



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Salt Lake City Reaches Out To Japanese Sister City** *Residents of Matsumoto to Receive Funds for Aid to Tsunami Victims*

SALT LAKE CITY – In light of the devastating March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Salt Lake City has set up a relief fund for its Sister City in Matsumoto.

Salt Lake City and Matsumoto, Japan have shared a special bond through the Sister Cities program since 1958. The two cities have much in common, both situated in beautiful mountain valleys dotted with ski resorts and centered with historic buildings.

The Sister Cities program was established under President Eisenhower to establish “Peace through People.” Matsumoto was Salt Lake City’s first Sister City. Over the past 53 years the two cities have shared student exchanges, art exchanges, teacher and municipal employee exchanges, economic development efforts, and several other activities. After the United States experienced the tragedies of September 11, 2001, Matsumoto hosted a fundraiser for relief efforts. The Japanese city donated those funds to Salt Lake City asking to place the contributions where they were most needed. Salt Lake City delivered those funds to then New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Although Matsumoto was not in direct line of the tsunami, the city is monitoring radiation levels daily. Matsumoto is located approximately 200 miles from the compromised nuclear facilities in Fukushima.

At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 22, former City Councilman Dave Buhler will address the Council regarding a donation to Matsumoto City to assist with rebuilding after the devastation in Japan. Current Council members who have visited the Sister City of Matsumoto will also comment. One hundred percent of the money raised through the newly established relief fund will be given directly to the city of Matsumoto, Japan. The city can then determine where best to appropriate the funds.

The Salt Lake City Mayor and Council will initiate the Matsumoto Sister Cities Relief Fund with the first donations. They encourage residents and businesses to join them in showing support for the City’s friends in Japan.

***DonationInformation:***

Contributions can be made in person at any Wells Fargo location or can be sent to:

Wells Fargo Bank  
381 E. Broadway  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Checks should be made payable to Matsumoto, Japan Sister Cities Relief Fund, Account #7631654311.

For questions regarding Salt Lake City's Sister Cities program please contact Sara Hiatt at (801) 535-6035, [sara.hiatt@slcgov.com](mailto:sara.hiatt@slcgov.com) or visit [www.saltlakesistercities.com](http://www.saltlakesistercities.com)