



0091

# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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JANET K. BEAUTZ  
FIRST DISTRICTELLEN PIRIE  
SECOND DISTRICTMARDI WORMHOUDT  
THIRD DISTRICTTONY CAMPOS  
FOURTH DISTRICTJEFF ALMQUIST  
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 9/10/02

September 4, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SANTA CRUZ  
COUNTY/GUAMÁ MUNICIPALITY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Dear Members of the Board:

A group of local Santa Cruz County residents formed a study group in 1999 to explore the feasibility of establishing a sister city-type relationship between Santa Cruz County and the coastal municipality of Guamá, Santiago Province in Cuba. The goal of such a relationship is to support the changing relationship between the United States and the Island of Cuba and to establish a personal relationship with the people of a province that is similar to our own county, having both significant agricultural and tourism businesses.

The proposed relationship between Santa Cruz County and the people of Guamá would provide opportunities for meaningful, enriching cultural exchanges between citizens of our two countries and regions, and will establish a personal bond that will continue after normal trade and travel relations open between our two countries. There is a potential benefit to Santa Cruz from the Cuban experience with improved methods of organic farming, alternative energy, community-based health care and expansive literacy, as well as the person-to-person diplomacy and economic contacts. This project has already earned the endorsement of Senator Barbara Boxer and Representative Sam Farr.

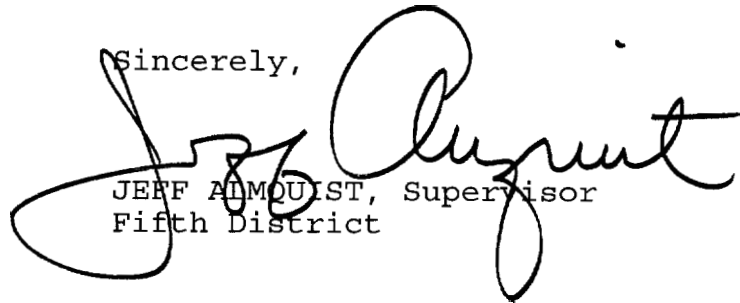
After three years of extensive preparation, informational events, and meetings with local and Cuban Provincial officials, the Cuba Study Group of Santa Cruz has requested that our Board adopt the attached resolution in support of their effort and endorse a

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
September 4, 2002  
Page 2

letter of intent to explore a sister county-to-municipality relationship with Guamá. There would be no cost to the County involved in exploring, establishing or maintaining the relationship.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Board adopt the attached resolution in support of the establishment of a Santa Cruz County/Guamá Municipality Community Partnership and authorize the Chairperson to sign a letter of intent of behalf of the County to explore a sister county-to-municipality relationship with Guamá.

Sincerely,



JEFF ALMQUIST, Supervisor  
Fifth District

JA:ted  
Attachments

cc: Santa Cruz Sister City Task Force  
Cuba Study Group of Santa Cruz-Guamá Partnership Project  
US-Cuba Sister Cities Association

2915N5

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO.

On the motion of Supervisor  
Duly seconded by Supervisor  
The following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY/GUAMÁ MUNICIPALITY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Sister City Task Force of the Cuba Study Group of Santa Cruz has presented a proposal for the Santa Cruz County/Guamá Municipality Community Partnership with Guam% in the province of Santiago, Cuba; and

WHEREAS, since December, 1999, the Cuba Study Group of Santa Cruz has organized and presented educational events about Cuba that have been attended and supported by hundreds of local residents; and

WHEREAS, a Santa Cruz Sister City Task Force has been organized with 25 members who are developing proposals for community partnership projects with Guamd and are organizing delegations to Guam6 to explore opportunities for cooperative programs; and

WHEREAS, Guam6 is known as a center for organic farming, alternative energy such as solar energy, alternative health care such as acupuncture, and provides a tranquil, natural tourist destination as does Santa Cruz County in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has determined that the potential for mutual benefits between our communities will include:

1. Benefits to the health, culture and education of the citizens of Santa Cruz County;
2. New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment, and curriculum enhancement;
3. Direct benefits to the students of the school districts in the county as well as students from the regional universities and community colleges;
4. It has been demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in Santa Cruz County and the Municipality of Guamd are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship;
5. There are no direct or indirect costs to the County of Santa Cruz; and

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SANTA CRUZ COUNTY/GUAMÁ MUNICIPALITY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP  
Page 2

6. The regional nature of the community partnership is in the County's best interest because it will increase harmony within the county and among its several cities as people from all over Santa Cruz County join together and participate; and

WHEREAS, officials from the Municipality of Guamd have expressed their desire for a community partnership with Santa Cruz County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Santa Cruz hereby extends a warm invitation to the government and people of Guamd, Santiago, Cuba to establish the Santa Cruz County/Guamá Municipality Community Partnership.

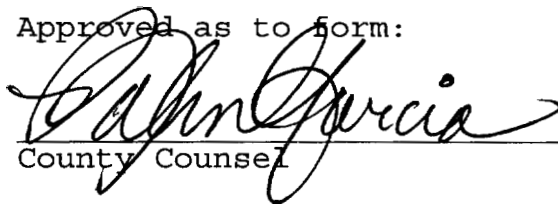
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2002, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS  
NOES: SUPERVISORS  
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS

JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of said Board

Approved as to form:

  
County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION: Santa Cruz Sister City Task Force  
Cuba Study Group of Santa Cruz-Guam% Partnership Project  
US-Cuba Sister Cities Association  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Congress Member Sam Farr  
Congress Member Mike Honda  
Santa Cruz City Council  
Capitola City Council  
Scotts Valley City Council  
Watsonville City Council  
County Counsel

**SAM FARR**  
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND  
DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
CHAIR, CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC  
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION  
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL AND  
TOURISM CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0517**

0095

1221 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0517  
(202) 225-2861

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701 OCEAN STREET  
ROOM 318

SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 429-1976

samfarr@mail.house.gov  
www.house.gov/farr

August 5, 2002

The Honorable Jan Beautz, Chair  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
County Government Center  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Dear Supervisor Beautz \_\_\_\_\_

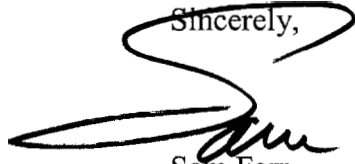
I am writing to you to express my support for the draft resolution currently under consideration with the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to create a County/Municipality Community Partnership between Santa Cruz County and Guama, Santiago, Cuba.

In February of this year, I lead a California Congressional Delegation trip to Cuba where I visited a cooperative farm and the Latin American Medical School, and met with various Cuban officials, including President Fidel Castro. Upon my return, Ellen Farmer of the Santa Cruz Cuba Study Group contacted me regarding her efforts to establish a Sister City relationship between Santa Cruz, California and Chivirico, Cuba. I was pleased to offer my full support for the establishment of such a relationship. Recently, it has come to my attention that the County of Santa Cruz is also considering a partnership with the Municipality of Guama, Cuba. I would like to express my full support for his endeavor.

For some time I, along with other Members of Congress, have questioned the U.S. trade and travel embargo on Cuba. While we are all opposed to the anti-democratic practices of the current leadership, we question the efficacy of the existing American political approach. Instead, we believe that a policy of exchange--expanding trade, sharing in educational opportunities, and providing humanitarian outreach -- will do more to foster democratic development in our Caribbean neighbor than the policy of isolation. The efforts of national organizations such as the United States-Cuba Sister Cities Association and local organizations such as the Santa Cruz Sister Cities Task Force help fill the diplomatic, social, and humanitarian void left from years of embargo by facilitating community partnerships between the United States and Cuba, creating opportunities for city officials to experience and explore each other's culture, and by creating an atmosphere in which mutual community and eventual economic development can be enabled and strengthened.

I commend the Santa Cruz Sister City Task Force of the Cuba Study Group and their partners in Cuba for embarking on this mission. I offer my strongest endorsement to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to support the resolution under consideration to create a County/Municipality Community Partnership with Santa Cruz County and Guama, Santiago, Cuba.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Farr", written over a large, stylized flourish that loops back to the left.

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

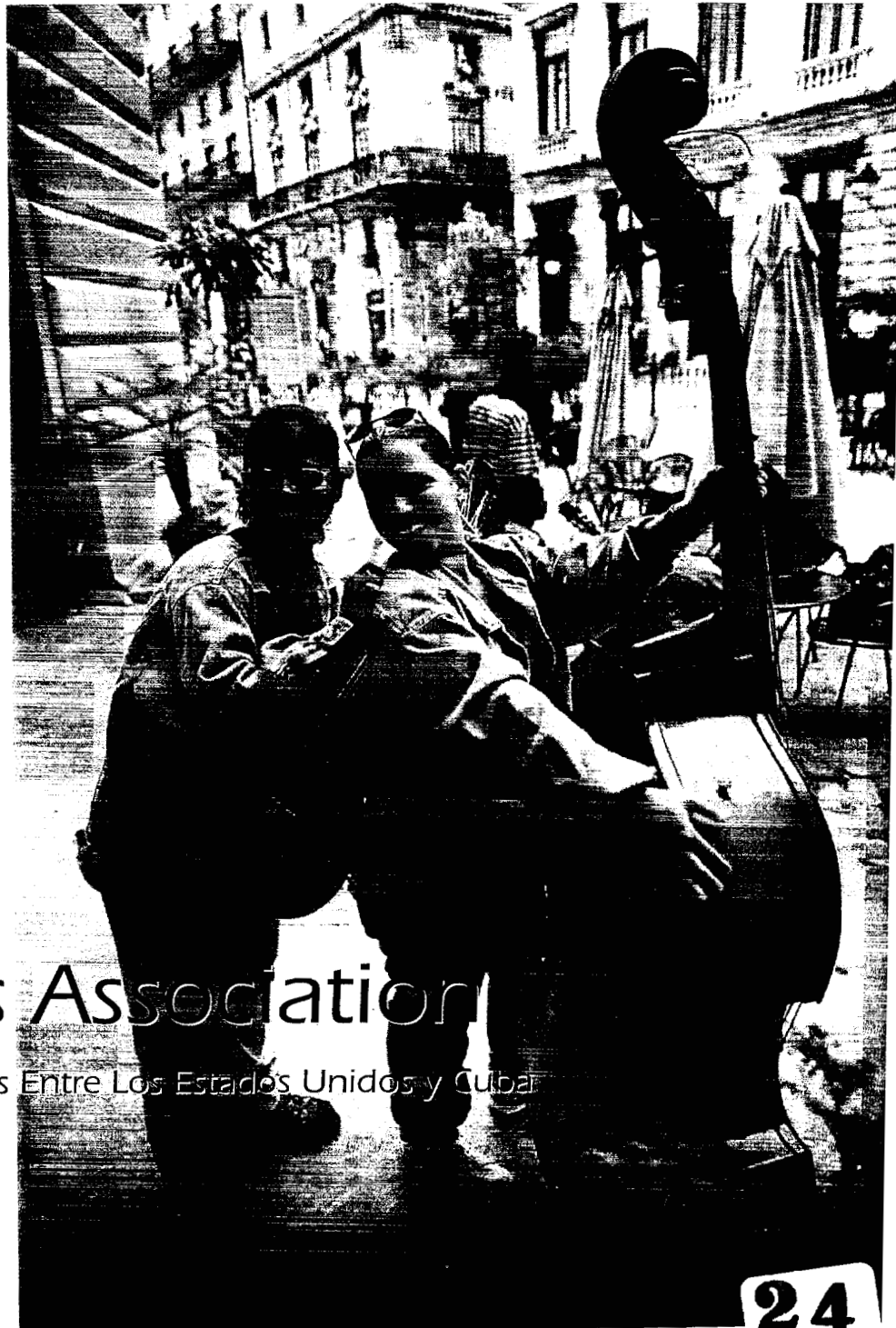
*This is a good thing to do, thank you.*



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"I like to think that people, in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than governments. Indeed, I believe that people want peace so much, that one of these days governments better get out of their way and let them have it."

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1956



# US - CUBA Sister Cities Association

Asociación de Hermandades Entre Los Estados Unidos y Cuba

# US - CUBA Sister Cities Association

0098

Mission Statement: To foster sister city relationships and understanding through mutually beneficial exchanges between individuals, community groups, organizations, and institutions in the United States with counterparts in Cuba.



## Why Focus On Cuba?

Cross-cultural synergy is the fiber of enrichment, the motive force for development of human civilization.

The Cuban people are part of our shared world. In today's global realities, it is inconsistent and counter-productive to exclude US and Cuban citizens from the mutual benefits inherent in traditional people-to-people sister city programs solely on the basis of ideological differences and political bias.

According to every public opinion poll, the majority of US citizens favor normalization of relations with Cuba. They support establishing international goodwill through community exchanges based on mutual respect and shared interests.

## Background

USCSCA was formed and incorporated in 1999 as a national nonprofit association to serve the various undertakings of US citizens pioneering local community partnerships with Cuba.

The Cuban people were also searching for an institutional avenue to invite US organizations into partnerships. A mechanism was needed that fostered reciprocal exchanges. USCSCA envisions itself as a means to accomplish balanced bilateral interchanges.

Navigating the US policy vacuum toward Cuba is challenging. Lack of normal diplomatic relations, among other impediments, makes it necessary to work collectively toward making US policy more receptive to our interests in developing conventional sister city relationships with Cuba.

USCSCA is a national, community-led organization that empowers people with a unique opportunity to turn their personal desires to see improved US-Cuba relations into concrete action. Our goal is to help everyone experience Cuba firsthand, in ways that are meaningful to them and their community by serving as "citizen diplomats."



## What Is A Sister City Relationship?

A sister city, county, region or state relationship is internationally accepted as the universal model for bilateral expression of fraternity among nation states.

A sister city, county or state relationship is a broad based, officially sanctioned, long-term partnership between two communities, cities, counties or states in two countries.

Sister city partnerships have the potential to carry out the widest possible diversity of activities of any international program. They are composed of every type of municipal, professional, business, educational, humanitarian, scientific and cultural exchange or project.

Sister city programs are unique in that they inherently involve the communities' three main sectors: local government, business, and a variety of citizen volunteers representing every sector within the community. (Definition Thanks to: Sister Cities International)



0099

### Official US - CUBA Sister States:

Pennsylvania-Matanzas Province

### Official US - Cuba Sister Cities:

(in order of signing)

Mobile, AL - La Habana, Havana  
Madison, WI - Camaguey, Camaguey  
Pittsburgh, PA - Matanzas, Matanzas  
Bloomington, IN - Santa Clara, Villa Clara  
Richmond, CA - Regla, Havana  
Oakland, CA - Santiago de Cuba, Santiago  
Tacoma, WA - Cienfuegos, Cienfuegos  
Philadelphia, PA - Cardenas, Matanzas  
Brunswick, ME - Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus  
East Hampton, NY - Playa, Havana  
Santa Fe, NM - Holguin, Holguin



### US - Cuba Partnerships in Formation:

Berkeley, CA - Palma Soriano, Santiago  
Hayward, CA - Santiago  
Los Angeles, CA - Santiago  
San Diego, CA - Santiago  
San Francisco, CA - Santiago  
Santa Barbara, CA - El Cobre, Santiago de Cuba  
Santa Cruz, CA - Santiago  
West Hollywood, CA - Santiago  
Boulder, CO - Guantanamo  
Milford, CT - Sancti Spiritus  
Gainesville, FL - Guantanamo  
Manatee, FL - Manati, Las Tunas  
St. Augustine, FL - Baracoa, Guantanamo  
St. Petersburg, FL - Guantanamo  
Tampa, FL - Guantanamo  
Atlanta, GA - Pinar del Rio, Pinar del Rio  
Bloomington/Normal, IL - Villa Clara  
Decatur, IL - Camajuani, Villa Clara  
Oak Park, IL - Villa Clara  
Council Bluffs, IA - Camaguey  
New Orleans, LA - Mariel, Havana  
Baltimore, MD - Matanzas, Matanzas  
Boston, MA - Cienfuegos  
Bridgewater, MA - Cienfuegos  
Cambridge, MA - Cienfuegos  
Ann Arbor, MI - Villa Clara  
Las Vegas, NM - Holguin  
Rochester, NY - Cienfuegos  
Youngstown, OH - Ciego de Avila  
Hershey, PA - Hershey, Matanzas  
Seattle, WA / King County - Bayamo, Granma  
Milwaukee, WI - Nuevitas, Camaguey  
Washington, DC - La Habana

## Establishing A US-Cuba Sister City Relationship \*\*

\*\* Of course every sister city is as unique as you are, and reflects the individuals and communities that undertake its creative development..

1. Get a few people together who already have shown an interest, or might be willing to explore establishing a deeper connection to Cuba, to put together a committee with the intention of creating a sustainable relationship(s) with a community in Cuba.
2. Form a committee, determine officers, and notify USCSCA. Email is easiest.
3. Call your city council or appropriate officials and determine what the criteria required for **your** city to the form a sister city. Criteria **vary** widely from city-to-city.
4. Call a community meeting and announce your group interest in **forming** a sister city with Cuba. Invite people who attend to help with putting together a 'city profile' of your city, so that Cuba will know more about your city. This helps Cuba choose an appropriate partner for you. You might invite teachers, students, local business leaders, your local \* Sister Cities International chapter, and other community groups interested in international relations. **Ask** people to identify how their interests could be of value in advancing the proposed relationship. Invite them to include something personal in the city profile.
5. Create a 'city profile' of your home town to submit to Cuba for consideration. **In** your profile include information about your city, population size, industry, tourist attractions, university programs, chamber of commerce information, elected officials, **culture**, pictures, maps and some information about the people on the committee and their particular interests.
6. Send your **city** profile to Cuba through USCSCA for Cuba's recommendations and feedback. US cities usually initiate the request, but Cuba selects its preference in twinning location. It is important to remember that to Cuba, sister cities are not so much about place, as they are about relationship. This is a central point in respecting Cuba's right to choose.
7. Meet with all your **city** council members and other community leaders to explain your interest in creating a sister city program. *Speak* in front of church groups, club meetings; be creative! Win friends and spread the word. Most folks, to your surprise, will support you; while a few will oppose you. But these discussions **are** an important component in public education.
8. When Cuba responds to your proposal for a **twin**, meet with your committee and plan an exploratory/introductory delegation to visit Cuba to research the match, make sure it is appropriate, meet with local Cubans and determine together what your initial exchange programs might be. Be prepared to be wowed!
9. Most initial programs have **an** educational, cultural or medical focus.
10. Approach your elected officials at the appropriate time and get their official approval in support of the relationship. A ceremony **in** your hometown hosting Cuban counterparts is wonderful, as is a ceremony in Cuba where your officials sign the agreement. A celebration is definitely in order! Congratulations! Let the good times roll....

\* USCSCA enjoys a warm, fraternal relationship with SCI. All USCSCA sister cities are fully recognized by SCI. However, USCSCA is the only organization that can facilitate sister cities with Cuba.

## - Vision Statement -

The US-CUBA Sister Cities Association has been created out of the efforts of people like you - citizens from all walks of life with diverse interests, who would like to support sustainable, long term and mutually beneficial relationships with their counterparts in Cuba.

USCSCA believes the people of Cuba are part of **our** shared world and should not be isolated or exempted from the global community or refused the mutual benefits of traditional sister city programs.

**At** a meeting in New York City in September of 1998, we resolved to collectively address the systematic challenges we all face individually, maneuvering within an ever-changing political vacuum that exists when nations lack formal diplomatic relations.

We agreed to share our experiences and expertise and engage others, like ourselves, who desired to play a proactive role in initiating goodwill through developing mutually constructive bilateral relationships between our peoples, our communities, governments and nations using the internationally respected model of people-to-people citizen diplomacy, known as 'sister cities'.

A typical consequence of the lack of normalized relations is that the Cuban people are denied a viable way to approach US cities with whom they might like to develop partnerships. A venue needed to be created that allows reciprocal exchanges. We envision this network as a means to establish principles and standards on which to build mutually beneficial and reciprocal relationships.

The "**US-CUBA Sister Cities Association,**" agrees to create a nationwide organization inviting people interested in learning more about sister cities and those already engaged in Cuba related work to join together to create a broad, new network between the people of Cuba, and the people of the United States.

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## ~ Mission Statement ~

To foster sister city relationships  
and understanding through mutually beneficial exchanges between  
individuals, community groups, organizations, and institutions in the  
United States with counterparts in Cuba.

\*\*\*\*\*

- \* To develop community partnerships between US cities, counties, and states with similar jurisdictions in Cuba.
- \* To create opportunities for **city** officials and citizens to experience and explore another culture through long-term community partnerships.
- \* To stimulate environments through which communities will creatively learn, work and solve problems together through reciprocal cultural, educational, **municipal**, business, professional, and technological exchanges **and** projects.
- \* To create an atmosphere in which mutual community and economic development *can* be enabled and strengthened.
- \* To collaborate with organizations and individuals in the US & Cuba that share **similar** goals and objectives.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ~ Activities ~

- 1) Help cities identify themselves to be chosen by an appropriate partner city in Cuba.
- 2) Create a nationwide register of sister cities to eliminate duplications.
- 3) Put developing projects in touch with the appropriate Cuban counterparts **and** help them establish and follow appropriate channels of communication.
- 4) Offer a national advisory network of people offering peer support on all societal levels in developing projects.
- 5) Share local government resolutions and other forms of public recognition.
- 5) Help projects **gain** official recognition within their own **city and** within Cuba.
- 7) Help with the logistics of delegations and trips to Cuba and coordinate tours of Cubans coming here to the US, especially, but not limited to, educational, cultural **&** official groups.
- 8) Share strategies on community development, public relations **and** media coverage.
- 9) Establish a nationwide newsletter or listserv reporting on **our** growth and activities.
- 10) Develop a national website—[www.USCSCA.org](http://www.USCSCA.org)—with links to all other member sister cities projects and keep people informed on US policy as it relates to our work.
- 11) Nationally promote programs of mutual or special interest to US/ Cuba counterparts.
- 12) Hold national/international conferences as necessary to allow for membership to be interactive nationally, as well as interactive with Cuban counterparts.

## ~ Some Member Benefits ~

In the U.S., USCSCA, with the cooperation of Cuban counterparts, will:

- ’ Help a city register and be selected by an appropriate partner city in Cuba.
- ’ Help coordinate linkages on all levels within the U.S. and Cuba.
- ’ Share advice, experience and expertise from established sister city organizations **and** emerging member projects.
- ’ Help each group through the steps required to sign an official sister **city** agreement.
- ’ Provide information on resources, peer consultants **and** current U.S.-Cuba **policies**, among other information.
- ’ Strive to ensure that each project undertaken by its membership reflects **the** diversity of its local community base. USCSCA will promote the inclusion of the broadest diversity of ethnic and racial minorities, women, youth, and also reflect diverse socio-economic status as well as people who are physically/mentally disabled, in all activities. USCSCA strives to ensure projects that do not reflect political agendas or bias.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ~ In Conclusion ~

US-Cuba Sister cities provide a unique model of community partnerships. These projects open the door to bilateral initiatives for people at all societal levels: individual citizens, local governments, media, business, religious groups; all community organizations and institutions. By creating a unifying goal while amplifying each participant’s unique contribution to the efforts, it is a way for traditionally very diverse groups who would not otherwise find common cause to work together.

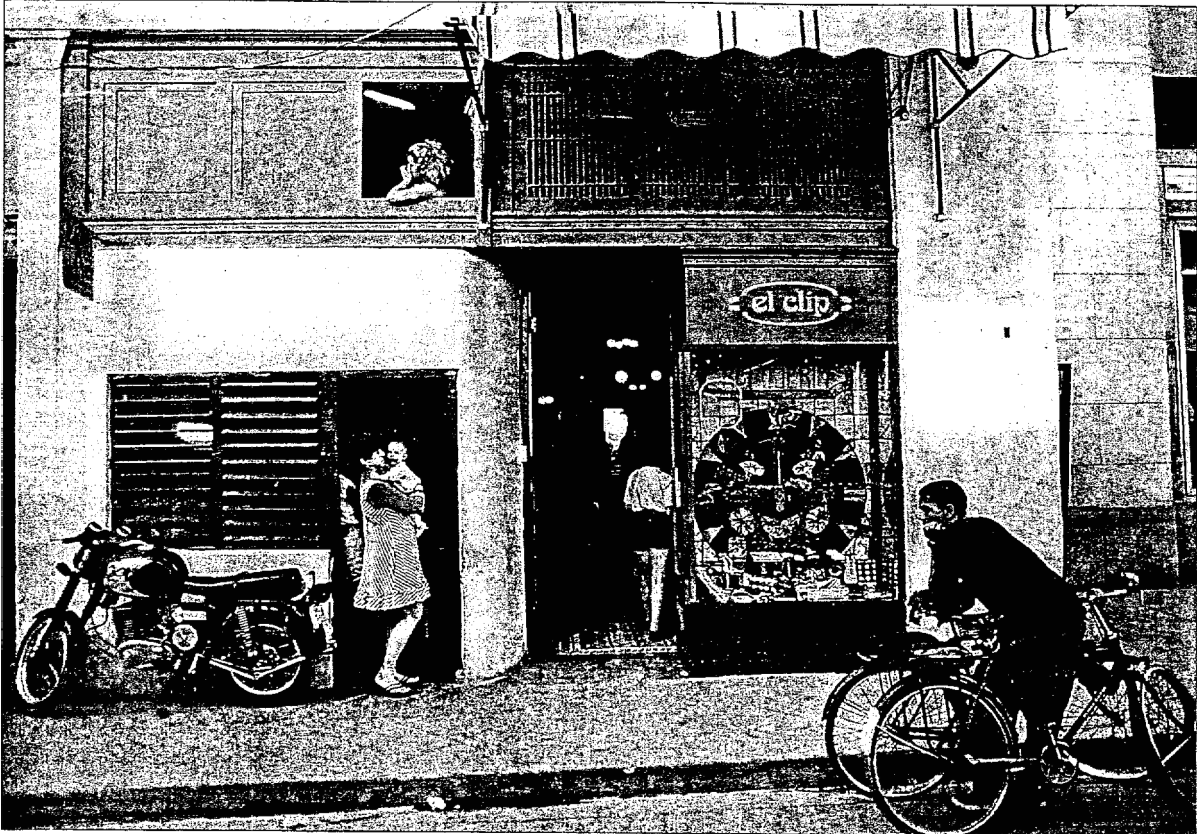
Internationally, sister cities have set a precedent for the legitimate role of an individual citizen’s right to engage actively in foreign policy through ‘citizen diplomacy’. In the US, we are challenged to create viable projects with Cuba that protect the integrity of the sister city concept, as non-interventionist.

Cuba enjoys sister city relationships with many nations, and has countless sister agreements among organizations, institutions, religious groups and universities worldwide. US government policy has made US-Cuba sister city agreements difficult to achieve. Yet it is being done. USCSCA hopes that in helping ordinary people see Cuba, we will create, together **with** our Cuban neighbors, a balanced dialogue promoting a more positive relationship between our nations. With US-Cuba sister cities becoming a popular trend nationwide, USCSCA was formed to assist this swell of citizen diplomats to succeed in this rewarding endeavor to actively **work** to better international relations today.

We live in a world compressed by technology into a global village. USCSCA will assist US cities in establishing formal relationships with the people of Cuba, **who**, due to US policy, are unable to be interactive with other developmental organizations. As international cooperation gains importance, city-to-city programs become increasingly significant to **all** parties involved. USCSCA will strive to create genuine people-to-people community connections with the people of Cuba, based on **mutual** respect and reciprocal exchanges equally beneficial to **all** parties.

USCSCA believes President Dwight D. Eisenhower was correct when he said while introducing his creation of the sister city concept in **1956**; ‘The sister city program is an important resource to the negotiations of government in letting people themselves give expression to their **common** desire for friendship, good will and cooperation for a better world for all. I believe people want peace so much, that one of these days governments better get out of their way **and** let them have it.’

\*\*\*\*\*



Dan Coyro/Sentinel file photos

A street scene in Old Havana. A local group wants to form a sister county program in Cuba.

## Project seeks to form sister county in Cuba

By JEANENE HARLICK  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

It has one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world as well as universal health care.

Its literacy rate is 98 percent. Its scientists have created revolutionary vaccines for meningitis and hepatitis. And almost all its crops are grown pesticide-free.

Surprisingly, this is not a description of some rich, industrialized country, but of Cuba, an impoverished nation banned from trading with the United States. If a group of local residents have their way, Santa Cruzans will soon learn the secrets of Cuba's success by forming a sister county relationship with Guamá, a municipality on Cuba's southeastern coast.

"We feel we have a lot to learn from Cubans," said Ellen Farmer, who's helping lead the effort. "They have done amazing things for their people under enormous pressures."

County supervisors will vote on the project sometime in August. Farmer's group is not asking for funding but merely support, in the form of a resolution. If supervisors approve the project, a delegation of local residents and at least one public official will travel to Cuba in January to make the relationship official.

Since 1999, when the US-Cuba Sister Cities Association formed — communities throughout the country have been trying to outsmart the nation's embargo through people-to-people diplomacy. According to public opinion polls, most Americans want relations with Cuba normalized, the association says, and the proof is in how active the organization is.

Eleven U.S. cities have formed sister city relationships with Cuban communities,

including the cities of Richmond and Oakland. Another 33 are in the works. Pennsylvania also has formed a sister state partnership with Cuba's Matanzas Province. A Cuban municipality is comparable to a U.S. county; provinces are comparable to U.S. states.

The idea behind sister city relationships, internationally recognized as an expression of fraternity between nations, is to undertake projects that benefit both communities. In Cuba's case, the relationships also work toward improving diplomacy with the country, helping the island become more democratic and convincing the U.S. government to end its embargo.

Supervisor Jeff Almquist thinks the sister county project is a great idea.

"We've grown up in an age where everything going on in Cuba has been hidden from us through government propaganda and the embargo," he said. "I think it'd be fascinating to get to know the people of Cuba on a one-to-one basis. The way you break down a government policy (like the embargo) is to informally meet the Cubans face-to-face to find out what they're really all about."

The US-Cuba Sister Cities Association helps Cuban and U.S. municipalities partner with communities of similar size and demographics. Guamá and Santa Cruz are a perfect fit. Like Santa Cruz, tourism is one of Guamá's primary industries. Guamá also has mountains, a bay sanctuary, agricultural industry and four cities, as Santa Cruz county does.

Residents from every sector of society are involved in the local effort, Farmer said. The committee has formed four interest groups and plans to limit projects to those areas: alternative energy, the arts, education and health care.



Tobacco workers tend to their shaded crop. The delicate, upper leaves will become the outennostrappers for cigars.

The group is especially interested in learning the secret of Cuba's successful public health system. Cuba has the lowest infant mortality rate in the Americas, with 6.2 children in every 1,000 dying before age 1. In the United States, the rate is 7 children in every 1,000. Cuba's low rate is largely due to aggressive pre- and post-natal care, Farmer said.

"They really take care of pregnant women," she said.

The island also provides universal health care through a community-based health system. In Guamá, 57 family doctor houses and a small seaside hospital take care of the community's health needs. The doctors live above ground-floor clinics. Public health has been a priority of the Cuban government for years: this year, Cuba earmarked \$1.9 billion of a \$6.9 billion budget toward health care.

Contact Jeanene Harlick at [jharlick@santa-cruz.com](mailto:jharlick@santa-cruz.com).



School children line up outside their classroom.



## MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

809 Center Street, Room 10, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 420-5020 • Fax: (831) 420-5011 • [citycouncil@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us)

June 3, 2002

Lic. J. Vicente González Díaz  
Relaciones Internacionales  
Asamblea Provincial de Poder Popular  
Calle 21 y 6 No. 101, Vista Alegre  
Santiago de Cuba, CUBA

Dear Mr. Gonzalez Díaz:

In February and April of this year, two delegations of citizens from Santa Cruz County had the pleasure of visiting several towns within the Municipality of Guamá, Province of Santiago. Thank you so much for the hospitality accorded to these members of our community.

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate the intention of the people of the County of Santa Cruz to vigorously pursue a mutually beneficial relationship between a community in the Municipality of Guama and the County of Santa Cruz. I understand that this is an exploratory effort, but we can at least begin.

As the Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz, I am joining with the other mayors of the cities within our County, and with the members of the County Board of Supervisors, in supporting the exploration of this relationship, under the auspices of the US-Cuba Sister Cities Association, to the mutual benefit of both communities.

We look forward to meeting with you in the near future to possibly formalize any arrangements which might take place.

Sincerely,

Christopher Krohn  
Mayor



CITY OF CAPITOLA 0106  
CAPITOLA CALIFORNIA 95010  
420 CAPITOLA AVENUE  
TELEPHONE 831-475-7300  
FAX 831-479-8879

September 2, 2002

Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

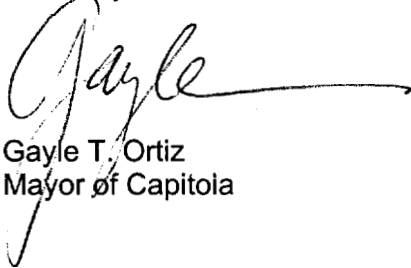
Dear Supervisors;

I am writing in support of the proposal to make Guama, Cuba a sister city. I believe that an alliance between Guama Municipality and Santa Cruz County will create new opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment, and curriculum enhancement in schools and colleges.

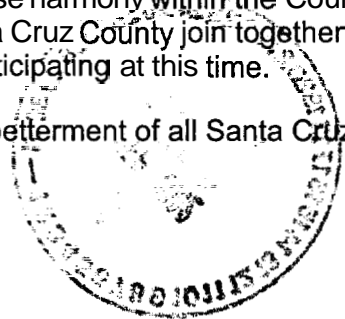
The regional nature of this alliance will increase harmony within the County and among its several cities as people from all over Santa Cruz County join together and participate. I am aware of several Capitolans who are participating at this time.

Please consider supporting this effort for the betterment of all Santa Cruz County residents.

Sincerely,



Gayle T. Ortiz  
Mayor of Capitola





August 30, 2002

Dear Supervisor Beautz,

I am writing regarding the upcoming supervisors vote on the matter of beginning a sister county relationship with the municipality of Guamma, Cuba. I stand with many others throughout the county in believing that such a relationship will have many benefits both here and in Cuba. A group of Santa Cruz County residents that represents a cross section of our county is now working to build bridges that will someday help to finally unite Cubans and Americans . We see ourselves as pioneers and citizen diplomats. We seek to begin the people to people meetings and interactions that will eventually blossom into a true and lasting friendship between two nations.

As a firefighter, I recognize that a small spark can start a large fire. The analogy may not be entirely apt, but the idea of something beginning on a small scale and eventually growing much larger is something that we all understand.

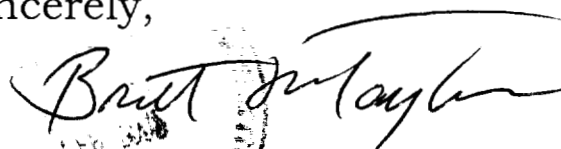
In our small way, we hope to be the spark that can help to ignite a positive change in our relationship with Cuba. Such a positive relationship can bring benefits to Santa Cruz County agriculture, tourism, and medicine. Cuba's advances in medical research , biotechnology, and organic farming are well documented . The possible market outlets for agricultural products from our county cause excitement among farmers. Cultural and artistic exchanges between our two counties could enhance our already lively arts community. Indeed , Santa Cruz County has become

an almost mandatory stop for the most popular Cuban musicians on tour and they have been well received by the knowledgeable music fans here.

We have as much to learn from Cubans as they have to learn from us and with your support, we can begin to find the common ground that will allow us to become good neighbors.

We do not ask for money, we do not seek to play politics; we simply ask for your support of our resolution as a symbolic way of opening our arms to our fellow human beings who happen to live in a country that has been at odds with our country for too long.

Sincerely,



Brett M. Taylor  
Santa Cruz Firefighter