MAYOR ANNOUNCES HANGZHOU, CHINA
AS NEW INDIANAPOLIS SISTER CITY

HANGZHOU, CHINA - Mayor Greg Ballard joined Hangzhou Mayor Cai Qi today to sign an agreement to make Hangzhou the newest Sister City and the first one in Mainland China for Indianapolis. The Zhejiang Province capital is a Chinese cultural and commercial hub, and its position as a manufacturing center makes it the region’s primary economic engine.

“Making Indianapolis more inviting as an international destination and positioning our city as a global competitor are keys to ensuring our success for decades to come,” said Mayor Ballard. "We seek out partnerships that will provide ample opportunity for cultural, educational, and economic exchange -- all things that will help Indianapolis establish a stronger global presence. Hangzhou is a perfect international partner for Indianapolis, and I am thrilled to welcome them as a Sister City."

"Indianapolis and Hangzhou are celebrating an important day today," said Mayor Cai Qi. "I am sure that this new relationship will make both cities stronger in economic, cultural and educational areas. Joining with Indianapolis will increase our access to better technology and techniques."

The announcement comes as part of Mayor Ballard's trip to China and Japan to seek trade and investment opportunities for Indianapolis.

Hangzhou is the capital of Zhejiang Province, Indiana's sister state for the past 20 years. Indianapolis and Hangzhou have similar and complementary economic positions. It is known for its pharmaceutical sector and strong manufacturing sector with a focus in automotive components, and it is a popular tourist destination.

The Mayor's criteria for selecting a Sister City include having a metropolitan population of more than one million, an international airport, economic vitality in multiple industries and an education and cultural infrastructure able to foster exchanges with Indianapolis institutions. The city has existing partnerships with Cologne, Germany; Monza, Italy; Piran, Slovenia: and Taipei, Taiwan.