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For Immediate Release



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RENTON SISTER CITY DELEGATION TO VISIT JAPAN IN APRIL 2007 Planning Meeting Coming Up

Plans are underway for the next City of Renton sister city delegation visit to Nishiwaki, Japan, in mid-April 2007. The next delegation planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., Renton City Hall, 7th Floor Council Conference Room. The trip is expected to last one week and the delegation is open to interested community leaders and residents. Past delegations have included members from the Renton School District, City of Renton, Mayor and Council members, service clubs, and Renton citizens. Delegates will tour attractions and sightsee around Nishiwaki and surrounding cities. Delegates will be responsible for their own expenses, though many prefer home-stay accommodations in Nishiwaki making the travel arrangements more affordable.

Recent delegation visits from Renton to Nishiwaki occurred in 1999 and 2002. Visits from Nishiwaki to Renton occurred in 2001 and 2004.

Renton's Sister City relationship with Nishiwaki began in 1969 when a Sister City alliance with Nishiwaki, Japan, was forged by the Renton Lion's Club with support of other civic organizations to promote mutual understanding and good will between the United States and Japan and encourage the exchange of ideas and culture between the two cities. In an effort to enhance a Sister City relationship with Nishiwaki, Japan, the Renton City Council passed a resolution in 1994 establishing an official City of Renton Nishiwaki Sister City Committee. The Sister City relationship pairs two cities with strikingly similar characteristics. Nishiwaki, Japan, is located in a valley between two hills with a river running through the center of town. The climates are very similar and each city has three high schools. Nishiwaki is located near the city of Kobe, which is one of Seattle's sister cities. The Washington - Hyogo, Japan Sister State Association strengthens the relationship between Renton and Nishiwaki.

Renton City Hall is located at 1055 South Grady Way. All delegate participation must be confirmed by January 26, 2007. For questions, more information, or to become part of the delegation, please call Sonja Mejlaender in Community Services at 425.430.6514.