



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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Dear Members of the Saint Paul - Nagasaki Sister City Committee and Attendees,

Welcome to the Cherry Blossom Celebration! I am delighted to hear that two more cherry trees are being planted today at our beautiful Como Park. These trees are a living testimony of friendship between Japan and the United States and in particular our city of Saint Paul, which has enjoyed a nearly 60-year sister-city affiliation with Nagasaki, beginning in 1955.

Last year marked the 100th Anniversary of the gift of cherry trees in Washington, D.C. In remembrance of this anniversary, the Japanese government generously donated sets of 20 trees to a select 36 American cities. I am honored that Saint Paul was chosen as one of these cities, which reflects our friendship over these many years. Civic engagement and cooperation are great universal endeavors, and our long friendship is a testament to the importance of working across time and across oceans. Saint Paul is grateful for its sister city relations with the great city of Nagasaki. As we plant these two cherry trees today, may we be reminded that our relationship may only continue to blossom ever brighter into the future.

I encourage all of you to enjoy the trees and their beauty during every season and hope that you enjoy the wonderful line of festivities scheduled to take place this afternoon.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor