



Village of Hanover Park Administration

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hpil.org

Village President
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Liza Gutierrez
Jon Kunkel
Herb Porter

Interim Village Manager
Courtney Sage

VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Hanover Park Police Headquarters 2011 Lake Street, Hanover Park, Illinois 60133 Thursday, May 28, 2026 7:00 p.m. MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 06:56 p.m. by Sister Cities Committee Chair Darius Robinson.

PRESENT: Committee Darius Robinson, Frank Grant-Acquah, Teresa Smith-Waits,
Members: Michael Waits, James Kemper, Trustee Herb Porter, and
Gurmeet Singh

ABSENT: Committee Adelaide Grant-Acquah (Auxiliary).
Members:

ALSO PRESENT: Village Liaison Trustee Jon Kunkel, Deputy Chief Victor DiVito, Deputy Chief Matthew Riedel, Public Works Director T.J. Moore, and Staff Liaison Officer Shahad Alkafil.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Motion by Herb to accept the agenda. Second by Gurmeet. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The meeting minutes of April 23, 2026, were approved with a motion by Gurmeet and a second by Herb.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

5-a. Juneteenth Planning- Continued

Darius advised that the status remains the same regarding the entertainment. Phil Davis decided to travel to Kansas City and notified Darius that he would not be available. Out of the three planned acts, two contracts have been signed. Darius advised that he will continue looking for a third act and plans to contact Guy Legend with the Chicago Blues Association to check his availability. Herb asked what acts have been confirmed. Darius advised that the saxophone performer and the 40 Plus Double Dutch team are confirmed. He added that he is still looking for a band to serve as the third performance. Darius asked Public Works Director TJ Moore if electronic advertisements could begin on the Barrington Rd. and Lake St. signs. TJ advised that he should be able to arrange that.

Darius advised he was wondering how the committee felt about providing transportation to and from the Juneteenth event for attendees. Kunkel advised that the Park District owns the shuttle bus and arrangements could be made through Steve Bessette with the Park District. Darius advised that providing transportation could help improve attendance.

Darius stated that he would still like to have a stage and tents at the event. TJ advised that they have a DJ tent along with additional tents available. He stated there will be one tent for staff, one for the DJ, and a total of eight tents available, including six 10x10 tents and four additional tents that could be used as a covered seating area. TJ noted that if a tent is damaged or lost due to windy weather, there will not be any additional replacement tents available.

Darius advised that he submitted the Juneteenth flyer to the Illinois Sister Cities website through Carol Wolf in hopes of increasing attendance. Darius also advised that he would like committee members to attend the Unity Event at the Hoffman Estates Library to distribute Juneteenth flyers. Committee members plan to meet there around 6:30 p.m.

Darius advised that catering would cost approximately \$23 per person for 75 people. He added that there would be an additional \$500 charge if food is cooked on-site, making it more cost-effective to have the food prepared ahead of time. Darius further advised that

CIDC will assist with providing food for the event through Dee's Catering in Bartlett, eliminating the need to pay for on-site cooking and service. TJ asked Darius whether a PA system would be needed. The committee advised that DJ Mix will provide his own sound equipment.

Herb suggested that if a third entertainment act cannot be secured, DJ Mix could extend his performance and host a dance party rather than having music played only during breaks.

Herb asked about the status of invitations to local dignitaries and elected officials. Darius advised that Kevin, Ted, and Michelle would be responsible for inviting them to the event.

Darius advised that Tyrone Johnson, with the NAACP is now overseeing the health-related portion of the event. Darius reminded the committee that advertisements for the program book are due by June 3, 2026. He advised that once those are received, the program book will be finalized.

- 5-b. Continued discussion re Sister Cities Committee business (communications, coordinated efficiencies, assignment follow-through, recruitment)- Nothing to report.

5-c. Sister Cities International 70th Anniversary Event – Discussion

Darius advised that Sister Cities International has not yet finalized its branding for the 70th Anniversary Conference. He stated that he will update both the committee members and the state board once additional information becomes available. He also advised that any donations, similar to those collected for the IML Conference, should be delivered in person rather than mailed. The committee also discussed the possibility of the President of Ghana attending the conference and whether any adjustments to the event would be necessary if his attendance is confirmed. Herb asked where the conference would be held. Darius advised that the Sister Cities International 70th Anniversary Conference is scheduled for July 22–25 at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, D.C. Frank advised that an African Sister Cities event will be held on July 22 as part of the conference.

6. TOWNHALL SESSION:
None.

7. OLD BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

- 7-a. Recap of recent activities- Darius advised that the Illinois Sister Cities meeting was held via Zoom. One of the topics discussed was increasing member participation throughout the state. He advised that there is very little participation from Southern Illinois, with only Decatur and Springfield regularly participating. Darius also discussed the possibility of holding the annual Illinois Sister Cities conference in Southern Illinois. He advised that he suggested to Carol Wolf that the conference be hosted in either Marion or Carbondale to help increase participation from communities in that region.
- 7-b. Budget activity update- Deputy Chief DiVito advised that since the last meeting, the following Juneteenth related checks have been approved with that being \$175 for Saxophonist Evon Samms, and \$450 for DJ Mix. Deputy Chief DiVito advised that the committee will now begin identifying goals and budget requests for the 2027 fiscal year.

8. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

- 8-a. Upcoming event announcements- Frank advised that since COVID, the committee has been trying to reconnect with schools in Cape Coast. He stated that there is a primary school in need of assistance and advised that he would read the information they provided. Frank advised that three classrooms at the school currently do not have a roof, and the school is requesting assistance with adding one. Frank stated that he asked them to send him an estimate and advised that the cost is expected to be less than \$3,500. Frank advised that it may be too late to include this project in the current year's budget, but it is something the committee can look into fundraising for, with a possible goal of \$5,000. He stated that whatever amount is raised can be sent to the school so they can begin the project. Darius advised that after Juneteenth, the committee can focus on fundraising for the project and possibly look into doing so through Friends of Sister Cities. Herb asked whether it would be possible to hold a fundraiser during the Juneteenth event by providing information to attendees and directing them on where they can make a donation. Kunkel suggested setting up a tent at Juneteenth with information about the fundraising effort. Herb added that the fundraiser could also be announced during the event.
- 8-b. Agenda topics for upcoming meeting-
- Juneteenth Planning- Recap
 - Continued discussion re Sister Cities Committee business (communications, coordinated efficiencies, assignment follow-through, recruitment)
 - FY2027 budget preliminary discussion

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Gurmeet to adjourn at 08:00 p.m. Second by Frank. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Notes taken by Sister Cities Staff Liaison Officer Shahad Alkafil.