Safeguarding Our Future

Beware of Foreign Gifts with Strings Attached

**Threat**
- City-to-city partnership agreements could be used by foreign powers to advance a political goal or influence government decisions.

**Impact**
- What seems good for your city or state may undermine strategic U.S. interests.
- You may be manipulated to support a foreign malign narrative or hidden agenda.
- A foreign power may seek your support to gain a political or economic advantage.
- May receive sub-par donations while the donor receives a propaganda boon.

**Mitigation**
- Be aware of the consequences of your actions—locally and nationally.
- Understand your role and the potential press coverage your acceptance will draw.
- Beware of those who would ask you to advance a position or lobby on behalf of another nation or group.
- Beware of gifts of “smart” technology with potential for storing/transferring sensitive data.
- Beware of requests for introductions or endorsements.
- Be vigilant in addressing distorted information publicized on social media platforms.

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