Date: December 7, 2017

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Anne Cardwell, Assistant City Manager

Subject: Establishing Isola delle Femmine in Sicily as a Sister City

Recommendation
Provide staff direction to proceed with initiating the process to establish a new “sister city” relationship between the City of Martinez and Isola delle Femmine.

Background
At the October 18th council meeting, staff received direction to bring back an item on a future agenda regarding establishing a new sister city relationship with Isola dell Femmine in Sicily.

A sister city relationship is a broad-based, officially approved, long-term partnership between two communities. Sister Cities can find each other in many different ways. In this instance, the Honorable Mayor of Isola delle Femmine, and the Vice Mayor of Martinez, Debbie McKillop, met last September 2017 to meet a delegation from the City of Pittsburg’s sister city, Isola delle Femmine. As described in the attached article, when Vice Mayor McKillop was invited to a dinner at the Pittsburg Yacht Club to meet the delegates from Isola delle Femmine, she was pleasantly surprised to find some family ties of her own among the delegates.

Both the Martinez and Isola delle Femmine communities retain a strong sense of history and family. Additionally, the famous baseball player and former Martinez resident, Joe DiMaggio, traced his ancestry to that Italian city. Isola delle Femmine will be the City’s fifth sister city. The City currently has sister city relationships with Dunbar, Scotland, United Kingdom; Hanchuan, China; Milazzo, Italy; and Stresa, Italy.

Fiscal Impact
Martinez is already a member of Sister Cities International, so there is no cost associated with forming this partnership. All that is required is for the Mayor to send a request letter to the Mayor of Isola delle Femmine and then execute a sister city agreement.

Attachments
- Letter to Mayor of Isola delle Femmine
- Description of Isola delle Femmine
- Martinez Gazette Article – Vice Mayor Discovers Family among Italian Dignitaries