



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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2021 JAN 28 AM 8:53

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina Flores, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Develop Latin American Relationships and Sister Cities in Central and South America
DATE: January 28, 2021

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I request your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee and subsequent approval by the full City Council:

Direction to City staff to begin efforts to develop economic, government, and cultural relationships with Latin American cities in Central and South America, including developing more Sister City relationships with cities in the Latin American region

Brief Background

San Antonio is a Spanish speaking city.

We are home to thousands of people hailing from Central and South America.

Joint Base San Antonio and our local institutions of higher learning engage in important professional and student learning exchanges. Thousands of South American and Central American people pass through and reside in San Antonio as part of JBSA and university initiatives. Cadets from all over Central and South America train in San Antonio as part of the efforts of the U.S. Armed Forces to expand Latin American military partnerships. Also, many Central and South American immigrants join the U.S. military and live in San Antonio for work and training. Additionally, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, University of the Incarnate Word, Trinity University, and Our Lady of the Lake University have established formal partnerships with Central and Latin American universities.

Additionally, Latin American and Texas energy and automotive companies have invested billions of dollars and employ thousands of people in Central and South America. For example, NuStar, Toyota, and Valero maintain and operate large operations throughout the region.



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Aside from enjoying mature and important relationships in Mexico, San Antonio has no significant relationship with cities in Central or South America. Whereas other major US cities, with whom we compete, have forged important Latin American relationships.

San Antonio will benefit from raising its international profile in Central and South America by leveraging our existing academic, cultural, military and economic ties toward forming similar relationships to those we enjoy with cities in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Mexico. We cannot continue to write-off the opportunities for cultural, educational, and economic collaborations with cities in the Latin American region.

For the above stated reasons, I request your support.

Submitted for Council consideration by: _____

Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

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