



REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

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STAFF REPORT
February 28, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Consideration of establishing Sister City Relationship with San Juan de Oriente, Nicaragua, and endorsing the sister city affiliation between Sacramento and Pasay City/Metro Manila, Philippines

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution establishing a sister city relationship with San Juan de Oriente, Nicaragua, and a resolution endorsing the sister city affiliation between Sacramento and Pasay City/Manila, Philippines.

Contact: Mercedes Azar, Mayor/Council Operations Manager

Presenters: Mercedes Azar

Department: Mayor/Council Offices

Division: n/a

Organization No: 101/0100

Summary: The City of Sacramento currently has seven sister cities. The first sister city, Manila, Philippines, was established on June 8, 1961 and the most recent addition was the city of Yongsan-gu, Korea on July 22, 1997. The City of Sacramento also has Sister City relationships with Matsuyama, Japan (1981), Chisinau, Moldova (1989), Hamilton, New Zealand (1988), Jinan, China (1984) and Liestal, Switzerland (1989). The president, or designee, from each of the seven sister cities meets monthly as a group entitled The Sister Cities Council of Sacramento. At those meetings, the Mayor's designated staff person attends and serves as staff support.

These resolutions would establish a new sister city relationship and reaffirm an existing one. The proposed new sister city would be with San Juan de Oriente (SJO), Nicaragua. A local non-profit organization, the Friends of San Juan de Oriente (FSJO), has been working with the Sacramento Sister Cities Council over the past three years to establish a sister city with Sacramento. The FSJO Board of Directors has established a long-standing relationship with the Arts Community in Sacramento and the region, and raises funds for public benefit projects by importing and selling contemporary and pre-Columbian pottery by local SJO artisans in Sacramento through various art

organizations, including the Crocker Art Gallery, La Raza Galeria Posada, Zanzibar and UNICEF. This year they will also be selling pottery at the Sacramento Zoo's First Saturday-of-the-Month events. This would be the first sister city established with a Latin American city. The SJO City Council passed a resolution on February 13, 2004 supporting a Sister City relationship with Sacramento.

The second resolution reaffirms the existing sister city relationship with Manila. Since establishing this relationship in 1961, Manila has undergone tremendous growth and is now referred to as Metro Manila. Within the greater Metro Manila area is the City of Pasay that includes the Philippine Economic Zone Authority. The City Council of Pasay passed a resolution on April 20, 2005 supporting the re-establishment of the Sister City relationship with Sacramento.

Committee/Commission Action: None.

Background Information: Historically it has been the policy of the Mayor and Council that sister city relationships must be supported from the community as a grass roots effort and additionally, that these community-based groups must be prepared to organize and support the affiliation events. The Sister Cities Council assures us that there is good local support for both of these sister cities.

Since the City Councils of both San Juan de Oriente and the City of Pasay/Manila have adopted official resolutions supporting the establishment of sister city relationships with Sacramento, and there is strong local support for establishing and maintaining these relationships, the next step in the process is to determine if there is mutual interest in pursuing this relationship. These resolutions affirm Sacramento's interest.

Financial Considerations: N/A

Environmental Considerations: N/A

Policy Considerations: Requests for new sister city relationships must primarily come from community interest and participation in activities mutually beneficial to both parties. Historically there has been, and will continue to be limited staff support through the Mayor and Council office for the coordination of mayor and council participation with sister city activities.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None.

Submitted by: Mercedes Azar
Mercedes Azar
Mayor/Council Operations Manager

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RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL ENDORSING THE SISTER CITY AFFILIATION BETWEEN SACRAMENTO AND SAN JUAN DE ORIENTE

BACKGROUND:

- A. It is recognized that the friendship and understanding between individuals and local organizations of Sister Cities bring benefits that are enduring and mutually rewarding.
- B. The City of Sacramento has benefited from having Sister Cities in Europe and on the Pacific Rim, but has not yet had a Sister City in Central America.
- C. The Mayor and members of the Municipal Council of San Juan de Oriente, met on February 13, 2004, exercised the powers granted by Law of Municipalities of Nicaragua (Law 40), Article 34, Number 27, approved making official the Sister City relationship with Sacramento, California.
- D. Citizens of Sacramento have formed The Friends of San Juan de Oriente, which is a Sacramento non-profit organization whose mission is to promote friendship between our two cities and assist this Nicaraguan village with its health, education and development needs by raising funds through sales of their pottery and other goods, and by visits to the community.

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

- Section 1. Sacramento City Council gives its endorsement to the affiliation of the City of Sacramento, California and the City of San Juan de Oriente, Nicaragua, as Sister Cities
- Section 2. The City Clerk shall send copies of this Resolution to the Mayor of the City of San Juan de Oriente, Nicaragua, and to Sister Cities International, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20004.

RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL ENDORSING THE SISTER CITY AFFILIATION BETWEEN SACRAMENTO AND PASAY CITY, METRO MANILA, TO IMPLEMENT THE EXISTING SISTER CITY AFFILIATION SINCE JUNE 8, 1961, BETWEEN SACRAMENTO AND MANILA

BACKGROUND:

- A.** Manila, Republic of the Philippines, became the City of Sacramento's first Sister City by Resolution on June 8, 1961, and since then Manila has become Metro Manila.
- B.** On April 20, 2005, the City Council of Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines, adopted Resolution No. 2046 S-2004, which provides in part: it is for the best interest of City of Pasay and the City of Sacramento, California, USA, to establish a sisterhood relationship for the promotion of cultural exchanges and social development between the two (2) cities.
- C.** The Philippine Economic Zone Authority, a government corporation attached to the Department of Trade and Industry, which promotes the establishment of economic zones all over the Philippines, has its headquarters on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay.

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

- Section 1.** The Mayor and City Council give its endorsement to the City of Pasay to implement Greater Manila's affiliation with the City of Sacramento, Sate of California.
- Section 2.** The City Clerk shall send copies of this Resolution to the Honorable Antonio G. Calixto, Pasay City Vice Mayor, and to the Honorable Arvin G. Tolentino, M.D., Room 411 Pasay City Hall, F.B. Harrison Street, Pasay City, Phillipines.

