

Sister Cities- San Diego, CA- Jalalabad, Afghanistan
Luce, Forward—Del Mar Office
June 29, 2004
5:30 PM

Minutes

Attendees:

Steve Brown, Chuck DuVivier, Kate DuVivier, David Edick, Cynthia Villis, Bashir Ghazialam, Farid Saydee, Al Platt, Farid Saydee, Fary Moini, Steve Gardality, Kathleen Roche-Tansey, Masood Roashan, Abdul Qargha, Hasen Nouri, Marjan Nahavandi, Cheer Critchlow, David Ballesteros, John Maris

The meeting was preceded by a meeting with John Maris of Relief International (RI) discussing setting up a micro-credit operation in Jalalabad. John advised that RI Has established an NGO in Afghanistan with Flouran Wali on its board. The purpose will be for that organization to administer micro-credit operations in Nangarhar Province. There may be possibilities thorough Sister Cities and/or Rotary to collaborate on this. Steve B. and Chuck and Kate D. will take the lead on reporting on this and making recommendations.

The Sister Cities meeting commenced at 5:30 with Steve Brown welcoming those in attendance. The Master roster was passed around for corrections and additions (attached). Please review your contact information to see if it has been recorded properly.

Each attendee gave a brief statement regarding his or her interest in the San Diego-Jalalabad Sister Cities program.

Steve Brown reported on the June 28, 2004 San Diego City Council meeting where the City Council approved proceeding with the Sister Cities relationship. In attendance at that meeting were committee members Brown, Villis, Saydee, Moini, Ghazialam, Edick, Tom Cleary (USD Director of Community and Government Relations) and Earl Saunders (Secretary, Sister Cities Corporation of San Diego). Following the affirmative vote, Mayor Murphy joined our representatives and made a very warm and encouraging statement regarding this and thanking the participant. The proceedings were televised as part of the normal programming for City Council meetings. We

issued a press release (attached) and the story was picked up by the San Diego Union Tribune (article attached). Tom Cleary directed media coverage. Also Cynthia Villis Googled up our Committee as featured in a June 15, 2004 release by the United States Department of State (attached). Don Giaquinto, an aide to one of the Council members and special assistant to Mayor Murphy for Sister Cities, was instrumental in seeing that we had a first class presentation by Mayor Murphy regarding the Council meeting presentation.

David Edick reported that we need to have an agreement prepared, signed by both mayors, and logged into the Master Sister Cities Registry in Washington D.C. for this matter to be official. David will work with Don Giaquinto and Steve to see that this happens shortly.

Chuck DuVivier and Steve Gardality screened a Power Point presentation of their May 2004 trip to Jalalabad, where they attended the Dedication Ceremony for the Afghan Women's Development Center. That Center was equipped through a Rotary Foundation Grant sponsored by the Encinitas La Costa Rotary Club. Chuck is President (until June 30, 2004) of that Club and Steve Gardality chairs its International Service Committee.

Steve Brown reported that efforts are underway to bring the six university professors from Nangarhar University and Nangarhar Medical School to San Diego this fall. It is hoped that trip will coincide with having the Mayor of Jalalabad in San Diego. Steve will also arrange for Mohammad Ishaq to come to San Diego with the Mayor. Ishaq has been instrumental in overseeing the development of the Rotary School in Jalalabad, in assisting the professors in processing US visa applications, and will likely be the primary Sister Cities contact with the Mayor of Jalalabad. The dates for the trip remain uncertain pending learning more about when the US visas can be obtained and learning about Mayor Murphy's availability for a formal ceremony at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) at the University of San Diego.

Cynthia reported that the IPJ is holding dates for us in November, but suggested that we re-think the time of day and day of the week for the event -- perhaps morning vs. late afternoon, and perhaps a Saturday. Steve contacted Mayor Murphy's campaign office to see if he would consider having this event at the IPJ before the election. Wayne and Abdul volunteered to work with Cynthia in planning and facilitating the event.

We can anticipate funding of \$1,000 form USD, perhaps funding of \$1,000 form the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club and an additional \$2,000 plus will need to be raised. It is expected that this will be a major media event that will include a private reception, a public program and perhaps a public reception depending on cost. The issue was raised regarding the availability of the Jalalabad Mayor during that time frame in light of the pending elections in Afghanistan. Steve B. will check into this.

David Edick outlined the process to establish the Sister Cities relationship. He reported that the City Council's International Affairs Board has approved establishing the relationship. Once their written report goes to the City council it is anticipated that formal approval will be placed on the City Council docket. That should take place in the next three to four weeks.

Steve Brown reported that six candidates from Jalalabad have been selected to come to San Diego as part of Rotary's Group Study Exchange program. They will come this fall if they are able to obtain US Visas.

Steve Brown gave a brief report on progress to:

- Provide an ultrasound machine to Nangarhar Public Hospital: machine is in transit; funds are needed for inspection and servicing (\$1,000) and for transportation from Kabul to Jalalabad
- The Nangarhar University computer lab will be upgraded in July of 2004 to provide more reliable access to the Internet. This will better facilitate classroom instruction at the computer lab
- A container of medical books and other text books has been loaded in San Francisco through local San Diego efforts; shipment should leave in the next month or two with the destination being Nangarhar Medical School and Nangarhar University
- A request is pending of Donner Foundation to provide \$40,000 of the \$60,000 in funding necessary to build a middle school and high school for the K-6 student presently attending the school build by Rotary

Suggestions at the close of the meeting were as follows:

- The Committee should have a planning session
- The Committee should appoint a hospitality chair
- The Committee should establish guidelines regarding use of funds (we have no funds to date)

- One or more Committee members should consider attending the annual Sister Cities Convention in Fort Worth, Texas

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Submitted: 

Steve Brown, Acting Chairman



June 28, 2004 San Diego City Council Chambers
from left to right, Tom Cleary, Earl Saunders, Cynthis
Villis, Farid Saydee, Steve Brown, Fary Molini, Mayor
Dick Murphy, David Edick, Bashir Ghazialam

June 28, 2004

Contacts:

Stephen R. Brown
San Diego-Jalalabad Sister Cities Committee
& La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club
(858) 720-6343 or (858) 481-6464
Stephenbrown@sandiegosistercities.org

David Edick, Jr.
San Diego International Sister
Cities Corporation
(619) 231-6237 or (619) 843-2332
edick@sandiegosistercities.org

Cynthia Villis, Associate Provost
University of San Diego
(619) 260-4686
villis@sandiego.edu

San Diego and Jalalabad establish Sister City relationship

San Diego, CA – The San Diego City Council today approved a resolution recognizing the Sister City relationship with citizens of Jalalabad, Afghanistan. “This is one of the final steps in an internationally successful and personally rewarding effort,” said Steve Brown of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club. “It’s important for people from different cultures, and from different parts of the world, to meet and understand each other. Linking San Diego and Jalalabad offers opportunities at this critical time in history.”

“Our sister city program is intended to promote peace and prosperity through interaction and understanding between cultures,” San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy said. “This new relationship with Jalalabad offers us an excellent opportunity to pursue those worthy goals.”

In 2002 Brown and Flouran Wali, a local Afghan-American, explored the founding of a school in Jalalabad as a result of fellow Rotarian Fary Moini’s work with Afghan refugees in Peshawar, Pakistan. Moini learned of the refugees’ desire for a school in Jalalabad, the home where many would return following the liberation of their country by a US-led military coalition.

In November 2002, Brown, Wali and Moini traveled to Jalalabad. They were warmly received by government officials and citizens. They were encouraged to develop the school, and also learned of needs at Nangarhar University, with its 3,000 students and 250 faculty members.

James Ritchie, a San Diego County resident and friend of Jalalabad Mayor Abdul Razzaq Arsalai, initiated the idea of a Sister City pairing. Brown and Ritchie approached Mayor Murphy, who wrote a letter of invitation to the Jalalabad mayor. Mayor Arsalai responded enthusiastically. Committees in both cities formed in fall 2003 to develop the program.

Brown, Moini, San Diego State professor Steve Spencer and Farid Saydee, a leader in the local Afghan-American community, returned to Jalalabad in March 2004 and met with Mayor Arsalai and his Sister City committee. Brown reported back to San Diego’s International Sister Cities Corporation, which approved a resolution for the relationship to develop. Following the unanimous recommendation of San Diego City’s International Affairs Committee, the matter came to the San Diego City Council for final approval today.

Jalalabad, one of Afghanistan’s largest cities, is the capital of the Nangarhar province, near the Khyber Pass with Pakistan. The population of Nangarhar is 3 million people; Jalalabad proper has a population of several hundred thousand.

- MORE -

“We highlight personal interaction between citizens of both communities,” says Brown. Rotarians Chuck DuVivier and Steve Gardality from the Encinitas-La Costa Club traveled to Jalalabad this past May for the dedication of an Afghan Women’s Development Center that received funds from their club and The Rotary Foundation.

This fall marks the first exchange program: the Jalalabad mayor and several Nangarhar University professors will arrive in San Diego to interact with colleagues in their fields. Cynthia Willis, Rotarian and Associate Provost at the University of San Diego, assists this Sister Cities Committee and will host the Mayor at USD’s Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

San Diego State University is also on board. A satellite-based computer lab at Nangarhar University was funded by Brown and Padres owner John Moores. SDSU President Steve Weber wants to export distance learning to Nangarhar University. SDSU and USD will also collaborate to provide instruction in the teaching of English as a Second Language to the Jalalabad professors.

Many Afghan-Americans are members of this Sister Cities committee, including a cardiologist at UCSD Medical center and a local attorney. “Establishing sister city relations between San Diego and Jalalabad opens a permanent channel for people-to-people contacts and exchange between the citizens and institutions of our two cities. It provides an opportunity to improve mutual understanding and cooperation with a culture and part of the world Americans know little about,” said David Edick, Jr. President of the San Diego International Sister Cities Corporation.

“This effort began with local Rotarians and members of the Afghan community, and we welcome the participation of all interested individuals,” says Steve Brown (learn more at www.stevebrownrotary.com).

Jalalabad projects completed or in progress with the assistance of Sister Cities Committee members and local Rotary Clubs include

- Building a K-6 elementary school in Jalalabad, with student capacity of 1,400 (March 2004)
- Establishing a satellite-based computer lab at Nangarhar University (March 2004)
- Distributing 6,000 English Dictionaries (March 2004)
- Equipping Afghan Women’s Development Center (May 2004)
- Shipping an ultra-sound machine to Nangarhar Public Hospital (in transit)
- Shipping a container of medical books for Nangarhar Medical School (in transit)
- Establishing an eye care and eye surgery center in Jalalabad (in development)

###

- Tuesday
- »Next Story»
- News
- Local News
- Opinion
- Business
- Sports
- Currents & Arts
- The Last Week
- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Weekly Sections
- Books
- Personal Tech
- Enlace
- Family
- Food
- Home
- Homescape
- Insight
- Night & Day
- Religion & Ethics
- Sunday Arts
- Travel
- Quest
- Wheels

Subscribe to the UT



The San Diego Union-Tribune.

SAVE THIS EMAIL THIS PRINT THIS MOST POPULAR

AROUND THE REGION

San Diego gains new sister city

June 29, 2004

DOWNTOWN – The city of Jalalabad, Afghanistan, is now a sister city of San Diego.

The San Diego City Council unanimously approved the diplomatic relationship yesterday. The formal vote follows years of efforts among local San Diegans to improve living conditions in one of Afghanistan's largest cities.

The new bond is designed to "promote exchange and communication in the spirit of international goodwill, understanding and peace," according to a December 2003 letter written by Mayor Dick Murphy to his counterpart in Jalalabad.

The federal Sister City program began in 1956. More than 1,200 U.S. cities are paired with more than 2,000 international cities in 137 countries.

San Diego now has 15 partners, nine of them in the Pacific Rim.

Pedestrian finds body near wreck

SANTA YSABEL – A pedestrian walking along state Route 78 yesterday discovered the body of a man killed in an auto crash, a California Highway Patrol official said.

The body of the 48-year-old Santa Ysabel man was discovered about 10

Advertisement

EDC: San Diego's Bridge to Success

Hiring	Support Services
Training	Business Incentives
Utilities	International Access
Financing	Regulatory Assistance
Site Assistance	Production Efficiency
Strategic Alliance	Technology Assistance



san diego regional economic development corporation



Home Delivery
from \$1.50 per week

SUNDAY
The San Diego
Union-Tribune.

a.m. lying next to the man's wrecked pickup truck.

The Medical Examiner's Office said the man had been dead for at least 24 hours before the body was discovered, but the time of death has not been determined.

CHP investigators said the man, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected from the driver's side door when his Toyota pickup hit a cluster of oak trees 50 feet down an embankment north of the highway.

Officials said the man had been headed east on Route 78. The wreckage could not be seen by passing traffic. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Free insurance workshop offered

RAMONA – A free insurance workshop for fire survivors will be offered at 6:30 p.m. today at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, 1735 Main St.

The session will be led by George Kehrer, consumer insurance advocate and founder of Communities Assisting Recovery. Kehrer will give tips on the insurance process and answer questions.

Drug-trafficking charges upheld

TIJUANA – A Mexican federal judge has upheld drug-trafficking charges against Efraín Pérez, a suspected high-ranking member of the Arellano Félix drug cartel who was arrested in Tijuana last month.

Pérez was arrested along with Jorge Aureliano Félix, whose court status wasn't immediately available. Mexican authorities consider Aureliano Félix to also be a high-ranking member of the cartel, which for more than a decade has been the region's most powerful drug-trafficking group.

Both also have been indicted in the United States, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration had established a \$2 million reward for information leading to their capture.

Pérez is being linked to a large load of cocaine inside a Colombian plane that landed near Todos Santos, in Baja California Sur, on Nov. 5, 1995, according to a news release from the Mexican Attorney General's Office.

[»Next Story»](#)

Sycuan
RESORT & CASINO

**SYCUAN'S
TRUCKS, BUCKS &
AUTOMOBILES
SUMMER SWEEPSTAKES**

June 28th – August 23rd

Three lucky
Club Sycuan members
will choose
between a truck,
\$30,000 or
a new automobile!

2004 Ford Harley Davidson
F-250 Truck



2004 Ford
Convertible Thunderbird

Plus an additional
\$27,000 in cash
giveaways!



[Contact Us](#) | [Site Index](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise on SignOnSanDiego](#) | [Make us your homepage](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [UTads.com](#) | [About the Union-Tribune](#) | [Contact the Union-Tribune](#)

© Copyright 2004 Union-Tribune Publishing Co.



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

[About the State Dept.](#) |
 [Press and Public Affairs](#) |
 [Travel and Living Abroad](#) |
 [Countries and Regions](#) |
 [International Issues](#) |
 [History, Education and Culture](#) |
 [Business Center](#) |
 [Other Services](#) |
 [Employment](#)

[\[Print Friendly Version\]](#)

San Diego – Jalalabad Sister Cities

The San Diego-Jalalabad Sister City relationship will be the 15th such arrangement for the city of San Diego. The purpose and mission of the Sister Cities Program is simple: Aid the development of mutual understanding between US cities and cities of other countries. The actual implementation of any specific Sister City relationship depends upon the composition and nature of the cities involved, and the volunteers who participate.



San Diego Committee (partial)

Afghanistan has several major cities; the largest and most significant is the capital city of Kabul. The country is organized in provinces, as compared to our state structure in the US. Jalalabad is one of Afghanistan's largest cities. It is the capital of Nangarhar Province, and is the resident city for the province's Governor. Jalalabad has its own governmental structure presided over by a Mayor. It reflects the beauty and culture established by the Afghans in this region across the centuries, and is the site of many schools, including Nangarhar University. Jalalabad suffers from the current depressed social and economic conditions experienced by the rest of the country. Clean drinking water is not universally available throughout the city, few public schools are operating, electricity is intermittent. Medical care and treatment is very limited.



Jalalabad Committee

The residents of Jalalabad are the same wonderful people found throughout Afghanistan. They strive to improve their social and economic conditions. Jalalabad became the most likely and appropriate candidate to partner with San Diego because of multiple relationships already established. Local Rotary clubs and Rotary International have engaged in relationships and projects with the people of Jalalabad. Relationships with schools have also been established, most notably between Doyle Elementary School in La Jolla and the Najmul Jahad Rotary School in Jalalabad. Charitable and relief organizations (eg, Afghanistan Relief Organization) have worked for months with San Diego people and organizations on projects in Jalalabad.

Released on June 15, 2004

Bureau of Public Affairs Office of Electronic Information

This site is managed by the Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.

[Copyright Information](#) | [Disclaimers](#)