




To: Members of Dublin City Council
From: Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager 
Date: October 6, 2016
Initiated By: Nancy Richison, Senior Project Manager
Alison LeRoy, Event Manager
Mary Jo DiSalvo, Event Administrator
Re: Gathering of the Dublins

Background

In 2013, Dublin, Ireland Lord Mayor Naoise Ó Muiri invited Mayor Tim Lecklider to join mayors and administrators of other Dublins to gather in Ireland for a three-day celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Mayor Lecklider and his counterparts from Dublins in California, Georgia, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and were hosted at official gatherings.

In 2017, the City of Dublin will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Dublin Irish Festival. In recognition of this milestone, the Events team is planning a number of special celebrations and promotions. In conjunction with the Office of the City Manager, Events Administration recommends Dublin, Ohio host a Gathering of the Dublins, in which the City of Dublin will invite officials from Dublin Ireland, the ambassador of Ireland in Washington, D.C., the consul general of Ireland in Chicago and representatives from Dublins across the United States to join us to celebrate the three days of the Irish Festival.

Summary

Our research indicates that there are approximately 20 Dublins around the world, varying in size and population. Our plan would be to pay for travel, lodging and meals for the Lord Mayor and city manager of Dublin, Ireland. We would reserve hotel rooms and pay for meals for the ambassador and consul general. We also would cover the cost of hotel and meals for three days for the representatives from the stateside Dublins. The estimated cost to host the Gathering of the Dublins is approximately \$35,000.

During their visit, we would provide an itinerary of activities, including receptions and dinners with Dublin City Council, the business community, Irish organizations and other officials as determined.

Our plan is to incorporate a welcome from the ambassador and consul general into the Honorary Chair Reception, similar to the greeting from the consul general at this year's Festival. We also would invite all of the Dublin representatives to join in the opening parade preceding the Festival Dedication.

Recommendation

Staff is seeking Council's direction on this proposed event. Staff recommends approval of this event prior to review of the 2017 Operating Budget in order to send invitations and save the date on calendars.