

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: PADRES PUSD <
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 3:13 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark; PublicComment-AutoResponse; Gordo, Victor; Rivas, Jessica; Márquez, Miguel; Hampton, Tyron; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Madison, Steve
Cc: c , May Rivas; Phillis Griffin; JESSE MAREZ
Subject: Public comment _Council meeting 3-20-26_ITEM Number 5 _ANTI-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT
Attachments: SCI-PISCA Membership Portal Page.png; Invoice-D46ADZ5O-0001.pdf; Receipt-2129-7452.pdf; PISCA_New_Affiliation_Policy(SCAP).pdf; Guanajuato Invitation to the Pasadena Mayor_6-23_2025.pdf; Pasadena Mayor Letter 1-28-26_Friendship Invitation.pdf; Dakar-Plateau Proposal of Affiliation.pdf

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Honorable Mayor , Vice mayor and City Council Members,

As a former Human Relations commissioner who worked on the City of Pasadena Anti-Discrimination statement draft, founder of the Guanajuato Proposed Affiliation(PA) civic group and President of the Pasadena International Sister Cities Association, PISCA honoring and owning our name on one day before the Farmworkers Day in the US, who in spanish was commonly known as "Piscadores" , spanish for Pickers.

We respectfully request for the City council to be responsive to the Pasadena People on the following requests, give them full consideration and respond to our civic group and the Pasadena people's call to formally finalize the Guanajuato-Pasadena Sister Cities Affiliation, accordingly , timely and respectfully, in alignment with the provided Pasadena new Sister Cities Affiliation Policy (SCAP) and the submitted recommendations on the 12-08-25 Guanajuato Proposal of affiliation report.

During these difficult times of political tension and division, the persecution and harassment by the federal government who continues to kidnap our children and family members and losses of lives of innocent people, it is now more important than ever for our elected officials stop the speeches and take action to send a clear message of peace to the national and international audience.

The deplorable actions by the federal Government are out of our control but the Recommendations to formalize the first Mexico Sister Cities affiliation of Guanajuato-Pasadena are seating at the city councils desk , these recommendations have met all the

steps in the Pasadena New sister cities Affiliation Policy(SCAP) and comply with all Sister Cities International Guidelines.

All Pasadena Civic groups who are fostering and growing *people to people* community relationships with our international friends should be protected and respected above all politics by elected officials. We must learn from past mistakes and create a system that protects these relationships above personal conflicts and fabricated regulations that only hurt the relationships and our reputation. The Guanajuato PA and other groups continue to work in harmony since the separation from the suspended PSCC.

Please read the following requests with care and act responsibly to protect not only the Guanajuato Relationship but all the existing and future international people to people relationships in Pasadena.

Elected officials will come and go but these relationships will only grow stronger, Elected officials must support all civic groups and be responsible to protect the International relationships above all politics and internal conflicts.

The further delay of the Guanajuato-Pasadena Sister Cities process is not helping and resembles the same discriminating past and practices of past leaders whose names are still being displayed proudly at City council chambers, We urge the City council to collectively accept the Guanajuato PA recommendations duly submitted in the 12-08-2025 report and respectfully request that **an agenda item be placed in the near future to form an official Delegation to visit Guanajuato following the SCAP New Affiliation process.**

Formal Request for Council Alignment on Guanajuato–Pasadena Sister City Affiliation Process

March 30, 2026

Pasadena, California

HONORABLE VICTOR M. GORDO, Mayor of Pasadena
JESS RIVAS, Vice Mayor of Pasadena
Members of the Pasadena City Council

Subject: Request for Council Alignment on Guanajuato–Pasadena Sister City Affiliation Process

Dear Mayor Gordo, Vice Mayor Rivas, and Members of the City Council,

We want to thank Mayor Victor M. Gordo, and Assistant to the City Manager Alexander Hernandez for meeting with the leadership of the Guanajuato Proposed Affiliation (PA) and Pasadena International Sister Cities Association (PISCA). We appreciate the opportunity to present the work completed over the past two years and to discuss how our elected officials can help advance this historic, community-led initiative.

We write to follow up and to respectfully request **City Council alignment and leadership** regarding the Guanajuato–Pasadena Sister City affiliation process, formally submitted to Council on December 8, 2025.

A Completed Community-Led Process

The Guanajuato Proposed Affiliation (PA) represents more than two years of sustained work by Pasadena residents, institutions, and stakeholders. This effort has already:

- Established an active **people-to-people relationship** between Pasadena and Guanajuato
- Facilitated **official delegations and cultural exchanges**
- Produced a formal report with **clear recommendations for Council action**

This is not a preliminary effort—it is a **completed community-led process awaiting for the proper representation and response** by our city Council.

Concern Regarding the January 28, 2026 Letter

We respectfully raise concern regarding the Mayor’s January 28, 2026 correspondence to the Municipality of Guanajuato, which introduced a “Friendship City” invitation.

While we recognize the authority of the Mayor to extend such "Friendship city" invitations, the timing and approach raise important governance considerations:

- The “Friendship City” step is **not required** under the Pasadena Sister Cities Affiliation Policy (SCAP) or Sister Cities International guidelines
- The action was taken **without coordination with PISCA**, the community body that developed the affiliation
- The action was taken **without clear Council direction or public process alignment**

As a result, this step would only delay the process and create **confusion in an otherwise advanced process** and may be perceived as a departure from the established, community-driven pathway of the people to people program to create formal Sister Cities affiliations.

Importance of Process and Representation

Sister Cities affiliations are, by design, **community-led civic processes**, that must be supported and formalized by Elected officials.

Maintaining complete alignment between:

- Sister cities international Guidelines
- Internal Pasadena New **Sister Cities Affiliation Policy (SCAP)**
- The **community's work**,
- The **Council's oversight**, and
- The **Mayor's actions**

is essential to ensuring credibility, transparency, and trust—both locally and internationally.

This is particularly important for Pasadena's Mexican community, whose cultural representation and engagement are central to this initiative as our culture has been omitted from the Sister Cities program in Pasadena for over 70 years.

Opportunity for Council Leadership

This moment presents a clear opportunity for the City Council to:

- Affirm and support a **community-led people to people international relationship initiatives**
- Ensure that Pasadena's actions reflect **inclusive governance and proper due process**
- Advance what would become Pasadena's **first Sister City affiliation with Mexico with no further delay of impediments.**

Requested Next Steps

We respectfully request that the City Council:

- Review the **Guanajuato Mayor's letter sent on June, 23rd 2025**, where a cordial Invitation is extended to the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council
- Review The **Pasadena Mayor's letter sent on January 28th, 2026**, where a "Friendship city" invitation was extended.
- Review and act upon the **December 8, 2025 PISCA recommendations by the Guanajuato PA and PISCA**
- Provide clear direction to **advance the formal Sister City affiliation with Guanajuato**
- Work collaboratively with PISCA to **coordinate next steps, including forming an official Pasadena delegation in 2026**
- Ensure that future communications regarding the Guanajuato initiative are aligned with the established **SCAP** process and plenty of community engagement, especially from **PISCA and the Guanajuato PA** representatives that have worked on this initiative for over two years.

Closing

This initiative reflects the work, commitment, and **Voice of the People of Pasadena, It must NOT be undermined or sidelined.** Our elected officials must uphold and respect the people's work and voice, especially when it comes to building international diplomatic relationships that enrich our communities.

It is essential that the in-house Pasadena Sister Cities program moves forward reflecting that same spirit—**collaborative, transparent, and aligned with the community it represents.** Past mistakes **MUST** be acknowledged and avoided moving forward.

We remain committed to working with the Mayor and City Council to bring this historic affiliation to completion.

Respectfully,

René H. González

President

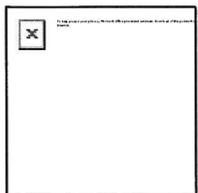
Pasadena International Sister Cities Association (PISCA)

“Connecting Hearts Across Frontiers”

PD . Dear Mayor and City council members, as requested by Mayor Gordo during our meeting please find our attached Sister Cities International(SCI) -PISCA membership Portal Page along with our annual SCI dues receipt and invoice, as well as the Dakar Plateau report, that clearly follows the same SCAP document with no "Friendship City" requirements. Since 2007. This is the same document that the GuanajuatoPA and PISCA adopted and have followed since the beginning of our Guanajuato PA work.



12_08_2025_Report on the 2025 Cultural Exchange Visit.pdf



René H. González, President,

Pasadena International Sister Cities Association (PISCA) Guanajuato Proposed
Affiliation(PA) Committee, Chair

Direct- Whats App :

Connie De La Torre, Vice President,
Pasadena International Sister Cities Association (PISCA)
Guanajuato Proposed Affiliation(PA) Committee, Vice Chair



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Contact Information

First Name*
Rene

Last Name*
Gonzalez

Title*
President

Organization*
PASADENA INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

Phone Number*

Address*
Pasadena, CA 91103

Country*
United States



Invoice



Invoice number D46ADZ50-0001
Date of issue October 23, 2025
Date due October 23, 2025

Sister Cities International, Inc.
1012 14th St NW
Suite 1400
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
United States
+1 202-347-8630
info@sistercities.org

Bill to
Rene Gonzalez (padrespud@gmail.com)

Pasadena, California 91103
United States

\$1,030.00 USD due October 23, 2025

[Pay online](#)

Description	Qty	Unit price	Amount
U.S. Member (100,000-300,000 Annual Cost: \$1,030)	1	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00
		Subtotal	\$1,030.00
		Total	\$1,030.00
		Amount due	\$1,030.00 USD

Receipt



Invoice number D46ADZ50-0001
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Bill to
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Pasadena, California 91103
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\$1,030.00 paid on October 23, 2025

Description	Qty	Unit price	Amount
U.S. Member (100,000-300,000 Annual Cost: \$1,030)	1	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00
		Subtotal	\$1,030.00
		Total	\$1,030.00
		Amount paid	\$1,030.00

Payment history

Payment method	Date	Amount paid	Receipt number
Link	October 23, 2025	\$1,030.00	2129-7452

PASADENA INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

SISTER CITY AFFILIATION POLICY

1. POLICY

It is the policy of Pasadena International Sister Cities Association (PISCA) that any community group wanting to form an affiliation with a foreign city must register first with Sister Cities International and then follow the procedures set forth below.

2. PROCEDURES

2.1 There shall be evidence of the desire for a Proposed Affiliation (PA) by both parties including correspondence from the proposed city to the effect of wanting to join with Pasadena as a sister city and an indication of official **and/or** citizen support for the PA.

2.2 There shall be visits between cities followed by continuous contacts, **both unofficial and official.**

2.3 Acceptance for the PA shall be indicated **by people** joining or expressing interest in joining PISCA.

2.4 Strong commitment shall be shown to the development and maintenance of a successful affiliation including corporate and/or cultural support.

2.5 A member of PISCA shall be appointed subcommittee chair and given responsibility for **all matters dealing with a PA.** This person should be an active member of PISCA. The newly formed subcommittee members shall have:

1. A clear understanding of sister city relationships and purpose of affiliations (see attached Sister Cities International affiliations policy and procedure statements).
2. The ability to generate at least ten new members to the PISCA.
3. Several experienced members who can assist the endeavors of the subcommittee.
4. Preliminary commitments, where possible, for support in hosting, cultural and business exchanges, fund raising, student exchanges, etc.

2.6 **The subcommittee shall take the lead** role presenting the PA to the community.

1. Both parties must bear in mind the SCI ideals of **people-to-people** associations.
2. The subcommittee should attempt to gain media coverage to promote the affiliation.

- 2.7 An “action plan” shall be developed setting forth each step toward a formal presentation for PISCA’s executive committee and general membership, and should include such items as:
1. Similarities to Pasadena in light of cultural, physical and social aspects of the PA (i.e. size, location, population, educational and cultural facilities, aspects of economy, etc.).
 2. The potential for student and citizen exchanges.
 3. The potential funding sources.
- 2.8 A formal written report shall then be prepared for the Executive Committee of PISCA.
- The report will include:
1. Items 2.1 through 2.7, as applicable.
 2. Photographs and contact names from the PA.
 3. Any other non-PISCA local support for the PA.
 4. List of all cities reviewed for the PA.
- 2.9 After the EC has reviewed the report, it shall be distributed to the active general membership with the EC’s recommendation. The distribution will take place 10 days before the general membership meeting date. The general membership will then discuss and vote on the proposed affiliation.
- 2.10 If the PA is approved by PISCA general membership, the proposal will then be presented to the city council.
- 2.11 If the PA is adopted, the selected city and Pasadena shall make arrangements for an exchange of official delegations for the purpose of acceptance and signing ceremonies in each city.
1. These official delegations shall include mayor, council members, city manager, PISCA President, and any other community members who wish to attend.
 2. The new affiliation shall have comparable city officials in their delegation.



Guanajuato, Gto., June 23, 2025.

Mr. Víctor M. Gordo
Mayor of Pasadena
California, United States

Dear Mayor,

Warm greetings from Guanajuato Capital, a World Heritage City and the cultural heart of Mexico. On behalf of the Municipal Government, I would like to express our appreciation for the bonds of friendship that unite our communities.

I would like to follow up on the sister city process between Guanajuato and Pasadena, which we discussed in December 2024 when we had the opportunity to meet in person. I am convinced that now more than ever, given the situation in the United States and around the world, it is essential for local governments to send a clear message of peace, unity, and mutual understanding among nations. For this reason, we are pleased to extend a cordial invitation for you to lead, together with Vice Mayor Jessica Rivas and the honorable councilmembers, an official delegation from the City of Pasadena to visit our city between **October 25 and November 3, 2025**. This visit would allow you to experience firsthand the cultural richness of Guanajuato during the **International Cervantino Festival** and the **Day of the Dead** celebrations, two of the most significant expressions of our identity.

As these dates coincide with a season when Guanajuato welcomes thousands of national and international visitors, hotel accommodations tend to fill up very quickly. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate receiving a response in the coming weeks in order to guarantee proper logistics and prepare an engaging agenda of activities for your delegation.

I am deeply grateful to you, to Vice Mayor Jessica Rivas, to Councilmember Rick Cole, and to Ms. Lena Kennedy, President of Pasadena's Sister Cities Committee, for the warm welcome we received during our visit to Pasadena City Hall. I also want to thank René González and the entire Guanajuato Affiliation Proposal Committee (Guanajuato PA) for the attentions given to the delegation from the Municipal Government of Guanajuato during our stay in your city.

We look forward to your response and to any opportunities for coordination that may arise to make this visit a reality. It will be an honor to welcome you to Guanajuato.

With appreciation and respect,



Samantha Smith.
Municipal President of Guanajuato



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 28, 2026

Samantha Smith Gutiérrez, Presidenta Municipal
Municipality of Guanajuato
Guanajuato, Guanajuato
Mexico

Presidenta Municipal Smith Gutiérrez,

As the New Year begins, we extend our warmest greetings to you and to the people of Guanajuato.

On behalf of the City of Pasadena, California, and the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, it is our distinct honor to formally invite the historic City of Guanajuato to become a Pasadena Friendship City, with the shared intention of cultivating this relationship into a formal Pasadena Sister Cities partnership in the near future.

Pasadena has a longstanding commitment to fostering international friendship, cultural exchange, and collaborative learning among cities around the world. A relationship between Pasadena and Guanajuato would reflect our mutual respect for rich cultural heritage, strong educational traditions, and vibrant civic life. Through this partnership, we envision meaningful opportunities to strengthen cultural, educational, and economic ties that benefit our residents and promote lasting goodwill between our communities.

We are proceeding in full accordance with the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee's Policy and Procedures for Establishing Sister Cities Affiliations and are committed to building a thoughtful, inclusive, and sustainable foundation for collaboration. Beginning as Friendship Cities will allow our communities to engage through joint initiatives, exchanges, and dialogue—laying the groundwork for a potential future formal Sister City relationship.

I, along with the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, am enthusiastic about the promise of this collaboration. We look forward to learning more about your administration, your city, and your community as we explore opportunities to grow together in partnership.

Enclosed, please find the Pasadena Sister Cities Policy and Procedures materials for your review. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss next steps at your convenience and are open to coordinating through a video conference, hosted visits, or delegation exchanges.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this invitation. We are confident that our shared values and aspirations will lead to a strong and enduring friendship between the City of Pasadena and the Municipality of Guanajuato.

Sincerely,



VICTOR M. GORDO
Mayor

Pasadena Sister Cities Committee

PROPOSAL of AFFILIATION

Pasadena, CA
and
Dakar Plateau, Senegal

Presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on Africa

Committee Chair: Boualem Bouseloub

Committee Members: Jim Barry, Taicyanna Butler, Nia Bailey, Leslie Caldwell, Ann Faison, Gerda Govine, Nova Hindoyan, Taleen Hindoyan, Elena Mindry King, Raequel London, Mame Mbaye, Deborah Mindry, Gary Moody, Jennipha-Lauren Nielsen, Susana Porras, Treasure Sheppard, Noreen Viljoen, Horace Williams.

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (PSCC), this Proposal of Affiliation (PA) is the outcome of the Ad Hoc Committee on Africa's efforts to establish a sister-city in Africa.

It outlines the Ad Hoc Committee's selection approach, highlights its work to select a suitable sister-city, and presents a rationale for a proposed affiliation with Dakar Plateau, Senegal.

This Proposal of Affiliation meets all the criteria listed and defined in the PSCC's Sister City Affiliation Policy (SCAP). A copy is attached.

Each time one of these criteria is met - not necessarily in an ordinal order - it will be identified as follows: (SCAP X.X.)

In that respect, this document shows "*evidence of the desire for a Proposal of Affiliation (PA) by both parties, including correspondence*" (SCAP 2.1.). A copy of the invitation from the Mayor of Dakar Plateau is attached. In late 2015, a member of PSCC, Boualem Bouseloub, was appointed Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Africa (SCAP 2.5). He ensured that he had "*a clear understanding of sister city relationships and purpose of affiliations*" (SCAP 2.5.1) and "*generated at least 10 new PSCC members*" (SCAP 2.5.2) with whom he shared this understanding. Thus, a dynamic committee of 13 people began meeting in March 2016. Still in growth phase, the committee at this point has increased by six (6) new members, "*showing an acceptance of the PA, indicated by people joining or expressing an interest.*" (SCAP 2.3).

It is in direct line with and in full spirit of President Eisenhower's intent to promote world peace by "establishing people to people relations, in addition to government to government relations. Furthermore, we made ours the motto " May we enrich each other from our differences."

This Proposal of affiliation was accepted at a 14 June 2018 Special Session by a vote of 26 yes, 1 (one) no and 1 (one) abstention.

It is presented in three parts:

Part I. General Context,

- A. The Selection Approach
- B. The visit to Dakar Plateau, Senegal

Part II. A Closer Look

- A. Dakar Plateau Geography and History
- B. Dakar Plateau Social and Cultural Environment

PART III. Focal Points

- A. Arts & Culture
- B. Education
- C. Business
- D. Tourism

PART I.
GENERAL CONTEXT

A. The Selection Approach

On the basis of the “know thyself in order to know others,” the committee’s first move was to take stock of Pasadena, focus on an overall scope of our city and highlight what it provides to our community and to potential Sister City partners. The second move was to scout for an African sister city.

1. Taking stock of Pasadena

Though a small city of 140,000 inhabitants on 22 square miles, Pasadena counts in its boundaries, among other things:

- Four (4) Museums
 - Norton Simon
 - USC Pacifica Asia Museum
 - The Pasadena Historical Museum
 - Pasadena Museum of California Art (NOTE: Closing end of July 2018)
- The unrivaled Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), builder and manager of NASA’s unmanned spacecraft program.
- The world respected California Institute of Technology (Caltech), ranked 1st in the world by The Times Higher Education’s World University Ranking 2015-16.
- The Art Center College of Design, leader in Industrial Design (ranked number 1 by Design Intelligence) and Media Design, and also ranked in the top 25 global film schools by the Hollywood Reporter.
- The Rose Bowl, the granddaddy of all bowls. Pasadena is also the site of the dazzling annual Rose Parade, which every January 1 focuses the eyes of the world on our city. The event is always followed by a championship football game at the Rose Bowl.

Without any doubt Pasadena can stand shoulder to shoulder with many world class cities.

2. Scouting Africa for a sister-city

For our selection of a country we decided that the following were qualifying factors:

- Preferably English-speaking population
- No war or no epidemics
- A democratic political system
- Human-rights consideration

After two rounds of lively discussions about the 54 countries in Africa, we selected three finalists:

- Ethiopia,
- Ghana and
- South Africa.

Our first selection was South Africa. The committee turned its attention to a city. A similar process led to the selection of the City of Cape Town, which was approached by email in early 2016. Around the same time, we contacted the Consulate General of South Africa to inform them of our plans and to request their assistance. The Consul General Ms. Danielle De Bruyn-Grady, and her Deputy Consul Mbelengwa, provided professional and warm support by inviting us to several social and economic events they held locally.

After several months of waiting, the city of Cape Town responded it was not interested in a "formal relationship." Although disappointing, this answer was not a total surprise. A few weeks earlier, a conversation had taken place between Ms. Patricia De Lille, Mayor of Cape Town, and Boualem Bouseloub, Chair of The PSCC's Ad Hoc Committee on Africa, at a reception given by the Consul General of South Africa to honor the Mayor of Cape Town and her city's economic delegation as they toured the USA. It was understood then that the City of Cape Town was primarily interested in investors.

Next, we contacted the South African cities of Durban and Port Elizabeth. Both cities expressed their interest and promised a Letter of Intent, which we had requested as an unstated form of serious interest. In early March 2018, during the busy preparation for the trip to Dakar, an email came from Port Elizabeth advising that the city "would start the process of entering into an Arrangement of Cooperation and Friendship" and that it was drafting a letter of Intent. We are still waiting for these Letters of Intent from Durban and Port Elizabeth.

In no way did this close doors to possibilities in other countries. In June 2017, an unexpected opportunity revealed itself in the form of a phone call from the Honorary Consul of Senegal, Ms. Mame Toucouleur Mbaye. Planning a trip to Senegal and fully aware of our African sister city project, Ms. Mbaye offered to take a letter to the Mayor of Dakar Plateau, Mr. Alioune Ndoye. She was entrusted with such a missive. A month later, Consul Mbaye returned with a warm letter from the Mayor that invited a delegation from Pasadena to visit and discuss the topic of twinning our cities. A copy of the letter is attached.