

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2025

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW #406  
Washington, D.C,  
20004

Dear Mayor Bowser,

We are writing to urge you and your administration to reconsider Washington, D.C.'s sister city relationship with Beijing, China. As the capital of our country, Washington, D.C. should stand as a beacon of our values and principles. Maintaining ties with the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) of the People's Republic of China (PRC)—through its well-documented exploitation of sister city partnerships—tarnishes that role. Last year marked the 40th anniversary of this relationship, offering an opportune moment for reflection and reconsideration.

In Washington D.C., our citizens enjoy freedom of speech, petition, and assembly. In Beijing, under the CCP's rule, the Chinese people have no such rights. Among all countries with which Washington, D.C. has sister city partnerships, China is uniquely marked by worsening human rights conditions, making this relationship particularly troubling.

The CCP's gross human rights abuses are well documented. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and former Secretaries of State Mike Pompeo and Antony Blinken have identified the CCP's persecution of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang as genocide<sup>1</sup>. Likewise, Beijing's imposition of the 2020 Hong Kong National Security Law has stripped Hongkongers of their basic freedoms and further highlights the PRC's authoritarian trajectory under CCP rule. The Chinese people face increased repression on all aspects of civic and political freedom.

A 2022 report by the U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center explicitly warns of the CCP's use of sister city partnerships to exert undue influence at the subnational level in other countries, including in the United States.<sup>2</sup> In the United States, sister city partnerships are purely local initiatives. In the PRC, however, the sister city partnerships are

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<sup>1</sup> The Select Committee on the CCP, *Gallagher, Rubio Statement on Biden Administration's Watered-Down Sanctions on Chinese Officials Conducting Genocide* (December 8, 2023);

Bill Bostock, *Secretary of State Antony Blinken says he stands by Mike Pompeo's designation that China committed genocide against the Uyghurs*, Business Insider, (January 28, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Department of National Intelligence: *The National Counterintelligence and Security Center, Safeguarding Our Future: Protecting Government and Business Leaders at the U.S. State and Local Level from People's Republic of China (PRC) Influence Operations*, page 3-4 (July 2022).

coordinated through the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, which is subordinate to the CCP's United Front Work Department, and subject to approval by the PRC Foreign Ministry.<sup>3</sup> As a result, these agreements serve to promote CCP and PRC state interests, undermining the sister city partnerships' original intent of fostering genuine people-to-people ties.

When sister city ties were first established by these two cities in 1984, the hope was that the CCP could change for the better, and that the Chinese people would soon get a taste of freedom. That optimism was crushed just five years later in the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, where hundreds if not thousands of students and pro-reform activist were killed. Chen Xitong, who served as Mayor of Beijing at the time of the initial signing in 1984, also presided over the city throughout the massacre. Yet, despite his role in this brutal slaughter, Chen's name still stands prominent on a plaque below the *Friendship Archway* here in our nation's capital.<sup>4</sup> Washington, D.C.'s continued sister city relationship with Beijing now stands at odds with American values and legitimizes a regime actively working against those principles.

Consequently, we request that you review Washington, D.C.'s current arrangement with Beijing and end this sister city arrangement. We request that you inform us of the city's decision by no later than July 4, 2025. We thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



John Moolenaar  
Chairman  
House Select Committee on the CCP



Chris Smith  
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Carlos Gimenez  
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress



Robb Wittman  
Member of Congress

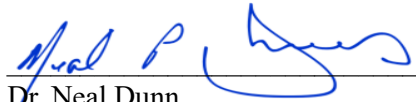
<sup>3</sup> Flora Yan, *CCP Stealth War 133; Feature: China's Sister-City Relationships in Focus*, The Jamestown Foundation, (May 12, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> *Friendship Archway, (sculpture)* Smithsonian Institute, available at [https://www.si.edu/object/friendship-archway-sculpture:siris\\_ari\\_325492](https://www.si.edu/object/friendship-archway-sculpture:siris_ari_325492).



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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



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Dr. Neal Dunn  
Member of Congress



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Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress



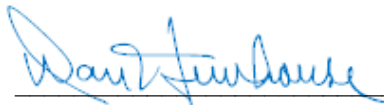
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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



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Young Kim  
Member of Congress



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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



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Nathaniel Moran  
Member of Congress