

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, February 13, 2016

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**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELP ORGANIZE
SUPPORT FOR SISTER CITY, TAINAN, TAIWAN FOLLOWING
EARTHQUAKE**

In light of the tragic events unfolding in Columbus' Sister City Tainan, Taiwan, which is at the epicenter of a magnitude 6.4 earthquake that occurred last Saturday, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners has partnered with the City of Columbus and Greater Columbus Sister Cities to support Tainan. A relief fund has been established through the Columbus Foundation, and the commissioners encourage the Central Ohio community to support relief efforts by generously donating to the Tainan Disaster Relief Fund.

Columbus and the City of Tainan have been sister cities since 1980, and the relationship has allowed for the exchange of economic, educational, and cultural opportunities. Columbus has 10 sister cities, in South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, and the Franklin County Commissioners have led economic development trips to several of them in recent years.

Tainan is a city of almost 2 million people, and the oldest city in Taiwan. The February 6th earthquake caused at least 60 deaths, and trapped hundreds of residents in collapsed buildings. International support will be critical as the city struggles to recover from the earthquake, and its people face ongoing challenges in the coming months.

Visit www.columbusfoundation.org to donate to the relief efforts. Contributions will support Give2Asia, a San Francisco-based giving organization that channels philanthropy from the United States to Asian countries, including to disaster relief efforts such as this one.

For Additional Information, contact Tim Sword, President of Greater Columbus Sister Cities International at 614.563.1932 or visit <http://www.columbussistercities.us/>

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For more information on the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, call the Office of Public Affairs at (614) 525-3322 or visit www.franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners.