

Press Release

7/2/2015

Hyogo Business and Cultural Center

The signing of a Letter of Intent to create a sister city relationship between Tatsuno City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan and Covington City, Washington State, U.S.A

June 30th, 2015 – Mayor Hajime Kurihara led a delegation of seven from Tatsuno City, Japan to visit Covington City with the purpose of the signing of a letter of Intent to create a sister city relationship.

On the morning of the 30th, the delegation from Tatsuno City was met by the Covington City Manager, Mr. Bolli and the Parks and Recreation manager, Mr. Thomas at Covington City Hall. They were then taken on a tour of the city's public facilities, including Kentlake High School, Cedar Heights Junior High School, Covington Fire Station, and the Covington Community Pool and Park. Through these visitations and subsequent discussions with community figureheads, the delegation from Tatsuno City was able to get a solid understanding of Covington City's current situation.

On the evening of the 30th, at 7p.m., the delegation from Tatsuno City took part in Covington City's City Hall meeting. It was at this meeting that a resolution to make Tatsuno City as a sister city of Covington City was adopted by the City Council and Mayor Harto. The Resolution passed unanimously, and following an exchange of speeches and gifts between representatives of both cities, a letter of intent was signed stating the intent to finalize the sister city relationship when Mayor Harto visits Tatsuno city on October 4th, during their 10 year anniversary.

The number of Covington citizens present at the City Hall meeting was higher than usual, and the mood within the council chambers was one of excitement. During the proceedings, there was frequent applause and gestures of goodwill from those in attendance, resulting in a warm and inviting atmosphere during the meeting.

Attached: Copy of the Letter of Intent (both Japanese and English)

1. Tatsuno City Outline
 - a. Location: Located in the northwestern portion of Hyogo prefecture
 - b. Land Area: 210.93km²
 - c. Population: 80,518 (2010)
 - d. Industry: Somen Noodles, Soy Sauce, Leather Products
2. Covington City Outline
 - a. Location: Western Washington, 57km south of Seattle
 - b. Land Area: 15.44km²
 - c. Population: 19,134 (2014)
 - d. Point of Interest: Separated from Kent City on 1997 to become its own City. Acts as a suburb of Seattle and is supported primarily by Retail activities.

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確 認 書

日本国兵庫県たつの市とアメリカ合衆国ワシントン州コビントン市は、姉妹都市締結を実施することを前提とし、下記のとおり相互理解を深める交流を行うことを確認する。

- 1 両市は姉妹都市締結に向けて情報交換、人的交流等を行う。
- 2 姉妹都市締結は、2015年 10月 4日を目標とする。
- 3 姉妹都市締結に係る協定書は別添のとおりとする。

2015年6月30日
コビントン市にて

日本国
兵庫県たつの市長
栗原 一

アメリカ合衆国
ワシントン州コビントン市長
マーガレット ハルト



Letter of Intent

The City of Covington in the State of Washington, U.S.A. and Tatsuno City in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan (“The Parties”) hereby confirm their will to conduct exchange activities to promote mutual understanding as described below, on the assumption that they shall enter into a sister city agreement.

1. The Parties shall conduct information sharing, personnel exchange, and other activities towards the goal of entering into a sister city agreement.
2. The Parties shall strive to enter into the sister city agreement on the 4th day of October, 2015.
3. The sister city agreement shall be as attached.

Signed in the City of Covington

On the 30th day of June, 2015

Margaret Harto
Mayor of the City of Covington
The State of Washington, U.S.A.

Hajime Kurihara
Mayor of Tatsuno City
Hyogo Prefecture, Japan