

# CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)  
 Sister Cities Committee  
 Committee Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, April 18, 2022  
 Location: City Hall Commission Chambers  
 405 Biltmore Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
<b>Raul Valdes-Fauli</b>	P	P	X	P									Mayor Vince Lago
<b>Volker R. Anding</b>	P	P	X	P									Vice Mayor Michael Mena
<b>Brett Gillis</b>	P	P	X	P									Comm. Rhonda Anderson
<b>Richard Montes de Oca</b>	P	E	X	A									Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
<b>Carlos Hernandez</b>	P	E	X	P									Comm. Kirk R. Menendez
<b>Alejandra Collarte</b>	P	A	X	P									Peter Iglesias, City Manager
<b>Rafael Gavarrete</b>	P	P	X	P									Council-at-Large Appointment

A = Absent P=Present E= Excused UA= Unexcused Absence X= No Meeting

- Chairperson Valdes-Fauli welcomed everyone to the International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting and called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. He announced that the first item on the agenda was the approval of the February 28, 2022, minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (February 28, 2022)**

- Vice Chair Anding pointed out several scrivener’s errors found on the first and last paragraphs of the February 28<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mr. Perez informed Vice Chair Anding that we will make all the corrections requested. Vice Chair Anding then made the motion to approve the minutes and Mrs. Alejandra Collarte second the motion and the rest of the board members voted in favor.

**COUNTRY REPORT**

**CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA**

- Chairman Valdes-Fauli asked Mr. Perez to give a report on Cartagena de Indias. Mr. Perez informed the board members that there has been a number of discussions back and forth between the Economic Development Department and the offices of the Mayor of Cartagena and the Embassy of Colombia in Washington. Also there has been correspondence from Mayor William Dau Chamat of Cartagena to Mayor Vince Lago. We just recently drafted a letter that was signed by Mayor Vince Lago and sent to Mayor William Dau Chamat on April 7, 2022. At this time, we are just waiting for Mayor Chamat’s response on whether he is coming to visit Coral Gables or a group from the Coral Gables IACC Committee will be traveling to Cartagena de Indias.

Mr. Perez added, another update outside Cartagena is the first International Cultural event which would be the Carnival of Barranquilla that is coming at the end of April.

#### LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

Mr. Gavarrete informed the board members that this time in La Antigua, is the busiest time of the year. More than half a million visitors go to La Antigua during the Holy Week. He added that he is planning to call the Mayor of La Antigua the first week of May.

#### SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR

Mr. Gavarrete reported that Santa Tecla is still very quiet, that there is nothing to report yet. He will try to contact the office of the mayor in the next few weeks.

#### SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA

Mrs. Collarte gave a summary of the conversation she had with Leo Rodriguez, Ceremonial and Protocol Director General of the Municipality of San Isidro. She informed the board members that Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that everything regarding Covid in the City of San Isidro is going well. This was due mainly to the re-opening policies and Mayor Posse's successful vaccine campaigns. The city is now totally open.

She asked Mr. Rodriguez if he thought that there would be an interest to reconnect with the business sector through the local chambers and he said that it could be a good idea and that he was going to reach out to Arturo Flier who is the Secretary of Community Integration for the Municipality of San Isidro. She added that Mr. Flier also oversees international and now that everything is back to normal it will be a good time to discuss these issues with him as well.

Mrs. Collarte shared with the board members that she has been appointed as Vice Chair of the International Trade Consortium (ITC) Sister Cities Committee by Chairman Jose Pepe Diaz and fellow members of the Miami Dade ITC. She has also been appointed to serve as the Chair for the International Business Group at the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce starting in June of 2022.

#### AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

There are no updates.

#### STELLENBOSCH, AFRICA

Mr. Gillis informed the board members that he contacted the Mayor of Stellenbosch but have not heard back from him. He asked Chairperson Valdes-Fauli if he had a chance to contact the dean of the University of Stellenbosch and he responded he has not yet, but he will.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Leticia Perez  
International Business Development Representative  
Economic Development Department  
City of Coral Gables