CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

ITEM: Approval of Appointment to Sister Cities Commission **DATE:** November 12, 2018

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND:

The late Phyllis Staplin served on the Sister Cities Commission from July 2013 until her passing in June 2018, and the Mayor and City Council thank her for her service to the community. Mayor Gaer would like to appoint Yangyidi Ye to serve the remainder of the current term ending on March 31, 2020.

Yangyidi Ye 3500 Wolcott Avenue, Des Moines 381-0168 (w) 708-8680 (h)

*Note: Upon adoption of the Ordinance changes Monday night, the Ordinance will allow for two Commission members who live outside the city limits.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of appointment to the Sister Cities Commission.

Lead Staff Member: Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk RTJ

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk
Appropriations/Finance	
Legal	
Agenda Acceptance	RTJ

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee			
Date Reviewed			
Recommendation	Yes	No	Split

CITY OF WEST DES MOINES, IOWA

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The City of West Des Moines appreciates your interest in serving the community and welcomes your application. Please complete all sections of this application. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (515) 222-3600 or TDD (Hearing Impaired) (515) 222-3334. The City of West Des Moines is committed to providing equal opportunity for citizen involvement.

Please indicate those Boards and/or Commissions on which you would be willing to serve by checking below:

- [ ] Board of Adjustment
- [ ] Civil Service Commission
- [ ] Library Board of Trustees
- [ ] Plan & Zoning Commission
- [x] Sister Cities Commission
- [ ] Bicycle Advisory Commission
- [ ] Water Works Board of Trustees
- [ ] Human Services Advisory Board
- [ ] Human Rights Commission
- [ ] Public Arts Advisory Commission
- [ ] Valley Junction Events Committee
- [ ] Other _____

Name: Ye (Last) Yangyidi (First) _____ (Middle)

Address: 3500 Wolcott Avenue (Street) IA (City) 50321 (State) _____ (Zip)

Occupation: Attorney/Co- Founder

Employer's Name & Address

Causey & Ye Law PLLC

2213 Grand Avenue Des Moines IA 50312

Work Phone: 5153810168 When can you be reached at this number?: 9am -5pm

Home Phone: 5157088680 When can you be reached at this number?: 9am-8pm

E-mail address: yang@causeyyelawinternational.com

Length of residence in West Des Moines: _____

Please list any previous Board membership positions (City, Church, School, Professional, etc.) and dates of service:

Iowa Chinese Association 2015 - present

Please indicate below the reasons why you would like to be appointed to a Board or Commission and any specific skills or experience that you believe support your application.

Please see attached bio

Please list two references other than a family member:

Name: Swallow Yan Relationship: Board Partner Phone: 515-988-0901

Name: Stephen Eckley Relationship: Bar Associati Phone: 515-243-7100

Do you sell to, or are you in any manner a part to, any contract to furnish supplies, material, or labor to the City of West Des Moines? No If so, please list: _____

Have you ever been employed by the City? No If so, please list dates of employment and positions held.

_____

Do you have relatives working for the City? No If so, please give name and relationship.

_____

Are you being sponsored by a community organization(s)? Yes If so, please list the following and attach a confirmation letter from said organization:

Organization: Iowa Chinese Association Contact: Swallow Yan

Phone Number: 515-988-0901 Email: swallowxyan@yahoo.com

Iowa Code Section 69.16A requires City boards/commissions to be gender balanced. Please indicate whether you are male or female.

☐ Male ☑ Female

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: 08/15/2018

Please mail completed application to the office of the City Clerk at the following address:

City of West Des Moines
P.O. Box 65320
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265-0320
ATTN: Ryan Jacobson

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Attorney Yangyidi Ye:
Building a bridge of friendship between China and the United States

Yangyidi Ye is an Iowa licensed Chinese attorney. As the leading lawyer and firm manager of Causey & Ye Law, Yangyidi has been focusing on immigration law, business law, and China - U.S. investment.

Yang's goal is to bridge the gap between the Chinese and U.S. business communities by specializing in immigration, international corporate law, and tax policies. She currently consults for startup, small, and midsize companies with international elements or shareholders, and assists them with employment and immigration issues as well as communicating with federal, state, and local governments regarding licensing and taxes.

Her achievements come from the consistent work for the international community, including the exquisite legal services and public services she provided to the community. In 2007, Yang came to the United States to pursuit her bachelor's degree from the Iowa State University. She is from Guang'an, Sichuan Province, China. Her hardworking and never-give up spirits quickly helped her adapting the enormous changes brought about by studying abroad. She showed her talents in all aspects. In 2009, while she was a junior at ISU, she applied for an intern position in the Iowa State Governor's Office. After several rounds of intense competition among hundreds of applicants, she received the offer and became the first international intern in the office. She was given an award by the state government for her outstanding skills and quality of work.

(In 2009, attorney Yangyidi Ye was hired as the only international intern at the Iowa State Government. Her dedication, diligent and efficient performance has been highly praised by her colleagues and the leaders of state government offices.)

Between 2011 and 2014, Yang attended Mississippi College School of Law and obtained a Juris Doctorate degree with honors. At the same time, Attorney Ye also went through the 6-month assessment and professional training required to acquire a certified public accountant license. Her accounting knowledge has benefitted her as an outstanding entrepreneur.

(During her J.D., attorney Yangyidi Ye was self-recommended to become the intern for Richard Meyer (fourth from the left), a former professor of the United States West Point Military Academy,

the Director of the International Student office for many years. Later, she was appointed as an administrative assistant and successfully completed uncountable cooperation and exchange projects between the Mississippi College and many Chinese Universities.)

In 2015, Attorney Yangyidi Ye and co-founder Jonathan Causey founded Causey & Ye Law P.L.L.C in Des Moines, Iowa. As a managing partner and chief counsel of the law firm, her main areas of practice are immigration law, commercial law, US-China bilateral investment, and tax law. She has participated in many important cases on both the state and federal levels. She has accumulated a wealth of successful cases including many student campus disputes, felony criminal cases, federal immigration cases, and multinational company acquisitions and mergers.

In terms of defending Chinese rights in the U.S., Attorney Ye upholds justice and protects the rights and interests of all of her clients. In 2016, Attorney Ye helped Chinese clients protect their legal rights in Chinese sexual assault cases. In 2017, she worked on an inter-state trafficking case. She worked with local police to successfully rescue two Chinese female victims and helped the police with proper placement of those victims. She actively participated in publicizing and supporting the Anti-Violence Against Women Act. In the same year, she also successfully won her client, a company from Northeast China, an immediate judgement in court resulting in the full satisfaction of the $480,000 debt owed by an U.S. company.

(In May 2018, attorney Yangyidi Ye and Jonathan Causey were invited to attend the new book release ceremony of "The Story of Xi Jinping and Iowa" held in the World Food Prize Hall. Attorney Ye and attorney Causey took a photo with the Chinese Ambassador to the United States, Cui Tiankai (Middle) by the commemorative bronze painting in which President Xi Jinping returned to Iowa to deliver a keynote speech at the World Food Prize Conference in 2012.)

Attorney Ye has always provided wonderful support and professional legal advice regarding international students' academic and entrepreneurial development. She returned to Iowa State University in 2015 to establish a legal aid center for the college students there. She has successively created legal aid centers for the universities in the three main cities in Iowa: Des Moines – the capitol of Iowa, Iowa City, and Ames. She has visited the universities' campuses many times and has volunteered to teach law and provide legal counseling services for the international students. She has also helped international students in Iowa apply for student status activation and student visas, as well as the establishment and acquisition of companies. In 2016, when two Chinese students brought guns to the campus of Iowa State University, she actively communicated and negotiated with the local government on behalf of the students to protect the rights and interests of the students.

(In April 2017, attorney Yangyidi Ye was authorized to serve as Iowa consular liaison of the Consular Protection for the Chinese Consulate General in Chicago.)

(In April 2017, attorney Yangyidi Ye attended the annual summary meeting held at the Chinese Consulate General in Chicago. She exchanged photos with the consular protection liaisons from all other states in the Midwest area.)

(At the Iowa Chinese Spring Festival in 2017, attorney Yangyidi Ye and the team from Causey & Ye Law P.L.L.C. set up a volunteer desk to provide service to Chinese. At the time, the governor of Iowa and the current U.S. ambassador to China, Mr. Branstad (first from left) came to their desk for consultation.)

(In October 2015, attorney Yangyidi Ye with the team of Causey & Ye Law P.L.L.C. and the Chinese Consulate General in Chicago jointly launch the "Iowa State University Chinese Student Day and New Student Education Development Activities". As the main guest speaker, she gave a speech about legal protection for the students as a public welfare.)

In regard to Chinese business development in the U.S. and Chinese immigration, Attorney Ye has built a platform to smooth the process for Chinese investors to develop their business in the U.S. Attorney Ye is proficient in both employment-based immigration and family-based immigration regulations and policies. She helps her clients apply for family-based green cards, employment-based green cards and various types of visas in a timely and efficient manner. Recently, she successfully helped a Chinese engineer obtain an EB-1 outstanding talent visa. Having worked with senior business lawyers for many years, Attorney Ye has skillfully applied international corporate laws, management laws, taxation laws and other regulations and policies to successfully locate business partners for a number of Chinese and American agents. She has promoted commercial mergers and acquisitions among several large companies such as the Des Moines Holiday Inn Hotel and Spotlight. She has also been hired as the legal advisor to a number of companies with international shareholders to assist the companies in handling employee immigration issues and to assist with federal and state government licensing and tax issues. Attorney Ye's participation in acquisitions and immigration projects include: hotels, import and export lumber mills, large residential areas, automotive industry, IT industry, medical industry, catering industry, etc. The commercial acquisition projects she was involved with were worth hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars.

(In recent years, attorney Yangyidi Ye was repeatedly invited to promote exchanges and cooperation in the field of law between China and the United States by multiple governments among different provinces in China. The picture shows attorney Yangyidi Ye and attorney Jonathan Causey were visiting Sichuan Province and were sharing photos with the provincial government and the head of the overseas Chinese office.)

(In March 2017, attorney Yangyidi Ye, as the representative of overseas Chinese, visited the international cooperation development project of Jiangmen City under the arrangement of the Guangdong Provincial Government. She received a warm welcome from the provincial government.)

(On May 6th, attorney Yangyidi Ye and attorney Jonathan Causey were invited to attend the annual Buffett General Meeting held in Omaha. They gave speeches at various high-end investor forums and discussed exchange business projects with Chinese investors. Photo with Mr. Robert Heckman(left) from Nebraska Rep. at the China-US investor cocktail reception.)

As for serving the overseas Chinese and the U.S.-China cultural exchanges, she has built a platform for China-US business and for academic and cultural exchanges and cooperation. Since 2014, she has been serving as the legal advisor and a core member of the Iowa Chinese Association. She has helped coordinate Chinese government delegations, such as the government business groups from Hebei Province and Jilin Province. She also assisted the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences delegation in conducting an academic study in Iowa to assist in the preparation of the China-US think tank seminar. As a legal lecturer, she often accompanies Mr. Hong Lei, Consul General of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago, in participating in the "Consular Protection to Enter the Campus" charity events sponsored by the Consulate General. She actively assists the Consulate General of Chicago in renewing passports, processing documents, etc.

(In the Spring Festival of 2018, Mr. Hong Lei, Consul General of the Chinese Consulate General in Chicago (third from left) expressed his appreciation to the team of Causey & Ye Law P.L.L.C. and praised the outstanding contribution of the law firm to the Chinese Community.)

(In May 2018, the consulate of the Consulate General of Chicago went to Des Moines, Iowa to reissue passports and other travel documents for the Chinese in the area. The service was carried out at the office of Causey & Ye Law P.L.L.C. Attorney Yangyidi Ye led the law firm's team to assist the Iowa Chinese Association in volunteering helping throughout the day)

Due to the outstanding contributions Attorney Ye has made to the community, she has won many honors and awards:

In 2015, nominated by the Iowa Chinese Association as the sole representative of the Chinese community, Attorney Ye was awarded the "Governor Volunteer Medal" by the Governor of Iowa.

(In the summer of 2015, the then Governor of Iowa and the current U.S. Ambassador to China, Mr. Branstad (Left), presented the "Governor's Volunteer Medal" to Yangyidi Ye)

In 2016, Attorney Ye was awarded the "International Community Leadership Award" by the Iowa Secretary of State.

(In 2016, at the Iowa Chinese Association Spring Festival celebrations, famous social activist, educator, executive chairman of the Iowa Chinese Association, Mr. Yan Xiaozhe (left), presented the International Community Leadership Award issued by Iowa State Secretary Mr. Pate, to the law firm. Attorney Jonathan Causey was representing the firm to accept the award.)

In November 2016, the editor of the Asian American News Bureau interviewed attorney Yangyidi Ye and published a long-form biography "Attorney Yangyidi Ye: Ten Years of

Grinding a Sword, Challenge Life" (For details, see "Asian Information for the United States" WeChat public number published on November 18, 2016).

In 2017, as an outstanding overseas Chinese leader in Iowa, Attorney Ye attended the "Global Overseas Leadership Training" event held at Tsinghua University.

(In April 2017, attorney Yangyide Ye, as the sole representative of overseas Chinese in Iowa, was invited to participate in the "Global Overseas Leadership Training" sponsored by the Overseas Chinese Affairs office of the State Council, the China Overseas Exchange Association, and the School of Continuing Education of Tsinghua University. She and many overseas Chinese leaders visited and inspected many high-end international cooperation projects in Beijing, Guangdong, and other places.)

(In April 2017, attorney Yangyidi Ye and overseas Chinese leaders from all over the world attended the dinner ceremony at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. She met with the heads of the Overseas Chinese Affairs office and the Friendship Association of the State Council.)

(In April 2017, attorney Yangyidi Ye and the overseas Chinese leaders attended the dinner ceremony of the overseas Chinese at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse and watched the documentary of the Winter Olympics.)

At the end of 2017, Attorney Ye was awarded the "Iowa US-China Business Leader Award" jointly by the US Ambassador to China, Terry Branstad, and the Governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds.

In 2018, Attorney Ye was invited to become an official member of the Des Moines International Relations Association at the Iowa state Capital.

(On December 22, 2017, the US-China Business Forum was held, the US Ambassador to China, Mr. Branstad (third from left), the Governor of Iowa, Reynolds (second from left), and the Governor of Kentucky, Bayan (first from the right), President of the World Food Awards Foundation, Mr. Quinn (first from left), presented the "Outstanding Business Leaders Achievement Award" to the chief attorneys of the law firm, YangYidi Ye (third from right) and Jonathon Causey (second from right).)

Under the leadership of attorney Yangyidi Ye, Causey & Ye Law P.L.L.C. has a reputation in the Midwest area of the United States. The firm's customers are spread among all major cities in Iowa, as well as in California, Illinois, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the capital, Washington, DC, and other parts of the United States. The quality service and high reputation of the firm have attracted many Chinese customers from Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Hong Kong, Shenzhen and other large cities. She determines to work hard and to make more contribution to maintain Chinese rights and promote exchanges between China and the United States.