



S I S T E R C I T I E S

55th Anniversary of Toyota/Detroit Sister-City Relations
(Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit Press Release Information)

In 1960, a city to city relationship was created between Detroit, Michigan and Toyota, Aichi Prefecture based on the fact that both locations are “motor cities.” In the 55 years since this relationship began, ties between the two cities have only grown. Since 1965, Detroit and Toyota have participated in annual student exchange programs that allow students from both countries to experience the culture and style of their sister city. This creates international interest and experience at the most grassroots level and leads to many mutual initiatives and important discussions. In 1979 and 1983 respectively, Detroit send an Amur Tiger and a pair of South Canadian Cranes to Toyota. In 1982 and 1984 respectively, Toyota sent 1,000 Cherry trees and 10 Japanese monkeys to Detroit. Out of the 6 sister cities to Detroit, the exchange with Toyota has made it the most active one leading to a future with closer ties between the two countries and industrial growth.

On this momentous occasion of the 55th anniversary between our glorious cities, Mayor Duggan, his senior advisor, members of the state department businessman and a student delegation will travel to Toyota city. The goal of this visit is to celebrate the occasion as well as explain the economic recovery of Detroit and improve the city’s image. They will have a chance to meet with Toyota’s mayor and city council, as well as the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. I hope that this visit will provide an opportunity to enhance relationships between our two cities as well as tighten our cultural ties. Additionally, the Toyota City Junior Orchestra will be arriving from Japan during the second week of August to perform several times around Metro-Detroit, including a performance with the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra. Next year, the DIA will also be sending artwork to the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art to celebrate our relationship.

Toyota city is one of 27 Japan-Michigan sister city relationships, as well as the Michigan-Shiga, Prefecture-state relationship that promote grassroots international

exchange. There are also two friendship cities and a library exchange.