Twinning Summit (see Attachment 1). September 1st is the anniversary, however the proposed travel dates are from August 28 to September 10, 2009.

Baguio City and FCAV has invited the Mayor and Regional Councillor Gino Rosati to participate along with four members of FCAV. Baguio City has indicated that they will cover the costs for ground transportation and two hotel rooms within Baguio. FCAV will cover all costs associated with their travel as well as accommodations and meals for the two Vaughan delegates outside Baguio.

The Summit, with the theme of "Fostering a Culture of Oneness" will promote friendship and goodwill through an understanding of the achievements and experiences of the international partnership program. The Summit's activities will include an inauguration of the Global Garden, sister city exhibits and the signing of the Baguio Centennial Declaration. There will also be a forum discussing issues such as environment, tourism and sustainable development.

Based on the proposed itinerary, the delegation will participate in business visits and meetings with the Baguio Chamber of Commerce and Baguio Economic Development Agency. FCAV is a member of the Canada-Philippine Business Council and will be facilitating meetings with the Canadian Ambassador in Manila and other business representatives.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set out by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Linda D. Jackson
Mayor

21 May 2009

HON. LINDA JACKSON

Mayor
City of Vaughan
Ontario, Canada

Dear Honorable Jackson:

WARMEST GREETINGS FROM THE CITY OF BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES!

Baguio City, your Sister City, will mark its 100th year as Chartered City come September 1st of this year. As such, several major activities are lined up to commemorate this momentous event. One of the highlights of Baguio's Centenary Celebration is the ***SISTER CITIES AND TOWN TWINNING SUMMIT*** with the theme "*Fostering a Culture of Oneness*".

In this Summit, we hope to promote and sustain friendship, goodwill and understanding among the participants. It shall also serve as a venue for highlighting initiatives, projects, achievements and experiences on international and local exchange and cooperation to bring about a culture of oneness.

The Summit will cover a variety of activities, with highlights such as the inauguration of the "Global Garden"-Sister City Park, the Sister Cities Exhibits, and the signing of the Baguio Centennial Declaration.

A forum, which would focus on environment, tourism and sustainable development, would also take place during the Summit. We believe that your attendance would make valuable contributions to the discussions during this activity.

It is with pleasure and honor that I take this opportunity to invite you, our sister city, to join us at this momentous event and on the occasion of our Centennial Celebration.

Baguio City will provide transportation (to and from the airport and within the City) and hotel rooms (one (1) for the Mayor and one (1) for the two (2) members of the delegation).

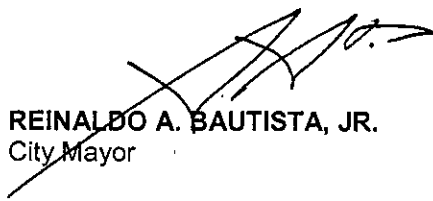
We would highly appreciate it if you could also send us (through mail or e-mail) a profile of your city and some photos of landmarks in your area for the Exhibit and the Summit brochure not later than June 30, 2009. Each city will be allocated a three (3) meters x three (3) meters Exhibit booth.

Another activity during the Centennial celebration is the Centennial Parade. We hope that you could also take part in this event on September 1, 2009 wearing your costumes which would represent your city.

Please contact our Tourism Department at (074) 442-1007 or (074) 442-1006 for confirmation/queries or e-mail our secretariat at baguiosistercity@yahoo.com.

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate 100 years of Baguio and another 100 years of friendship and partnership with you.

Very truly yours,



REINALDO A. BAUTISTA, JR.
City Mayor



Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV)

7894 Dufferin St. Vaughan, Ont., L4K 1R6, Tel: (905) 881-4600, email: fcav@rogers.com, url: www.fcav.ca

May 11, 2009

Her Worship Mayor Linda Jackson
and Members of Council, City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 1T1

Dear Mayor Jackson and Members of Council:

I would like to reiterate the invitation of Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. to attend the 100 years anniversary of Baguio City. All inland expenses like hotel, meal, transportation will be paid by Baguio City in accordance of the Friendship Agreement. The only expense that will be incurred by the delegation is the airfare. The Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan is also considering a fundraiser to help defray the airfare.

The following is a proposed itinerary:

- Aug 28 - Lv Toronto to Manila.
- Aug 29 - Ar Manila, overnight in Peninsula Hotel (Makati).
- Aug 30 - Lv Manila to Baguio; Arrival of delegation in Baguio City.
- Aug 31 - Sister city summit with Mayor & 2 other officials of respective sister cities.
- Sept 1 - All delegations will participate in the parade and program.
- Sept 2-3 - Banaue Rice Terraces, overnight in Banaue (weather permitting).
- Sept 4 - Baguio Chamber of Commerce, Texas Instrument plant, City Tours, Baguio Economic Dvlpt Authority, Philippine Military Academy.
- Sept. 5-8 - Lv Baguio to Manila (3 nights in Astoria Hotel). Tour Manila.
- Sept. 8-10 - Lv Manila to Tagaytay (2 nights in Tagaytay). Tour Tagaytay.
- Sept. 10 - Lv Manila to Toronto.

One of the projects of Baguio City sister cities is an international garden. The City of Vaughan has been assigned 50-80 square meters and has been requested to plant seeds.

Mayor, it would be great if you and Members of Council can attend the centennial celebration of Baguio City. Four members of FCAV including myself will be accompanying the delegation. I anticipate this trip to be fruitful and memorable.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,

Erlinda

.cc: Hon. Alejandro Mosquera, Philippine Consul General
Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr., Baguio City