



City of Saint Paul

City Hall and Court House
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Legislation Text

File #: RES 17-1900, **Version:** 1

Formalizing a Sister City agreement between the City of Mogadishu and City of Saint Paul.

Whereas, Saint Paul has one of the largest East African community (predominantly Somali) in the United States of America, contributing to the vibrancy economy of city of Saint Paul; and

Whereas, there are hundreds of Somali / East African-owned and operated commercial ventures contributing to the socio-economic development of city of Saint Paul; and

Whereas, Somalis / East African-Americans have established educational, cultural, and non-profit institutions in Saint Paul; and

Whereas, many in Saint Paul and throughout Minnesota have familial, linguistic, and entrepreneurial connections with Somalia; and

Whereas, Mogadishu strategically located near the world's busiest shipping lanes, controlling access to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean and the Arabian Peninsula, and serves as a key refueling and trans-shipment center; and

Whereas, Mogadishu is the base of many various foreign Diplomats, African Union, European Union and American military efforts; and

Whereas, a sister city relationship with city of Mogadishu would formalize the existing informal connections between our cities; and

Whereas, building a sister city relationship between Minnesota's state capitol of Saint Paul and Mogadishu, the capitol of Somalia, promises opportunity to explore and cement cultural and educational learning relationship; and

Whereas, Mayor Thabit Abdi Mohamed and the Saint Paul City Council have provided support and encouragement for a formal Sister City relationship; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Saint Paul City Council, on behalf of the people of Saint Paul, hereby approve the efforts of Voice of East African Women (VEAW) of USA to formalize a Sister City Agreement between the cities of Saint Paul and Mogadishu, for the purposes of promoting cultural understanding and stimulating economic development between our two cities and nations.

