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| <b>REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION</b><br>CITY OF SAN DIEGO | CERTIFICATE NUMBER<br>(FOR AUDITOR'S USE ONLY) |
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|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| TO:<br>CITY COUNCIL | FROM (ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT):<br>Office of the Mayor | DATE:<br>6/16/2015 |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|

SUBJECT: Approve the San Diego- Panama City Sister City Application

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| PRIMARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE):<br>Don Giaquinto, MS 11A 66902 | SECONDARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE):<br>, |
|---|---------------------------------------|

**COMPLETE FOR ACCOUNTING PURPOSES**

|                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| FUND                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FUNCTIONAL AREA       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| COST CENTER           |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| GENERAL LEDGER ACCT   |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| WBS OR INTERNAL ORDER |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| CAPITAL PROJECT No.   |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| AMOUNT                | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

|                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| FUND                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| FUNCTIONAL AREA       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| COST CENTER           |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| GENERAL LEDGER ACCT   |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| WBS OR INTERNAL ORDER |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| CAPITAL PROJECT No.   |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| AMOUNT                | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

COST SUMMARY (IF APPLICABLE): N/A

**ROUTING AND APPROVALS**

| CONTRIBUTORS/REVIEWERS: | APPROVING AUTHORITY       | APPROVAL SIGNATURE | DATE SIGNED |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                         | ORIG DEPT.                | Pepin, Brian       | 06/16/2015  |
|                         | CFO                       |                    |             |
|                         | COO                       |                    |             |
|                         | CITY ATTORNEY             |                    |             |
|                         | COUNCIL PRESIDENTS OFFICE |                    |             |

PREPARATION OF:     RESOLUTIONS     ORDINANCE(S)     AGREEMENT(S)     DEED(S)

1) Waive Council Policy 000-18 - There is a need to simultaneously update the city council policy to reflect the changes that were made on the national policy for creation of Sister Cities -this has not occurred on a local level.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 2) Approve the Sister City Application to create a San Diego Sister City relationship with Panama City, Panama |           |
| STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:<br>Approve the resolution   |           |
| SPECIAL CONDITIONS (REFER TO A.R. 3.20 FOR INFORMATION ON COMPLETING THIS SECTION)                             |           |
| COUNCIL DISTRICT(S):   | City Wide |
| COMMUNITY AREA(S):   |           |
| ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:  |           |
| CITY CLERK INSTRUCTIONS:   |           |

**COUNCIL ACTION**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET**  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

DATE: 6/16/2015

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Office of the Mayor

SUBJECT: Approve the San Diego- Panama City Sister City Application

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): City Wide

CONTACT/PHONE NUMBER: Don Giaquinto/MS 11A 66902

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

The City of San Diego and Panama City are finalizing the official creation of a business and cultural relationship through the San Diego Sister City Association.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the resolution

SAN DIEGO–PANAMA CITY SISTER CITY Proposal

**HISTORY** - The originators of the idea that San Diego and Panama City, Panama should become sister cities are two friends and leading San Diegans, Iris Engstrand and Robert Price. San Diego staged the Panama - California Exposition in 1915 to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal. San Diego was to be the first American port of call north of the Panama Canal on the Pacific coast. The exposition was designed to call attention to San Diego and bolster its economy. In the spring of 2013, Iris and Robert thought with the forthcoming centennial of the Panama – California Exposition, it would be appropriate for San Diego and Panama City to celebrate the centennial by becoming sister cities.

**BACKGROUND-** In the late spring of 2013, Iris Engstrand met with the President of the San Diego International Sister Cities Association to learn about the process for Panama City to become a sister city of San Diego. A committee of San Diego citizens in support of the sister cities idea was formed.

**CORRESPONDENCE-** On October 8, 2014 San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer sent a letter to Panama City Mayor Jose Blandon expressing interest in exploring the potential of San Diego and Panama City officially becoming sister cities. Mayor Faulconer suggested collaboration and exchange in fields including education, the arts, commerce, tourism, social services, and science. On December 10, 2014 Panama City Mayor Blandon responded to Mayor Faulconer’s letter confirming Panama City’s interest in exploring sister city ties.

**STEERING COMMITTEE-**On January 8, 2015 the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the San Diego – Panama City Sister Cities Association was held. The Steering Committee consists of the following individuals: David Edick Jr. (Chair of the Steering Committee), Walter Amedee (President, House of Panama), Myrna Zambrano, Gina Engler, Rita Lim-Wilby, Carlos Morgan, Kathleen Roche-Tansey, David Slack, Mirta Schloss, Julian Padilla (Vice President of the Consular Corps), Carolina Mouritzen (Honorary Consul of Panama in San Diego Emeritus), Don Giaquinto, Rita Orland, and Dr. Michael McQuary (Trustee, San Diego Unified School

District). In Panama City, coordination of the sister cities effort is being facilitated by Milton Henríquez Pagé (Director, Office of International Cooperation, Office of the Mayor of Panama City) and Plashka Meade Webster (Coordinator for Networks and Cooperation, Office of International Cooperation, Office of the Mayor of Panama City).

On April 23, 2015 the Association held its first public event which was designed to publicize the opportunity embodied by sister city ties between cities bound by history. An estimated 175 leaders and citizens of San Diego including Speaker of the California Assembly Toni Atkins, Mayor Faulconer, and the Consul General of the Republic of Panama in Los Angeles gathered at the San Diego History Center to support and celebrate the Sister Cities effort.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** - It is worth noting that 2015 is also the year San Diego has decided to “Go Global”. Home to the Panama Canal, Panama has historically served as the crossroads of trade for the Americas. The \$5.25 billion project to double the capacity of the Panama Canal is due to be completed in December 2015. The Colon Free Trade Zone is 2nd largest FTZ in the world (2nd to Hong Kong) and acts as regional distribution hub.

**COMMERCE**- On Oct 31, 2012 the U.S.–Panama Free Trade Agreement went into effect. According to the US Department of Commerce, Panama has a strong affinity for US goods & services. Economic ties with Panama will facilitate the growth of San Diego’s “Blue Economy”. Leading export opportunities include Agricultural Products, Automotive Products, Building Products, Computers & Peripherals, Medical Equipment, Electrical Power Systems, Franchising, Hotel & Restaurant Equipment, Maritime Engineering, Maritime Services, Port & Shipbuilding Equipment, Security & Safety Equipment, Telecommunications Equipment, and inbound tourism. Hosted by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, Panama's COPA Airlines visited San Diego in April 2014 to seriously explore the potential of direct flights between Lindbergh Field and Tocumen International Airport in Panama City. Tocumen is a regional hub that could connect San Diego to South America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

**PROJECTS**- San Diego –Panama City Sister Cities Association include facilitating commerce, forming Sister Schools ties (2 San Diego schools have already expressed interest), promoting environmental awareness, promoting arts & culture (including sponsoring a Panamanian Film Festival), promoting the House of Panama in Balboa Park, and sending a San Diego delegation to Panama City in 2016.

Pepin, Brian

Originating Department



**KEVIN L. FAULCONER**

MAYOR

March 20, 2014

Honorable Roxana Méndez de Obrarrio  
Mayor of Panama City  
Avenida Justo Arosemena, Edificio Hatillo, Apartado 0816-07728, Zona 1  
República de Panamá

Dear Mayor Méndez:

Greetings from San Diego, California! I hope my letter finds you in good health.

I am pleased that a group of San Diego citizens and community leaders have come together in support of establishing a sister city relationship between San Diego and Panama City.

As you may know, Panama has a prominent place in the history of San Diego. The opening of the Panama Canal in 1914 put into motion the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, which was held in San Diego from March 9, 1915, to January 1, 1917. The exposition celebrated the opening of the Panama Canal and was meant to promote San Diego as the first U.S. port of call for ships traveling north after passing westward through the canal. This transformational exposition was held in San Diego's cherished Balboa Park. San Diego will commemorate this historic event throughout 2015.

I believe our communities have much to gain through the development of mutual understanding through people-to-people contacts. Collaboration and exchange in fields including education, the arts, commerce, social services, and science will benefit the citizens of San Diego and Panama.

It is my hope that you and members of your community will be interesting in exploring the potential for establishing an official sister city relationship between our two cities.

I look forward to your favorable reply.

Respectfully,

Kevin L. Faulconer  
Mayor





San Diego  
International  
Sister Cities  
Association



**OFFICERS**

President  
Rita Lim-Wilby  
Treasurer  
Fred Parks  
Secretary  
David Edick Jr

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**HONORARY CHAIRMAN**

Kevin L. Faulconer  
Mayor  
City of San Diego

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Sandra Islas  
Shahrzad Kamyab  
Floyd Morrow  
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Tema, Ghana  
Tijuana, México  
Vladivostok, Russia  
Warsaw & Mazovia Province,  
Poland  
Yantai, China  
Yokohama, Japan

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Zoe Zablow

June 10, 2015

To: Hon. Kevin Faulconer  
Mayor of San Diego  
Attn: Don Giaquinto  
Director of Protocol  
Office of the Mayor of San Diego  
dgiaquinto@sandiego.gov

Subject: SAN DIEGO – PANAMA CITY, PANAMA SISTER CITIES APPROVED

Dear Mayor Faulconer,

I am honored to inform you that the Board of Directors of the San Diego International Sister Cities Association voted at its June 9, 2015 meeting to recommend that San Diego and Panama City, Panama formally establish a Sister City relationship.

If you have any questions, please contact Rita Lim-Wilby, President of the San Diego International Sister Cities Association at [rwilby@gmail.com](mailto:rwilby@gmail.com) or at 858-344-0156.

Sincerely,

David Edick Jr  
Secretary  
San Diego International Sister Cities Association  
[www.sandisca.org](http://www.sandisca.org)

PO Box 127131, San Diego, CA 92112

Tel: (619) 438-4696

Email: [info@sandisca.org](mailto:info@sandisca.org) Website: [www.sandisca.org](http://www.sandisca.org)

Federal Tax ID #33-0558322



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD**

Civic Center Plaza Bldg, 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1400, San Diego, CA 92101

June 11, 2015.

**Honorable Council President Lightner  
Honorable City Council Members**

**Letter of Recommendation  
New Sister City Relationship**

In accordance with Chapter 2, Article 6, Division 00, Section 26.23 of the Municipal Code, the International Affairs Board [the Board] ... shall also confer with the San Diego International Sister Cities Corporation to make appropriate recommendations to the City Council concerning the establishment of additional Sister City relationships.

Therefore, the International Affairs Board (IAB), as an advisory board to the Mayor, hereby recommends that the City of San Diego establish a Sister City relationship with Panama City, Panama.

The San Diego International Sister City Association (SanDISCA) has confirmed to the IAB that they have a working relationship with representatives of Panama City and the board of SanDISCA has voted to proceed with the process for establishing a formal Sister City relationship with Panama City. In addition, SanDISCA has provided the IAB with documentation showing that all of the City of San Diego's requirements for establishing a new Sister City have been met.

The IAB voted to approve this Letter of Recommendation at its regular monthly board meeting on June 11, 2015.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Abrams, Esq.  
Chair, International Affairs Board

cc: Honorable Mayor Faulconer



*José Blandón Figueroa*  
*Alcalde del Distrito de Panamá*

Panamá, 10 de diciembre de 2014  
Nota 856/DS/2014

Su Excelencia  
**Kevin L. Faulconer**  
Alcalde  
Alcaldía de San Diego  
California, U.S.A.

Estimado Señor Alcalde:

La Municipalidad de Panamá tiene el honor de dirigirse a Su Excelencia en ocasión de expresar nuestro agradecimiento y consideración a la vez de dar respuesta a nota enviada el 28 de octubre del año en curso, donde expresan su interés de firmar un acuerdo de hermanamiento entre ambas ciudades.

Dando respuesta a esta solicitud, es un placer para el Municipio de Panamá responder gratuitamente y confirmar nuestro interés en desarrollar un acuerdo entre ambas ciudades desarrollando lazos de colaboración e intercambio de ideas en áreas como educación, artes, comercio, servicios sociales y ciencia, ayudando tanto a ciudadanos de ciudad de Panamá como de San Diego, California, como bien exponen.

Manteniendo este lazo a fortalecerse a través de la Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales a sus teléfonos +507-506-9696 o electrónicamente [plashka.meade@municipio-pma.gob.pa](mailto:plashka.meade@municipio-pma.gob.pa), o directamente a la oficina del Alcalde a través del +507-506-9809 o electrónicamente [carla.wagner@municipio-pma.gob.pa](mailto:carla.wagner@municipio-pma.gob.pa), a su consideración.

Deseando éxitos en cada una de sus funciones, presentando mi distinguida consideración y estima.

  
José I. Blandón Figueroa  
Alcalde del Distrito de Panamá



Panama, December 10, 2014  
Note 856/DS/2104

Your Excellency  
Kevin L. Faulconer  
Mayor  
Office of the Mayor, San Diego  
California, U.S.A

Dear Mister Mayor,

The City of Panama has the honor of directing ourselves to Your Excellency to express our gratitude and consideration in response to the note that was sent October 28<sup>th</sup> of this current year, where you expressed interest signing an agreement of sisterhood between both cities.

In response to your request, it is a pleasure for the City of Panama to respond pleasantly and confirm our interest on developing an agreement between both cities to create collaborative ties and an exchange in ideas in areas such as education, arts, commerce, social services, and science, that like was well expressed, will be beneficial to citizens of Panama as well as San Diego.

This bond is to be strengthened through the International Relations Office, available at +507-506-9696 or electronically [plashka.meade@municipio-pma.gob.pa](mailto:plashka.meade@municipio-pma.gob.pa) or directly to the office of the Mayor at +507-506-9809 or electronically [carla-wagner@municipio-pma.gov.pa](mailto:carla-wagner@municipio-pma.gov.pa), at your consideration.

Wishing you success in every one of your functions, presenting my distinguished consideration and esteem.

Jose I. Blandon Figueroa  
Mayor of the District of Panama



