



## Dortmund, Germany Mayor in Victoria to Discuss Innovation Partnership

Date: Friday, October 4, 2019

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The Lord Mayor of Dortmund Germany, Ullrich Sierau, is visiting the Capital City today to discuss potential innovation and economic development opportunities with Mayor Lisa Helps and City partners.

Lord Mayor Sierau is offering partnership and is looking for potential partners and collaborators for the World Innovation Centre currently under development in Dortmund. The Centre will foster the exchange of knowledge among cities, between small and big business, and across universities on a global scale.

“We’re thrilled that Lord Mayor Sierau has chosen Victoria as a site to visit and a potential partner,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “I look forward to our discussions today and to the opportunities that may arise from them.”

This fall, the City of Victoria Mayor’s office will be leading the development of Victoria’s second economic action plan. The City is making this plan in order to facilitate an environment in which Victoria is an attractive place to invest and to start and grow a business in a global economy with a rapid pace of change.

The City of Victoria hopes to learn from other cities like Dortmund that have created ‘innovation districts’ – hubs of cross-sector collaboration, commercialization of new ideas and job creation – and to potentially establish one of its own that is global facing, anticipates and solves the problems of the future and creates high-value jobs. International innovation partnerships can help achieve these goals.

“We are looking forward to intensive exchange with Victoria’s Mayor Lisa Helps and all their partners to learn from each other”, says Lord Mayor Sierau.

In addition, members of the City of Dortmund delegation will meet with City staff, representatives from Camosun College, Royal Roads University and the University of Victoria as well as the South Island Prosperity Partnership, to discuss sustainability, planning, advanced education, development research, as well as economic development opportunities.

Lord Mayor Ullrich Sierau is serving his third consecutive term. He has also worked in the City of Dortmund’s Environment and Planning Department and has served as City Manager. Dortmund has a population of about 603,000, it is the third-largest city of Germany’s most populous federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia after Cologne and Düsseldorf, and is Germany’s eighth-largest city.

### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

Lord Mayor Sierau and Mayor Lisa Helps will be available for media interviews to share their initial conversations today at 11:30 a.m. at Victoria City Hall.

**For More Information:**

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