

KC forms International Committee

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Mayor Kay Barnes announced Thursday the formation of the Kansas City Council's International Committee.

Councilman Troy Nash is chairman, and Councilwoman Bonnie Sue Cooper is vice chairwoman. Council members Deb Hermann, John Fairfield and George Blackwood also serve on the committee. Jody Edgerton, director of the city's International Affairs and Trade Office, is the new committee's staff.

The committee's mission is to support Kansas City's international program and provide leadership in promoting the city's global reputation and outreach, the city said in a release.

The International Committee will focus on six areas:

- Enhance the city's international economic opportunities, including trade, tourism and economic development.

 - Develop strategic networking for continued global trade development, facilitation and promotion.

 - Build on Kansas City's successful North America strategy with the city's Mexican program, expanded Canadian markets and trade city partnerships.

 - Support the city's historic Mexico Customs Port Project, Richards-Gebaur International Freight Gateway and focused inland port activities, and work with the mid-continent international trade corridor.

 - Cultivate international relationships with new and existing partners and organizations for international trade, tourism, education and cultural purposes.

 - Strengthen opportunities for success and reduce barriers to international trade development through educational activities that also address cultural issues related to business.

"This new committee will allow us to place even more emphasis on the important efforts to promote Kansas City internationally," Barnes said in the release. "I believe the city of Kansas City can be a leader in international trade and economic development, and the expertise on this committee will help us achieve this set of ambitious goals."