

**Meeting Date:** 5/7/2013

**Report Type:** Consent

**Report ID:** 2013-00434



**Title:** Consideration of establishing a Sister City relationship with Mexicali, Mexico

**Location:** Citywide

**Issue:** Adopting a Resolution of Intent is an initial step to establishing a Sister City relationship.

**Recommendation:** Pass a Resolution of Intent to establish a Sister City relationship with Mexicali, Mexico.

**Contact:** Mark Prestwich, Special Projects Manager, (916) 808-5380, City Manager's Office

**Presenter:** Not applicable

**Department:** City Manager

**Division:** Government Affairs

**Dept ID:**

**Attachments:**

- 1- Description/Analysis
2. Background
3. Resolution

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### **City Attorney Review**

..... Approved as to Form  
 Matthew Ruyak **5/2/13 11:29 a.m. [Via Email]**

### **Approvals/Acknowledgements**

Department Director or Designee: Shirley Concolino 5/2/13 10:30 a.m.



## Description/Analysis

**Issue Detail:** The City has received a formal request from the Sacramento-based Consul General of Mexico to initiate the establishment of a sister city relationship between Mexicali, the capital city of Baja California, and Sacramento. This follows a 2011 request from Mexicali Mayor Francisco Pérez Tejada expressing his desire to promote a sister city relationship with Sacramento and an October 2009 discussion between Mayor Johnson and Governor of Baja California, José Guadalupe Osuna Millán. The Consul General's request notes the many bonds that exist between the two capital cities, including a cultural exchange dating back 15 years. The City of Sacramento does not have a sister city relationship with any city in Mexico.

**Policy Considerations:** Staff support has been historically limited to coordination of Mayor and Council participation in sister city activities. Therefore, new sister city relationships must demonstrate community interest and participation since each is responsible for developing and implementing activities.

**Economic Impacts:** Not applicable.

**Environmental Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Sustainability:** Not applicable.

**Commission/Committee Action:** Not applicable.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Sister city relationships encourage multi-cultural and cross-cultural learning and foster opportunities for social, cultural and professional exchanges through the guidance of the Sacramento Sister Cities Council. Adopting a Resolution of Intent to establish a Sister City relationship with Mexicali will further strengthen the existing ties between Sacramento and Mexicali, Baja California. This action will initiate the formal "registering requirements" necessary through Sister Cities International for both cities before formal implementation of a sister city relationship.

**Financial Considerations:** None.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** Not applicable.

## Background

The City of Sacramento has an active Sister City program with ten relationships across the world. The program is managed by the Sacramento Sister City Council (SSCC). Sacramento's sister cities and their respective establishment dates include:

Manila, Philippines (1961)	Chisinau, Moldova (1989)
Matsuyama, Japan (1981)	Youngsan-gu, Korea (1997)
Jinan, China (1984)	San Juan de Oriente (2006)
Hamilton, New Zealand (1988)	Bethlehem, Palestine (2009)
Liestal, Switzerland (1989)	Ashkelon, Israel (2012)

The SSCC is comprised of a president, or designee, from each of the sister cities. Guided by their mission statement, "Promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation," SSCC meets five to six times a year to develop mutually-beneficial cultural, educational, social and/or economic relationships between the citizens of Sacramento and its sister cities. SSCC activities include dissemination of newsletters, announcements of events, engaging in joint activities, and networking with other internationally-oriented organizations. The City's Mayor/Council Operations Manager attends these meetings and provides staff support.

As with Mexicali, Baja California, sister city relationships typically emerge from grassroots efforts that are coordinated and supported by advocates in each city, and often based on existing bonds between the two cities. For the past fifteen years, Bayside Church, a Sacramento-area regional congregation, has been sending community members to the Mexicali Valley to build homes, provide food for needy families, and other services and to date has sent over 6,000 people to the area. This annual program has grown to nearly 1,000 participants per visit.

Following informal discussions about the possibility of establishing a sister city relationship between Mexicali and Sacramento, Mexicali Mayor Francisco Perez Tejada formally expressed his desire to promote a sister city relationship with Sacramento in 2011. Delegations from Mexicali have subsequently attended meetings organized by the SSCC as well as the Mexican Consulate.

Letters of support have been received from Carlos González Gutiérrez, Consult General of Mexico, Mexicali native Melinda Guzman, Chair of Sacramento-based Cien Amigos, and Kim Bordisso, Global Outreach Director for Bayside Church.



## **RESOLUTION NO.**

### **RESOLUTION OF INTENT BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SACRAMENTO AND MEXICALI, BAJA CALIFORNIA**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

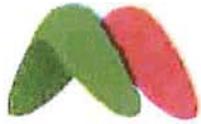
#### **BACKGROUND**

- A. The mission of the Sister Cities Council of Sacramento is to develop mutually beneficial cultural, educational, social, and/or economic relationships between the citizens of Sacramento and its Sister Cities.
- B. Sacramento County is home to an estimated 249,000 people of Mexican origin.
- C. The City of Sacramento has benefitted from having Sister Cities in ten countries around the world, but has not yet established a Sister City relationship with a city in Mexico.
- D. Cultural exchanges between the Sacramento region and Mexicali Valley region have been occurring for the past fifteen years, improving the bonds between Sacramento and Mexicali.

#### **BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1: The Sacramento City Council gives its endorsement of Intent to formalize a Sister City relationship with Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico under the guidance of the Sacramento Sister Cities Council.

SECTION 2: The City Clerk shall send copy of this Resolution to the Sacramento Sister Cities Council.



**Mexicali**

XX Ayuntamiento

Dependencia:	Presidencia
Sección:	Secretaría Particular
Número del Oficio:	OT/0133/2011
Asunto:	El que se indica

Mexicali, Baja California, México May 6, 2011

**Honorable Kevin Johnson**  
Mayor, City of Sacramento

Dear Mayor Johnson,

On behalf of the people of Mexicali, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you for your leadership and commitment on strengthen the relationship between Mexico and the United States of America.

With this approach, we confirm that there are no barriers for language and distance, so we can start a new stage of interaction and cooperation between the cities you and I represent.

We were very pleased to send a delegation to participate in the Sister Cities meeting as well as offering tourism packages at the Mexico's Advocacy Day Expo. We would like to take part intensively in the Sister Cities project since we share similarities with potential in our cities: both are capitals of their state, agricultural cities, and have become important manufacturing centers.

We wish to welcome you in a near future in Mexicali as an honored guest to discuss issues of importance for our region.

Sincerely,

**Francisco Perez-Tejada Padilla**  
Mayor, City of Mexicali

RECEIVED  
MAYOR/COUNCIL OFFICE  
CITY OF SACRAMENTO

MAY 9 2011



Sacramento, California, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Angelique Ashby**  
Vice Mayor  
City of Sacramento

Per our recent conversations and meetings regarding the benefits of a closer relationship between Sacramento and a Mexican city, I respectfully request you to submit to the consideration of the Mayor and the City Council the establishment of a Sister City relationship between Mexicali, Baja California, and Sacramento, envisioned for a long time by many community leaders on both sides of the border, on the basis of the following premises:

- In October 2009, the Governor of Baja California, José Guadalupe Osuna Millán, met Mayor Kevin Johnson during a visit to Sacramento. On that occasion the idea was raised to promote the establishment of a Sister City relationship between Mexicali and Sacramento, due to their affinities as the capital cities of Baja California and California, respectively.
- After consultations, in June 2010 the Government of Mexicali informed the Foreign Ministry in Mexico about its interest in starting the process towards establishing a sisterhood relationship with the City of Sacramento.
- The current Mayor of Mexicali, Francisco Pérez Tejada, expressed formally his desire to promote a Sister City relationship with Sacramento on a letter dated May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Delegations from Mexicali have subsequently come to meetings organized by the Sacramento Sister Cities Council as well as the Mexican Consulate.
- The city of Mexicali is the capital of the state of Baja California, seat of the Municipality of Mexicali and the second largest city in Baja California. No other Mexican state has a stronger relationship with California than Baja California, its neighbor to the South.
- Many bonds link these two cities together on a daily basis. Distinguished Sacramento residents of Mexican origin such as Melinda Guzmán (Chair of *Cien Amigos*); Marcos Lizárraga (head of "*La Cooperativa Campesina*") and Douglas Patiño (philanthropist, public educator and former staff of Governor Jerry Brown), identify Mexicali as the origin of their family's roots.
- For fifteen years, a regional religious congregation, Bayside Church, has been sending every year around 1,000 high school students to Mexicali to do altruist work during Easter for the benefit of the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

A formal Sister City relationship would enhance the ties that already exist between Mexicali and Sacramento in the areas of culture, commerce, tourism, education, social assistance, sports, urban development and planning exchanges, among others.

**SRE**

CONSULADO GENERAL DE  
MÉXICO EN SACRAMENTO



To this day the City of Sacramento does not have a Sister City in Mexico, despite the fact that Sacramento County is home to more than 249,000 people of Mexican origin, out of which 74,000 were born in my country.

I sincerely hope that upon your analysis and consideration, a resolution by the City Council allows Sacramento to take advantage of this opportunity and to add the beautiful city of Mexicali to its impressive list of Sister Cities.

Sincerely,

**Carlos González Gutiérrez**  
Consul General of Mexico

Cc. Francisco Pérez Tejada, Mayor of Mexicali, Baja California  
Star Hurley, President of the Sister Cities Council of Sacramento  
Melinda Guzmán, Chair of Cien Amigos  
Kim Bordisso, Global Outreach at Bayside Church  
Douglas Patiño, Philanthropist and former staff of Governor Jerry Brown  
Marcos Lizárraga, Head of "La Cooperativa Campesina"



April 29, 2013

Mayor Kevin Johnson  
City of Sacramento  
915 I Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support of Mexicali - Sacramento Sister City Relationship**

Dear Mayor Johnson:

On behalf of Cien Amigos, Inc., I write to express our support of the proposal for a Sister-City relationship between the City of Sacramento and Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. Please accept this letter as our support of establishing this important relationship to assist in developing stronger relationships between these two state capitol cities and in furtherance of a stronger economic and social region.

In or about October 2009, the Governor of Baja California, José Guadalupe Osuna Millán, met with you to promote the idea of formalizing a Sister City relationship between Mexicali and Sacramento. The idea emerged due to the many significant bonds between the two cities, including but not limited to their shared affinities as capitol cities of Baja California and California, and a shared history and people. In fact, there are many Sacramento residents who have strong family ties in Mexicali, including me.

More recently, in May 2011, the current Mayor of Mexicali, Francisco Pérez Tejada, formally expressed his desire to promote a Sister-City relationship with Sacramento by letter dated May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Delegations from Mexicali have subsequently come to meetings organized by the Sacramento Sister Cities Council as well as the Mexican Consulate.

Cien Amigos strongly supports a Sister-City relationship with Mexicali. Mexicali is the capital of the state of Baja California, seat of the Municipality of Mexicali and the second largest city in Baja California. No other Mexican state has a stronger relationship with California than Baja California. Many bonds link these two cities together on a daily basis, including a shared history and people. A formal Sister-City relationship would enhance the ties that already exist between Mexicali and Sacramento in the areas of culture, commerce, tourism, education, social assistance, sports, urban development and planning exchanges, among others. We understand that Mayor Tejada intends to appear at the May 7, 2013 Sacramento City Council meeting. I intend to appear to support his request, and on behalf of Cien Amigos, we urge your support of establishing a Sister-City relationship with Mexicali.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions at (916)849-1995.

Very truly yours,

Melinda Guzman  
Chair, Cien Amigos



May 2, 2013

To the Sacramento City Council:

We are submitting this letter to support the nomination of Mexicali as a Sister City of Sacramento. For 15 years now Bayside Church has been sending a group of people to the Mexicali area to work with churches and serve them and their congregations. What started as 25 people going to serve has grown to nearly 1000, as this year we took 960 people from the Sacramento, Placer County regions to make an impact in the Mexicali Valley Region. Over the years, we have sent over 6000 people to touch the lives of children and youth, built over 100 homes, 10+ classrooms for churches and have provided food for 1000's of families, delivered wheelchairs, painted schools, worked in 2 orphanages, a women's shelter and a home for the elderly.

Our relationship with the people of the Mexicali Valley Region continues to grow and develop because of the work that is being done as a partnership between our people and the community members of Mexicali. The Mexico Consulate has been a huge help in the work we do down there and it is our hope to continue bringing large groups of people to Mexicali in efforts to make a major impact in the community. We will continue to work with the churches and community there meeting a variety of needs: housing, food, drug rehabilitation, resources, etc.

While we have excellent relationships with a number of pastors and community leaders, we would be most thrilled to see this relationship expand by having Mexicali become a Sister City of Sacramento. Our annual trip to Mexicali is a huge blessing for all parties involved and an incredible time of building relationships between the people of Mexicali and our group from California. We have no doubt that a Sister City relationship would only have a greater positive affect on more people.

We appreciate your consideration and thank you in advance for the support the Sacramento-Mexico Consulate has already provided to our work in Mexicali. We know firsthand that not only are the lives of the people of Mexico enhanced, but equally our adults and students are never the same.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me at 916.746.8663.

Warm regards,

Kim Bordisso  
Global Outreach Director