

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: S. Davis
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 8:44 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Support for Lena Louise Kennedy and the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

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Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers
City of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Support for Lena Louise Kennedy and the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

Honorable Mayor Gordo and Members of the City Council,

I am writing today in strong support of Ms. Lena Louise Kennedy and her leadership of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC). As a healthcare professional and community advocate, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication, integrity, and tireless service Lena has given to Pasadena and to the broader community. Her election as the first Black woman to serve as President of the PSCC in its 75-year history was both historic and well-earned, yet her leadership has been repeatedly and unjustly challenged in ways that undermine fairness and equity.

Under the leadership of Lena Kennedy, PSCC is making significant progress toward establishing a Mexico Sister City, a goal that promises to enrich Pasadena with cultural, educational, and economic benefits. However, this important work has been disrupted by unnecessary interference and personal agendas. The PSCC has bylaws and procedures that safeguard transparency, accountability, and sustainability. These safeguards must be respected. When processes are disregarded, it not only harms the credibility of the PSCC but also sets a dangerous precedent for how Pasadena engages with all nonprofit partners.

It is deeply concerning that Lena has been subjected to public attacks and undue pressure, including by members of this Council, while her groundbreaking leadership has not been afforded the same respect and support extended to previous leaders. At a time when our communities are already facing significant challenges, the Council should be lifting up leaders who serve with integrity, not creating additional barriers.

I respectfully urge you to:

- Support the establishment of a Mexico Sister City through the proper PSCC process,
- End unwarranted interference with PSCC leadership, and
- Publicly affirm Lena Louise Kennedy's leadership and the integrity of the PSCC.

9/29/2025

Item 11

Pasadena deserves leadership grounded in fairness, respect, and accountability. By honoring the process and supporting Lena in her role, you not only strengthen the Sister Cities program but also affirm this City's commitment to equity and justice.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shanica Davis Robertson

Family & Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Community Advocate



RECEIVED

2025 SEP 29 AM 8:28

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

September 29, 2025

Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers
City of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Process for Establishing a Mexico Sister City

Honorable Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

This letter outlines facts relevant to the establishment of a Mexico Sister City and adherence to the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC) bylaws and procedures, which are intended to uphold transparency, nonprofit status, and credibility with international partners.

Category 1: Membership Timeline & Entry

- In October 2023, Rene Gonzalez approached then-PSCC Membership Chair Michael Warner regarding membership. Mr. Warner informed him that he would need to wait until 2024.
- Mr. Gonzalez consulted former Mayor Terry Tornek, who directed him to follow Mr. Warner's guidance.
- Mr. Gonzalez then contacted then-Executive Board member Lena Louise Kennedy, who informed him that under PSCC bylaws, he was eligible to join immediately.
- Membership before November 2023 made Mr. Gonzalez eligible to vote in the December 2023 election, as the bylaws require 30 days of membership before voting rights apply.

Category 2: Commitment to a Mexico Sister City

- Mr. Gonzalez was informed that if he joined, he could pursue exploration of a Mexico Sister City, an idea expressed by late Councilmember John J. Kennedy and Councilmember Tyron Hampton.
- He was also informed that he could serve on the Board to participate in the exploratory process.

Category 3: Governance & Process Requirements

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- PSCC bylaws require a minimum of 10 active members to form a subcommittee.
- Subcommittees must demonstrate sustainability and capacity.
- All new Sister City proposals must follow an established vetting process before a recommendation is brought to City Council.
- These requirements are intended to ensure transparency, accountability, and long-term success.

Category 4: Concerns About Procedure

- Rene Gonzalez and Councilmember Madison have proposed accelerating or bypassing steps required in establishing a Mexico Sister City.
- Councilmember Steve Madison has voiced support for Rene Gonzalez and expediting this project; however, the process must adhere to bylaws and procedures governing PSCC and City partnerships.
- Councilmember Tyron Hampton has actively participated with PSCC to promote clarity in the relationship between PSCC and the City of Pasadena.

Closing Statement

The board supports the establishment of a Mexico Sister City and aims to achieve this goal by the end of 2025, with a long-term vision for additional partnerships. The integrity of the process remains important, as adherence to established rules maintains program credibility. The Council is encouraged to support this initiative through official procedures as practiced with other nonprofit organizations, thereby honoring previous leadership and ensuring a stable foundation.

In closing, questions are raised regarding the Council's role in nonprofit oversight and historical context within PSCC leadership. Reference is made to prior experience and challenges faced by past councilmembers. My direct number is 626-523-2152.


Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Anthony McFarland

Lift International Church
1757 N Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104

P.S. The contribution of the late Councilmember Kennedy to Pasadena City Council is acknowledged.

From: Elizabeth Ellis
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 10:31 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Subject: Support for the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

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Mayor Victor Gordo
Pasadena City Councilmembers
City of Pasadena

Dear Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

As Secretary of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, I have just returned from representing the Committee in Japan. I am writing to respectfully request your support in allowing the Committee to fulfill its mission without unnecessary interference. Our volunteers dedicate countless hours to fostering international partnerships that benefit Pasadena, and it is essential that their work proceed in a fair, transparent, and uninterrupted manner.

We are all enthusiastic about the prospect of establishing a Mexico Sister City—an initiative that will strengthen Pasadena's cultural, educational, and economic ties. However, recent actions that appear to bypass or disrupt established processes are deeply concerning. We respectfully ask that positions of authority not be used to undermine these efforts or the volunteers who drive them.

We urge the Council to act with fairness, integrity, and a commitment to the community's best interests. In doing so, we honor the legacy of those who have served Pasadena with dedication and vision,

including the late Councilmember John Kennedy, whose example reminds us of the importance of unity and respect in public service.

Together, we can continue to build Pasadena's global relationships, celebrate volunteer contributions, and strengthen the bonds that unite our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.


Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ellis
Secretary, 2024-2025
Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, Inc.

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Christopher
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 10:39 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Supporting Lena Kennedy

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Honorable Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support of Lena L. Kennedy, a person of outstanding character, integrity, and commitment to excellence. I have had the privilege of knowing Lena Kennedy for over 30 years and I can confidently attest to Lena's unwavering work ethic, sound judgment, and deep-rooted Christian values.

Lena, lives her life with purpose, diligence and a sense of responsibility that inspires those around her. Whether leading a team or serving the community, Lena, does so with grace, humility, and a steadfast commitment to doing what is right.

What sets Lena apart is not only her dedication to hard work, but the integrity and honesty with which she conducts every aspect of life. Grounded in Christian principles of compassion, service, and truth, Lena treats every individual with respect and fairness, and consistently acts in a way that uplifts others.

Despite the outcome of this unjust and unwarranted attack on Lena Kennedy, Lena L. Kennedy, will continue to make a positive impact in the community. Her values are not just spoken but lived out daily in meaningful and tangible ways.

Sincerely,
Christopher Morey

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Gerry Sudduth
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 10:48 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: lkennedy@llkassociates.com; gerry1171@gmail.com
Subject: Support for the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee - New Mexico Cities

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Mayor Gordo and Pasadena City Councilmembers,

Lena is being pushed to go before City Council on Monday night. Yet she will stand in strength, wrapped in God's grace. And she does not stand alone—her children, her friends, and her community are united in wrapping their arms around her.

We respectfully ask that you allow the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee to do its work without unnecessary interference for the Council. Can you explain why positions of power are being used to disrupt the progress of our community initiatives?

We are all excited about the prospect of a Mexico Sister City—so what is the rush for Mr. Madison to usurp the proper process? I urge each Councilmember to act in a manner that is right, just, and fair. What would your former colleague, the late Councilmember John J. Kennedy, do or say in this situation?

Please focus on building up our community and honor the dedication of PSCC volunteers who have given so much to serve it. None of us are perfect, but we can all work together to promote unity. Isn't that what President Eisenhower envisioned for our nation and each of our cities?

Again, I ask the City Council to let the PSCC leadership do their job – remember they are all volunteers. Thank you for your attention and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Gerry Sudduth

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Sandi Hamilton
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 10:59 PM
To: Gordo, Victor
Cc: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Letter of Support for PSCC President Lena Kennedy

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From the desk of Sandi Hamilton

To: The Honorable Victor M. Gordo,

Greetings Mayor Gordo,

I respectfully submit a letter supporting the work of Pasadena Sister Cities Committee under the leadership of Lena Kennedy. I am a member and once again appalled by the unnecessary interference with Ms. Kennedy, as our leader, for this critical endeavor.

Lena has for many years provided public service to the Pasadena Community, the success of her endeavors, as she responds in a leadership capacity leaves her subject to facing negative forces. How shameful!!!! Even more shameful is the appearance of racism, and other associated injustices.

The very people she encouraged to be part of the effort are now showing many of us who they really are. Once again, shameful!!!! I sat in the meetings and watched what went on in the efforts of some who clearly didn't support her presidency. I was led only to think, what's the real agenda here? The matters addressed by Pasadena Sister Cities are far too critical for such discourse and spewing what appears to be pure evil.

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee is moving in the appropriate direction to establish a Mexico Sister City, and as members we all need to be in support of that charge. I urge you to cease with the negative rhetoric and let's focus on the urgency to respond to the needed work of this committee.

There is an appropriate way to respectfully disagree, attacking the leadership is not the way.

I leave you with this quote..." ***Hate it has caused a lot of problems in this world, and it has not solved one yet***" Maya Angelou.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandi Hamilton, PSCC Member

9/29/2025

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: SoCalHealth.Denise
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 11:38 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Support of Lena L Kennedy

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Hello Honorable Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

It is my honor to strongly support Lena L. Kennedy as President of the Pasadena Sister Cities organization. Lena is a leader of vision, integrity, and action, whose dedication to community engagement and service has left a lasting mark on Pasadena and beyond.

When she assumed leadership, Lena had to clean up the organization's finances, establish clear policies and procedures, and confront the blatant biases of past and current members. She brought transparency, accountability, and fairness—laying a foundation for stronger and more inclusive leadership. The fact that she is being attacked for doing an excellent job is truly mind-blowing.

The implication that Lena does not support a Mexico Sister City is false. In 2020, the Honorable John J. Kennedy and Lena Kennedy began the groundwork to establish a Mexico Sister City long before Councilmember Madison and others started using it as a political platform to stand on. It is ridiculous to say that Lena does not want a Mexico Sister City.

She embodies collaboration and bridge-building, always focused on results, not recognition. Lena takes on the hard work others avoid, connects with people from all walks of life, and ensures every voice is valued. Through her strategic leadership and hands-on commitment, she has expanded cultural exchange, education, and global partnerships.

I wholeheartedly support Lena's continued leadership. She is a trusted, inspiring, and impactful leader who has made Pasadena Sister Cities—and our community—stronger.

Sincerely,
Denise Morey

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From:
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:00 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Pasadena Sister City Committee

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Dear Mayor Victor Gordo and Pasadena City Councilmembers,

It is with pleasure and deep concern that I write this letter to you in support of Ms. Lena Louise Kennedy, President of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee(PSCC).

First, it is the desire and vision to have Mexico as a Sister City to add to the roster of Sister Cities for the City of Pasadena. This is and has been a vision under the leadership of Lena Kennedy for several years and we want to continue with this mission.

Under the leadership of Lena Kennedy, we have made several agenda items come to fruition and we want and intend to keep it that way.

We are very concerned about the confusion and dissention that is being demonstrated by Mr. Madison. Why is Mr. Madison working to usurp the process of the PSCC, we want our mission to continue without such distractions, nothing good comes out of this type of action.

Under the leadership of Lena Kennedy, we have worked diligently to bring each agenda item to fruition and this kind of distraction leads to more dissention and less cooperation.

Mr. Mayor and City Councilmembers, you know the work that Lena Kennedy has done for more than 25 Years and continues to do for the residents of Pasadena and also Altadena. Lena has for 25 Years lead the highly successful So Cal Women's Health Conference even during COVID, that alone speaks for itself. Lena does what others can't or won't do.

This action by Mr. Madison is nothing more than an unnecessary distraction that does not need to happen.

I ask you, has Mr. Madison done as much as she has in 25/30 years in this community? Probably not.

My good friend John J. Kennedy would be insulted at the unwarranted attack on his sister Lena Kennedy, who has worked tirelessly to continue the John J. Kennedy Legacy, and to serve the people of Pasadena and Altadena.

Under the leadership of Lena Louise Kennedy, Mexico will become part of the Pasadena Sister Cities Roster.

Please put an end to this type of distraction and allow the process to work and the committee to continue to perform the work that is was designed to do.

Thank you for your time and support in this matter

Yolanda C.S. Williams
Executive Director
Intentional Talk Radio Network
New Vision Media Group
yourcharactered@aol.com
626-394-7012
Real Talk Radio Reimagined
Celebrating 10 Years of Black Talk Radio Excellence

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Samella Yarbrough
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:56 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Letter to the Mayor & City Council Members

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Sent from my iPad

Greetings

There are pressing issues facing our ethnic communities that demand immediate attention and action.

The PSCC is on track to establish a Mexico Sister City—a milestone we have worked tirelessly to achieve.

Your support in standing for fairness, integrity, and the continued success of the PSCC is deeply appreciated.

Thanks,

Sam Yarbrough

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Manuel Guillen
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 11:42 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Re: Pasadena Sister Cities

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Good morning, Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

I am an intern from USC working with Ms. Lena Louise Kennedy, and I have had the pleasure over the past few months of closely collaborating with her on projects such as the Eaton Fire relief efforts, *The Legacy of the Black Altadena and Pasadena Community*, the Eaton Fire Senior Summit, interviewing community members, coordinating volunteers, attending her community events to thank volunteers, and planning meetings for the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee.

Although my time with her has been relatively short, I have learned so much from her years of experience—how she navigates challenges to get things done for the people, and how she fights tirelessly for justice. She cares deeply, loves gently, and is both tough and fair.

Mayor Gordo, while I may not know all of the history, I do know Lena Louise Kennedy as a person who loves her community and fights for its members. She is committed to establishing a Mexico Sister City, and I urge you to work with her to make it happen. I am positive that establishing a sister city will be fulfilling and a benefit to Pasadena.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Respectfully,

Manuel Guillan

Member, Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: KRobertson
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 11:46 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Support for Lena Louise Kennedy and the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

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September 29, 2025

Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers
City of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Support for Lena Louise Kennedy and the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

Dear Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

As a Pasadena resident, I am writing to express my strong support for Ms. Lena Louise Kennedy and her leadership of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC).

The establishment of a Mexico Sister City is a goal worth celebrating, but the process matters. The PSCC has bylaws that safeguard fairness, accountability, and credibility with our international partners. Those rules must be respected. Attempts to bypass or interfere with them create unnecessary division and raise concerns about equity.

Ms. Kennedy has led with integrity as the first Black woman in 75 years to serve as PSCC President. Instead of being recognized for her service, she has faced public attacks and obstacles that no leader should endure. This treatment undermines not only her leadership but also the values of fairness and respect that Pasadena should stand for.

I urge you to support the Mexico Sister City initiative through the established PSCC process and to affirm Lena Kennedy's leadership without further interference. By doing so, you will strengthen trust in both the City and its community partners.

Respectfully,

Kevin Robertson
Pasadena Sister Cities Committee Member

9/29/2025
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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Shirley Taylor
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 11:48 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Urgent : letter of concern re Lena Kennedy

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Good morning, Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

I am a member of Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, and we are in full support of establishing a

Mexico Sister City. However, we must follow our bylaws. I do not understand why a problem is

being created where none exists.

We should not cause division but strive to create harmony. I do not understand why

Councilmember Madison is pushing to disregard the diligent work being done. He is not in the

trenches doing the grassroots work; instead, he sits from a distance, causing disruption for those

working on the ground. When was the last time he was in our community? It seems too easy for him

to walk away when he gets what he wants, leaving the community divided. What is truly gained from that?

Additionally, Rene Gonzalez and Martin Gordon are new members whom President Kennedy

welcomed and placed in key positions. Yet now, instead of building, they are causing problems.

This must stop.

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee has been faithful and diligent in working to make a Mexico

Sister City a reality. President Lena Louise Kennedy has led PSCC with stability and growth. I have a

long-standing and respected relationship with her through our community and church work. I also

knew her brother, the late Councilmember John J. Kennedy, and I recognize the dedication he gave

toward securing an African Sister City. I deeply value international relationships through my lifelong

service in social justice across the globe.

I respectfully ask that you work with the current leadership under President Lena Louise Kennedy,

rather than against the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee. I urge you to remain rooted in

productivity and committed to positive outcomes.

Respectfully,

Shirley Taylor


Member, Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Jonathan Kennedy
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 11:54 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Concern for handling of Pasadena sister cities

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Good morning Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

I write with deep concern about the events unfolding in our city regarding the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC), and more specifically, the persistent and unwarranted attacks directed toward my mother, Lena Louise Kennedy, in her role as President.

PSCC has thrived under my mother's leadership. A leader should be judged by results, and Lena's record of achievement speaks for itself. Her results are undeniable and unrefuted—an objective fact that cannot be dismissed.

Yet, certain individuals—namely Michael Warner, Rene Gonzalez, Martin Gordon, and Councilmember Steve Madison—have consistently undermined her leadership. Councilmember Madison in particular has openly laid the platform to berate Lena's leadership by leading efforts to bypass established processes. We all want the creation of the Mexico Sister City but we must comply with due process. The actions of Councilmember Madison is deeply troubling and reflects poorly on those entrusted with public office.

The truth is clear: neither Mr. Warner nor Mr. Madison have had a track record of meaningful or progressive contributions to Pasadena's underserved communities. Councilmember Madison, have you even returned Lena Louise Kennedy's phone calls to gain a clear understanding before charging ahead? Where has your presence been in the Black and Brown communities of Pasadena? The answer is obvious: you have not been there. And yet, you now claim a sudden passion for establishing a Mexico Sister City, disregarding proper order and abusing the influence of your office. This is not leadership—it is bullying.

Public servants are held to a higher standard. Have these men met that standard in their treatment of Lena? The facts say no. Their actions reveal bias, not justice.

When crisis strikes Pasadena—whether in affluent neighborhoods or underserved areas—it is Lena who brings solutions. She is the person many city staff call on her leadership consistently and turn to her for guidance. Her contributions extend beyond Pasadena to national and now global impact through PSCC. This track record of service, vision, and results should be supported, not attacked.

It is important to note that the induction of a Mexico Sister City chapter has long been on the PSCC agenda under Lena's leadership. Any attempt to force this through by circumventing established processes is harmful and unnecessary.

Mayor Gordo, I must ask directly: why has there been no strong support from you or the City Manager for Lena during these repeated attacks? Why has this behavior been allowed to continue for more than two years? Enough is enough.

9/29/2025

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I urge the entire City Council to stand up for fairness, integrity, and transparency. Support the continued success of PSCC by backing its duly elected leadership—President Lena Louise Kennedy and the current boardmembers.

This is not asking for a favor; it is asking you to do what is right.

Respectfully,
Jonathan Kennedy

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Supt. G. LaKeith Kenebrew
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 11:53 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Support for Lena Kennedy and PSSC

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Honorable Mayor Gordo and Counsel Members,

I want to express my support for Lena L. Kennedy as President of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee.

Through the leadership of Lena Kennedy the PSSC has operated with

transparency, accountability, and fairness—laying a foundation for stronger and more inclusive leadership. The fact that this concern is being brought to the City Counsel as a concern is truly concerning.

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSSC) has bylaws and procedures that serve as safeguards. They protect our city as well as our nonprofit status, uphold transparency, and preserve credibility with our international partners.

I wholeheartedly support Lena's continued leadership. She is a trusted, inspiring, and impactful leader who has made Pasadena Sister Cities—and our community—stronger.

Additionally, I fully support the establishing of the Mexico Sister City, which is in process by the end of 2025.

Sincerely,

Pastor G. Lakeith Kenebrew

Hillside Tabernacle Church, Senior Pastor

Former Altadena Branch NAACP President

G. L. Kenebrew <glkenebrew@gmail.com>

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Lena Perspective 1>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:45 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Letter to Mayor and City Council regard the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

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Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers
City of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Process for Establishing a Mexico Sister City

Honorable Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

I unequivocally express our collective support for the establishment of a Mexico Sister City. This initiative promises to imbue Pasadena with rich cultural, educational, and economic benefits. However, we must maintain the integrity of the process as we pursue this commendable goal.

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC) adheres to bylaws and procedures designed to protect our nonprofit status, safeguard the City, ensure transparency, and uphold our credibility with international partners. Allow me to present the following facts, organized in accordance with PSCC bylaws and procedures:

Category 1: Membership Timeline & Entry

- In October 2023, Rene Gonzalez approached then-PSCC Membership Chair Michael Warner regarding membership. Mr. Warner informed him he would need to wait until 2024.
- Mr. Gonzalez then consulted former Mayor Terry Tornek, who advised him to follow Mr. Warner's guidance.
- Subsequently, Mr. Gonzalez contacted then-Executive Board member Lena Louise Kennedy, who informed him that under PSCC bylaws, he was eligible to join immediately.
- Membership before November 2023 made Mr. Gonzalez eligible to vote in the December 2023 election, as bylaws require 30 days of membership before voting rights apply.

Category 2: Commitment to a Mexico Sister City

- Mr. Gonzalez was assured that if he joined, he would be supported in pursuing the exploration of a Mexico Sister City, an idea long championed by the late Councilmember John J. Kennedy and Councilmember Tyron Hampton.
- He was also assured he could serve on the Board to help navigate the exploratory process.

Category 3: Governance & Process Requirements

- PSCC bylaws require a minimum of 10 active members to form a subcommittee.
- Subcommittees must demonstrate sustainability and capacity.
- All new Sister City proposals must follow the established vetting process before a recommendation is brought to the City Council.
- These requirements exist to ensure transparency, accountability, and long-term success.

Category 4: Concerns About Procedure

- Rene Gonzalez, Martin Gordon, and Councilmember Madison have attempted to accelerate or bypass steps required in establishing a Mexico Sister City.
- Councilmember Steve Madison has voiced strong support for Mr. Gonzalez and expediting this project; however, the process cannot be driven by individual agendas. It must adhere to the bylaws and procedures that govern PSCC and City partnerships.

There are Councilmembers such as Councilmember Tyron Hampton and Rick Cole, who have been steadfast advocates for PSCC, consistently working with transparency and integrity to promote justice, fairness, and unity. Over the past two years, Councilmember Hampton has worked closely with me, as President, requesting clarification from the City Manager and City Attorney regarding the relationship between PSCC and the City of Pasadena, all while seeking to strengthen the partnership and ensure a productive and sustainable collaboration. Similarly, Councilmember Rick Cole truly fosters “One Pasadena,” consistently promoting harmony and fairness, and both Councilmembers fully support and look forward to establishing a Mexico Sister City.

We fully support establishing a Mexico Sister City, and our Board has committed to realizing this objective by the end of 2025. We are on track to achieve that goal and even envision the addition of a second Mexico Sister City.

Nonetheless, maintaining the integrity of the process is equally important. Bypassing established rules for one project risks undermining the credibility of the entire Pasadena Sister Cities Committee program. I urge the Council to respect this effort by adhering to the proper procedures, as expected of all nonprofit organizations. By doing so, we honor past leaders, protect our city’s credibility, and lay a foundation strong enough to last for generations. Let us move forward with unity, respect, and integrity to make the Mexico Sister Cities a reality—the right way.

In closing, I must present the following questions: Pasadena has over 300 nonprofits—when did the City Council begin usurping the leadership of these organizations, or is this a personal attack on this leadership? In the 75-year history of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, this is the first time it has been led by a Black woman, yet never before has the Council overstepped the authority of previous leadership, even when official concerns were raised. Councilmember Madison, what is your agenda in placing this on the City Council agenda now, while our city is in crisis with the Eaton Fire and ICE, and our communities are still recovering? Most importantly, when does injustice stop and equity begin?

If the late Councilmember Kennedy were alive, I firmly believe PSCC leadership would not be under attack. In fairness, I respectfully ask that these actions cease.

Respectfully submitted,

Lena Louise Kennedy
President
Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, Inc.

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Phillis Griffin ·
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:45 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: City Council Public Comment

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September 29, 2025

Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the Council,

Today's Pasadena Now article about Councilmember Steve Madison's request for an update on the Guanajuato Sister City proposal is refreshing. It is good to see leadership publicly recognizing the promise of citizen diplomacy and the bridges it can build for Pasadena.

But with that excitement comes a serious responsibility. This Council cannot celebrate diplomacy abroad while ignoring the erosion of democratic practices at home.

When the PSCC Executive Board manipulates procedures, restricts access to information, silences voices during meetings, and withholds membership rosters that are essential to fair elections, those are not minor oversights — those are behaviors that mirror discriminatory practices under the law. In today's society, discrimination is not always explicit. It is often cloaked in procedural control, selective exclusion, retaliation against critics, and the quiet denial of equal participation.

History teaches us that complacency in the face of these behaviors allows them to harden into systemic exclusion. And once discrimination becomes embedded in governance, it takes on legal significance. These are the very patterns that agencies like the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) are trained to identify: disparate treatment, hostile environments, retaliation, and obstruction of fair process.

As citizen diplomats and public officials, we may not always recognize these patterns ourselves. But experts in civil rights enforcement know how to identify them clearly. And it is my sincere hope that Pasadena does not allow this situation to reach the point where federal or state oversight becomes necessary.

After you hear the report tonight, I urge this Council not to let enthusiasm distract from the hard truth: without intervention, these practices will continue unchecked. If this Council chooses not to act, it will send a devastating message — that in Pasadena, power may be abused, elections may be manipulated, voices may be silenced, and discrimination may be tolerated so long as it is dressed up as diplomacy. That is a dangerous precedent. It tells every resident, every partner city, and every young person watching that fairness is negotiable and accountability is optional. Pasadena must not allow itself to be

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remembered for complacency in the face of injustice. The integrity of this City and the credibility of its global partnerships depends on your courage to confront this now.

But gratitude does not erase responsibility. The world is watching how Pasadena governs itself. Our partners abroad are watching. And our children who will inherit this City are watching. I urge you to act with fairness, with transparency, and with courage. If you do, Pasadena can demonstrate not only to its citizens but also to its global partners that we lead with integrity, value inclusion, and are willing to correct course when it matters most.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Philis Griffin
Board Member
Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Ron Carter
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 1:16 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

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Dear Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers:

Over the last two years, I have been a member of the board of Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC). I serve as vice chair of the Dakar Plateau - Senegal Committee.

Since becoming an active and financial member of PSCC, I have witnessed the diligent work of the leadership of this organization. PSCC President Lena Louise Kennedy has increased the organization's membership, relevance and overall presence in our communities and made our finances transparent. Like most organizations, PSCC has faced challenges. Yet, the organization is moving forward. There are presently two sister cities being planned for Mexico. And, outreach is being made to potential sister cities in Africa.

Why there would be this sudden issue with PSCC leadership is perplexing. Especially, since there have been no "formal" complaints made against Miss Kennedy. PSCC is a wonderful organization for our city. Let's not ruin it, because some members are unhappy with the organization's process. Let's stop gossiping about each other and get to work on PSCC's mission.

The PSCC is on track to establish a Mexico Sister City—a milestone that was worked on tirelessly. It is essential that the City Council ensure transparency and accountability before personal agendas are allowed to derail meaningful work.

Your support in standing for fairness, integrity, and the continued success of PSCC is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

Ron Carter

Vice Chair - Dakar Plateau - Senegal Committee

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Sondra Anita Ware
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 1:48 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Pasadena Sister Cities

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Mayor Gordo and City Council-members,

I am writing with deep concern and frustration. Why are Martin Gordon, Rene Gonzalez, and Phillis Griffin allowed to sow chaos in our community? Please examine their track records—what have they truly accomplished for Pasadena beyond bullying others?

Now, the bullies have targeted a dear friend of mine, President Lena Louise Kennedy, leader of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee. Let's compare the impact: under Lena's leadership, she, her siblings, and community members have achieved tangible results, including:

- The SoCal Women's Conference
- The MAN CAVE initiative
- Support for the Eaton Fire recovery
- Eaton Fire Senior Summit
- Working to place a showcase for Fire Survivors to view
- Women in Leadership Vital Voices, which mobilized over 50,000 people to the polls
- The John J. Kennedy Annual Turkey Harvest Market
- Longstanding work on the Black History Parade and fundraising for community programs
- The Black Legacy Voice Echoes our Truth Project

These accomplishments represent action, policy, and real community-building—not mere words or division. Lena and her team foster inclusivity and understanding, not intimidation. There is simply no comparison.

Mr. Madison, why create a platform for bullying in our city, especially when our nation already faces far too much division? Where have you been when real help was needed, and why is this now a priority that requires undermining established processes?

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, under Lena Louise Kennedy's leadership, is on track to establish not just one, but two Mexico sister cities. What exactly is the complaint?

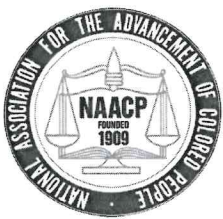
With everything in me, I urge the Pasadena City Council to allow this organization to do its important work. Stop creating problems where none exist. Let us focus on building solutions that strengthen our community, foster collaboration, and serve the greater good.

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Sincerely,

Sondra Ware
Member, Pasadena Sister Cities Committee



PO BOX 94063, Pasadena, CA 91003
Altadenaactso@gmail.com
626.222.2189

RECEIVED

2025 SEP 29 PM 2: 09

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

Good morning, Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

As President of the Altadena NAACP, I am compelled to speak in support of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee and its President Lena Louise Kennedy. In our work to build strong, vibrant communities, we cannot allow division or baseless attacks to overshadow decades of dedication, vision, and diplomacy.

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee is pursuing its first Mexico Sister City relationship, a historic initiative that reflects the cultural, educational, and economic benefits such partnerships bring. The plan envisions two Mexico Sister Cities, one in Guanajuato and one in Zacatecas. According to the Committee's membership meeting, Guanajuato will be first, followed by Zacatecas. This careful, thoughtful process demonstrates the organization's diligence and commitment to fostering meaningful international relationships.

I am particularly inspired by the leadership of Lena Louise Kennedy, the first Black woman to serve as President of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee in its 75-year history. Her dedication to equity, community engagement, and cross-cultural understanding is unwavering. Attacks on her leadership are not only unjust, but they also undermine the very progress our community strives to achieve.

Our shared goal must be unity, collaboration, and healing. Pasadena and Altadena communities thrive when organizations like the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee are allowed to do their work without unnecessary interference. With so many pressing issues already facing our region, from wildfire recovery to civic engagement, the focus must remain on solutions, not creating problems where none exist.

I respectfully urge the Pasadena City Council to support the Committee and its leadership, allowing them to fulfill their mission with integrity, transparency, and vision. The work they are doing strengthens Pasadena, enriches Altadena, and exemplifies the spirit of community we all cherish.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you wish to discuss this further.

Respectfully

Wilberta Richardson

Wilberta Richardson
President, Altadena NAACP

9/29/2025
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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: mary knox
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:09 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Pasadena Sister Cities and the establishment of a Mexico Sister City

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

I am an active Board Member of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee. The goal of our organization is unity and harmony, not division. However, it is important that whatever we do...we do so by following the bylaws.

I am concerned that one of our council members is choosing to disregard the diligent work already being done by our committee. I am speaking of council member Steve Madison. He is not actively engaged in the grassroots efforts of Pasadena Sister Cities, yet he is creating disruption from afar. When was the last time he truly stood with our committee and what does his disruption accomplish? I do not understand why a problem is being created where none exists.

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee has been steadfast, faithful, and diligent in pursuing the Mexico Sister City relationship under the leadership of President Lena Louise Kennedy. I have admired her commitment to our community and to her ambitious goal of adding more subcommittees and friendship cities to our great organization. I also fully support the establishment of a Mexico Sister Cities Subcommittee and the friendship cities as most of our members do.

Mayor Gordo, a couple of new members that were welcomed and placed in key roles by President Kennedy are the individuals who are now contributing to discord. I think that they believe that the bylaws don't apply to them. For most of the members of Pasadena Sister Cities who regularly attend the meetings, this behavior must stop. I have talked to a number of members, and they are not happy about the behavior of these individuals.

Lastly, I also knew Lena's brother, the late Councilmember John J. Kennedy. He is the reason I joined the organization. He was a true and enthusiastic leader. His dedication to Pasadena Sister Cities helped secure an African sister city. His legacy of building international partnerships continues through Lena's work and the work of dedicated sister cities members.


Mayor Gordo, I respectfully urge you to work alongside the current leadership under President Lena Louise Kennedy, rather than against the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee. Let us stay focused on being productive and achieving positive outcomes for our city and its residents.

Respectfully,
MaryEtta Knox
Board Member,
Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

From:
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:25 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse

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Tora Miller, LCSW.
Supervisor with Los Angeles County Dept.of Mental
Health
Current Board member of West Adams Neighborhood
Council
Sept. 29, 2025

To Whom it may Concern,

I am pleased to write a letter of support for Lena Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy's dedication, compassion and leadership have made a lasting impact on our community. Through her tireless work in the community and as the current president of the Pasadena Sister Cities (PSC) she has consistently brought people together and created meaningful change as evidenced by her work with establishing the Mexico Sister Cities.

I strongly support Lena Kennedy's continued leadership as President of the PSC and her continued efforts to lead and serve our community.

Respectfully,
Tora Miller, LCSW

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: KATY TOWNSEND
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:25 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Pasadena Sister City

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Good afternoon , Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

President Lena Louise Kennedy has led the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC) into a season of stability and growth. I have known her for more than 40 years, and we share a respected relationship built through decades of community service. You will not find a more committed and inclusive leader, and I am proud to stand alongside her in establishing a Mexico Sister City.

Her brother, the late Councilmember John J. Kennedy, was also a dear friend to me and my family. I witnessed firsthand his tireless efforts to secure an African Sister City relationship, as well as his deep commitment to establishing a Mexico Sister City.

I do not understand why the City is attempting to usurp the process. I graciously ask that you allow the PSCC leadership to do its job. At 80+ years old, I have lived long enough to recognize injustice when I see it. In 2025, with so much happening in our country, our cities, and our communities, can we not choose to do what is right? Let us work toward harmony and justice.

Again, I respectfully urge you to support the current leadership under President Lena Louise Kennedy and the PSCC Board, who are fully capable of producing positive outcomes for our great city.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Katy Townsend

Member, Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

Sent from my iPhone

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Rick Law <rick.law@pasadenasistercities.org>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:43 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Attached

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Good morning Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers:

As a lifelong resident of Pasadena and Altadena, and a former Police Commander, I am appalled by what is happening in 2025 with the attacks on one of our most dedicated community volunteers, who grew up here alongside her nine siblings. This current City Council knew the late Councilmember John J. Kennedy, with whom she tirelessly worked to serve this community. Now that he has passed, some believe they have free rein to disrespect her-but they do not.

Lena Louise Kennedy is the first Black woman in 75 years to serve as President of this historic non/black organization. When she assumed leadership, there was notable "white flight," yet she persevered. That alone should be recognized, not attacked. Unnecessary attacks are unacceptable.

What has the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC) leadership done wrong? Why are we defending a problem that does not exist at City Hall? Claims that she does not support a Mexico Sister City are false. In fact, the late Councilmember Kennedy himself said, after the Africa Sister City was established, that the next sister city should be in Mexico/and Lena is making sure it happens without a 20-year delay.

It is time to stop the nonsense and focus on real issues. Let the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee do its work, and please stop the disrespect. We have important matters before us, including the compensation presentation, which should be the City Council's priority. Please, do not get distracted by manufactured conflicts-allow this nonprofit organization to continue its vital work for our community.

Sincerely,

Rick Law
Members, Pasadena Sister Cities Committee Sent from my iPhone

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: tunisia
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:15 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Harassment by Rene Gonzalez and Representation of Pasadena through Sister Cities

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Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council,

I am writing with deep concern regarding the conduct of Rene Gonzalez in connection with the Sister Cities Committee, specifically as it relates to Guanajuato, Mexico. It saddens me that what is intended to be a positive and unifying program—especially considering the ongoing deportations and hardships faced by members of the Latino community—has been overshadowed by behavior that is aggressive, harassing, and wholly unrepresentative of the values of the City of Pasadena.

Under California law (Cal. Penal Code § 646.9 and related civil statutes), harassment includes a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person that seriously alarms, annoys, or harasses the person, and that serves no legitimate purpose. Such conduct may consist of repeated actions, communications, or behaviors that would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress.

Specific Examples of Harassment

Mr. Gonzalez's conduct falls squarely within this definition:

- On September 27, 2025, at Chris Holdens block party Mr. Gonzalez deliberately set up a table just feet away from Sister Cities President Kennedy's, with the clear intent of antagonizing and harassing her directly and by way of third party.
- He spent the entire day engaging in defamation, spreading false narratives about her character and leadership knowing others will repeat what he is saying and speaking negatively within earshot of her with the intent to harass and bully her.
- His actions are part of an ongoing pattern of harassing women, as evidenced by his similar treatment of School Board Member Michelle Bailey.
- It is also on public record that Mr. Gonzalez has an active order filed against him by his wife, further establishing a pattern of abusive and controlling behavior (Public Record).

Mr. Gonzalez's actions reflect classic abusive and harassing tactics, including:

- Attempting to intimidate and dominate women through proximity and presence.
- Spreading false narratives with the goal of undermining reputations.
- Using excessive and baseless communications to badger and pressure individuals into compliance.

Allowing Mr. Gonzalez to use his platform in Sister Cities while engaging in such behavior sends the wrong message and risks inciting further hostility that can result in violence. Given the political climate and the rise in

national violence, Pasadena must not condone harassment, bullying, or intimidation by those in leadership or representative roles.

It is important to emphasize that Mr. Gonzalez has a documented history of domestic violence. Restraining orders are not granted lightly; they require substantial evidence to succeed in court. Records also indicate over 500 calls for service related to family violence involving him. To embolden and give a platform to individuals who operate this way creates serious safety concerns for everyone.

The City of Pasadena has a responsibility to ensure that those representing the city, especially in international partnerships, reflect the core values of dignity, respect, and inclusion. The world is watching how we lead, and the Mexican Sister City platform provides a powerful opportunity to model love, support, and unity for people from all countries and walks of life.

I urge City Council to carefully reconsider who is allowed to represent Pasadena in this capacity. The Mayor of Guanajuato, who stands firmly against domestic violence, would be deeply displeased to learn that the Chair of Pasadena's Sister Cities Committee is actively engaged in harassing women and displaying ongoing disrespect toward them.

Pasadena must take a clear stand that harassment, abuse, and intimidation—whether verbal, emotional, or physical—will not be tolerated by anyone representing our city. I will not sit back and be complacent in what I have seen and experienced with my own ears and eyes, and after gathering further information I am concerned with the City of Pasadena's complacent tone with what's been transpiring for almost two years. It's just not acceptable and needs to be addressed.

Warmly,



Tunisia Offray, CDVC, CDVF, CDVA

President/ Managing Director

Shepherd's Door Domestic Violence Resource and Education Center

626.765.9967 (o)

323.351.8090 (c)

www.shepherddoor.org

Empowering Lives, Breaking Cycles

Chair, Pasadena Sister City New Sister Cities, and Friendship Cities Committee

Vice Chair, City Pasadena Human Service Commission

Committee Member for LA County Violence Against Women and Girls

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Carliss McGhee
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:24 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Mexico Sister City

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Good morning, Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

It is with great excitement that I express my strong support for establishing a Mexico Sister City. The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee has been faithful and diligent in doing the work to make this vision a reality. I personally know Lena Louise Kennedy, and we share a respected relationship through the work we both do in the community. I also knew her brother, the late Councilmember John J. Kennedy, and I understand the dedication he gave toward securing an Africa Sister City. I know the value of international relationships through my service on the board of the YWCA, where we work to foster connections and build healthy communities. I respectfully ask that you work with the current leadership under President Lena Louise Kennedy, rather than against the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee leadership. I do not understand why there must be conflict and confusion when it is unnecessary. The journey to reach the destination is just as important as the destination itself, and we must move forward in decency and order.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Carliss McGhee

Member, Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

9/29/2025

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Jana West
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:26 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Sister Cities Committee

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Good morning, Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

As a member of this wonderful city, I feel compelled to speak in support of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee and its leadership under President Lena Louise Kennedy. In building strong, vibrant communities, we cannot allow division or baseless attacks to overshadow decades of dedication, vision, and diplomacy.

The Pasadena Sister Cities Committee is pursuing its first Mexico Sister City relationships—a historic initiative that brings cultural, educational, and economic benefits. The plan envisions two Sister Cities: Guanajuato first, followed by Zacatecas. This careful, thoughtful process demonstrates the Committee's diligence and commitment to fostering meaningful international relationships.

I am proud to support Lena Louise Kennedy, the first Black woman to serve as President of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee in its 75-year history. Let us work with her to achieve positive outcomes for our community, rather than undermine her leadership. Attacks on her are not only unjust—they weaken the progress our city strives to achieve.

I can only imagine how the late Hon. John J. Kennedy would feel about this behavior—and I hope we all reflect on the example he set for respect, service, and community.

Sincerely,
Jana West
Former District Liaison to the late Councilmember John J. Kennedy

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Pasadena, CA 91104
OFFICE: 626.794.2951

KERWIN L. MANNING
SENIOR PASTOR

MADELYN D. MANNING
CO-PASTOR

MARIA D. EDWARDS
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

TREVEAL & ANDREA
LYNCH
ASSOCIATE PASTORS

SYLVESTER & CAROLYN
WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATE PASTORS

E. LAMAR LYAS
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

BRAD & FINA ARNOLD
ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Monday, September 29, 2025

RE: Support for a Mexican Sister City and for Lena Kennedy

TO: Members of the Pasadena City Council

Good evening, Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

I am Pastor Kerwin Manning serving a congregation totaling 186,000 people across Pasadena and Altadena...my people. My calling is to serve where there is a need. Tonight, I come before you not only as a pastor but also as a member of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee to express my full support for establishing a Mexico Sister City—indeed, the possibility of having two.

What we must stop is the bullying. To attack a dedicated community volunteer Lena Louise Kennedy is painful to witness. Such behavior does not foster unity—it breeds division.

I urge you to support President Lena Louise Kennedy and PSCC Board as they work to secure Pasadena's first Mexico Sister City partnerships. Bullying and disrespect are troubling, and they do not reflect the spirit of our beautiful city. My brother and good friend, the late John J. Kennedy, would be deeply saddened by the level of disrespect being shown to anyone, especially his dear Sister Lena.

I cannot remain silent—and I will not stand for it. Your integrity and honesty must hold the line for righteousness and civility in our community.


Blessings,

Pastor Kerwin Manning

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2025 SEP 29 PM 4:35
CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

From: jairus ellis
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:32 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Lena Louise Kennedy; Elizabeth Ellis
Subject: Appropriate Action Required Please

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Good morning, Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

I am writing because my Aunt Lena is under attack, and it is not acceptable. She is one of the hardest-working volunteers I know and gives selflessly to our community. Her work with Pasadena Sister Cities is truly impressive. Yet, two individuals, Rene Gonzalez and Martin Gordon, are attacking her because she refuses to be bullied into bypassing the proper process to establish a Mexico Sister City—a project we are all excited to see become a reality.

Previously, in December 2023, Michael Warner verbally attacked her simply because she won the election as President of a 75-year-old organization that had historically been led by non-Black individuals. Then, in January 2024, he escalated his attacks at a Pasadena City Council meeting, where he was given a platform to publicly criticize her. This is not acceptable. Now, nearly two years later, these attacks continue. For a long time, she, her family, and friends have remained silent—but that stops now.

I strongly urge the City Council to stop allowing individuals to come before you and attack my Aunt Lena—or any other member of our community. Please establish clear rules, processes, and protocols to prevent this type of behavior in the future. It is deeply

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disappointing that Mr. Madison gave these individuals a platform to launch their attacks.

Let us work together to make the Mexico Sister City a reality—through decorum, respect, and collaboration.

Sincerely,
Jairus Ellis

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Florentine Butler
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:37 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Re: My Support For Lena L. Kennedy

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On Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 4:28 PM Florentine Butler > wrote:
To whom it my concern:

I have upmost confidence in the integrity, honesty, forthrightness of Ms Lena L. Kennedy.
I believe she is great asset and gift to the community of Pasadena which she loves.

Thank you for receiving this note.
Sincerely

Ms Shirley