

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 1, 2018**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Commissioners</b>
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	E	P	E	<b>P</b>	P	P	X	P	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	E	P	E	E	<b>E</b>	P	P	X	P	E	E	Comm. Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	E	P	<b>P</b>	P	P	X	P	E	P	Vice Mayor Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	P	P	P	E	<b>E</b>	P	P	X	E	P	E	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	<b>P</b>	P	E	X	P	P	P	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	E	<b>P</b>	P	P	X	P	P	P	Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	P	<b>P</b>	P	P	X	P	P	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

**Country Appointed Liaisons:**

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan  
Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding  
Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete

**A = Absent**

**P = Present**

**E = Excused**

**UA = Unexcused Absence**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

**Guests:**

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli

Ms. Cuzan called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

Ms. Cuzan said that the special IACC meeting was called to hear the Mayor’s recommendation to consider Santa Tecla, El Salvador as a Sister City and to revitalize the Sister City relationship with Quito, Ecuador.

**SISTER CITY WITH SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:**

Mayor Valdés-Fauli said he received communication from the Mayor of Santa Tecla, El Salvador of their interest to become a Sister City with our City. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said the city of Santa Tecla has a very sophisticated CCTV and vehicle license plate reader system which we could share information with and they also have an advanced parking program, senior citizen program and a disabled children program. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said they also close streets on Fridays and Saturday evenings for people to enjoy open air cafés in the same way that we closed Giralda, and the many historic properties which they preserve as we do and they also have a historic cemetery as we have Pinewood Cemetery. Mayor Valdés-Fauli thought it would be good for us to establish a relationship with Santa Tecla, a city with many similar problems and opportunities to ours. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said they are ready to visit and sign the Sister City

agreement on July 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> if we provide a comprehensive program to include Police and Fire presentations. Mr. Anding asked the Mayor when he had visited Santa Tecla. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said he visited April 18, 2018 and found the city to be working perfectly fine. Mr. Anding said he was fine with the Mayor's recommendation. Ms. Kadragic asked if the Mayor was invited to visit Santa Tecla. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said they contacted me to be an observer for the presidential elections and then the Mayor of Santa Tecla made contact with me at an event and he asked if we would consider a Sister City agreement with them. Mr. Anding said the closed circuit program is very impressive but we should also consider other examples like Aix-en-Provence, which I understand has an extensive system or look in cities in the United States where we would have a comprehensive option. Mr. Anding asked if they have any academic educational corporations. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said they have two universities Universidad Albert Einstein and Universidad Técnica Latino Americana. Mr. Anding said he will review the "acuerdo" further. Mr. Gavarrete said he has been to Santa Tecla and they have the best shopping centers in the whole country. Ms. Cuzan suggests a motion be made to the City Commission to consider a Sister City relationship with Santa Tecla, El Salvador. Ms. Kadragic made the motion and Mr. Anding seconds the motion, all in favor, yes.

#### REVIVALIZING THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH QUITO, ECUADOR:

Mayor Valdés-Fauli said he had a meeting with the Consul General of Ecuador, Gustavo Velazquez and Ms. Olga Ortiz Mera, Committee Chairlady in mid-May of this year and they would like to reactivate the Sister City relationship of Quito, Ecuador and Coral Gables. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said Quito is the Capital of Ecuador is very beautiful and should be consisted and provides material (attached) from his meeting to establish some guidelines of activities that would mark a future relaunch of the Sister City relationship. Ms. Cuzan said she had received a copy of the resolution of Quito, Ecuador when it became emeritus in 2011 and prior to that it was a healthy relationship but due to changes in the political arena, the relationship became dormant. Ms. Cuzan said that it would be easy to revive if the board deems it appropriate and no extensive paperwork but to contact Sister Cities International in Washington and request the change of statute for Quito Ecuador. Mr. Anding suggests a letter of interest from the Mayor of Quito to Mayor Valdés-Fauli be requested. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said the plan would be to revive the agreement and discuss the formal announcement, search for sponsors, inform the public and a ceremony to follow. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said he agrees with Mr. Anding and would like to hear back from the Mayor of Quito. Ms. Cuzan said that Quito should be placed pending until a letter from the Mayor of Quito is received expressing interest and a commitment. Ms. Kadragic asks if the city should be dealing with a capital seeing that we have no comparison and seeing the philosophy of Sister City International. Ms. Cuzan said the relationship was very positive and active before and I don't see the fact that it being a capital was a problem but as long as they are interested in making this a successful relationship it would be great to reactivate. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said I don't see it to be negative and still have lots in common as architecture and culture to name a few. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said he would reach out to Ms. Olga Ortiz Mera and inform of the positive meeting but strongly is requesting a letter from the Mayor of Quito so that we may proceed. Mayor Valdés-Fauli said I'm all for Aveiro, Portugal but we need a letter from the Mayor addressed to me the current mayor. Mr. Anding said he spoke to the Consul General of Turkey and he informed that Sisli a suburb in Istanbul would be out of the question because this is not a separate city it is a separate organization, entity of Istanbul and not recommended. Also they have very controversial elections after June which last three months after. Mr. Anding said

the Consul General is looking for three cities to recommend to us for after the elections in September.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Anding informed that at the next regular board meeting he would provide information on the Christmas Market in Aix-en-Provence which he had received from his contact.

Ms. Cuzan informed that she also had information on a meeting she had with the director of the Kellogg School of Management for the next scheduled meeting.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2018.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz  
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council