

Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, Mexico April 12, 2022

Hon. Frank Hibbard
Mayor of Clearwater, Florida
Present

Dear Frank,

I would like to thank you again for the warmth welcome you gave to the delegation from Ixmiquilpan presided over by the undersigned, during the working visit we made last March 14.

As you may remember, that day I expressed the desire to twin Ixmiquilpan with the city of Clearwater. Fortunately, I found in you an extremely favorable response for this agreement between our two cities to take place.

It is for this reason, and in compliance with the requirements that Sister Cities International establishes, that I extend this letter of intent between the Municipality of Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, United Mexican States and Clearwater, Florida, United States of America, to officially request and on behalf of the city of Ixmiquilpan to begin the necessary procedures for us to become sisters with Clearwater, Florida.

As you rightly mentioned, twinning between our cities is the most logical and the most necessary, Ixmiquilpan and Clearwater are already sister cities, ever since there are strong ties that already unite us through the large number of Ixmiquilpanenses who have chosen Clearwater as their home and the birthplace of their naturally binational children.

It should also be noted that among the reasons that accompany the interest of the sister cities agreement, it is also the desire of our Municipality to explore possibilities of mutual exchange and cooperation in investment attraction, quality and water treatment, solid waste management, entrepreneurship, educational and cultural exchange, research, tourism, trade, public security, technology, higher education and international cooperation for development.

Hoping to have your approval for the beginning of the work of the sister cities agreement, receive an affectionate greeting.

Sincerely,



Araceli Beltran Contreras
Mayor of Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, Mexico

PLAZA JÚAREZ S/N, COL. CENTRO, C.P. 42300 IXMIQUILPAN, HGO.

ixmiquilpan2124@gmail.com

Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, México a 12 de abril de 2022

Frank Hibbard
Alcalde de Clearwater, Florida
Presente

Estimado Frank:

Deseo agradecer nuevamente la calidez del recibimiento con el cual dio la bienvenida a la comitiva de Ixmiquilpan presidida por la suscrita, en la visita de trabajo que realizamos el pasado 14 de marzo.

Como es de su conocimiento, ese día expresé el deseo de hermanar a Ixmiquilpan con la ciudad de Clearwater. Afortunadamente, encontré en usted una respuesta sumamente favorable para que este acuerdo entre nuestras dos ciudades se dé.

Es por ello, y en cumplimiento con los requerimientos que Sister Cities International establece, que extendiendo la presente carta de intención entre el Municipio de Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, Estados Unidos Mexicanos y Clearwater, Florida, Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, para solicitar oficialmente y a nombre de la ciudad de Ixmiquilpan en que se comiencen los trámites necesarios para que nos hermanemos con Clearwater, Florida.

Como bien lo mencionó usted, el hermanamiento entre nuestras ciudades es el de más lógica y el más necesario, ya que Ixmiquilpan y Clearwater ya están hermanadas, pues hay fuerte lazos que ya nos unen a través de el gran número de ixmiquilpenses que han elegido a Clearwater como su hogar y el lugar donde han nacido sus hijos que son naturalmente binacionales.

Cabe también hacer notar que entre los motivos que acompañan el interés del acuerdo de hermanamiento, también es el deseo de nuestro Municipio el explorar posibilidades de intercambio mutuo y cooperación en atracción de inversiones, tratamiento y calidad del agua, manejo de residuos sólidos, emprendimiento, intercambio educativo y cultural, investigación, turismo, comercio, seguridad pública, tecnología, educación superior y cooperación internacional para el desarrollo.

Esperando contar con su visto bueno para el comienzo de los trabajos del acuerdo de ciudades hermanas, reciba usted un afectuoso saludo.

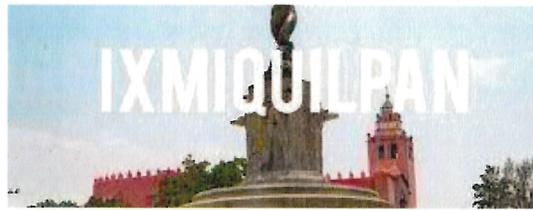
Atentamente

Araceli Beltrán Contreras

Presidenta Municipal-Constitucional de Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, México

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I. History and culture

The primitive name of Ixmiquilpan was "zectccani" of Otomi origin which means "purslane". Later, in the Naho language it was called Izmiquilpan, and due to corruption the current name was reached. However, another version expresses "Itzmiquilpan", which is formed from "Itztli" which means knife; and "milli", cultivated land, plus the word "quilitl", which means edible herb, and lastly "pan" whose meaning is on. So it means: "Town located on crops of herb whose leaves are razor-shaped."

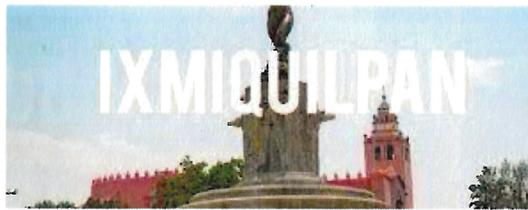
The Otomi were the first inhabitants of the strategic area, as it was a natural passage through the arid plains of northern Mexico. The area was conquered by Pedro Rodríguez de Escobar (who had served under Pedro de Alvarado), but the origin of the city of Ixmiquilpan is the foundation by the Spanish Augustinian friars of the Temple and former Convent of San Miguel Arcángel between 1550 and 1560, next to the main square today.

Already in the seventeenth century the town has a significant population, which demonstrates the construction of the bridge over the Tula River, a work undertaken by the Spanish captain Don Miguel Cuevas y Dávalos and inaugurated on September 29, 1655, the day of San Miguel Arcángel, patron saint of the church and the town. The colonial bridge communicated with the Barrio de la Otra Banda, today Barrio de Progreso. In the 18th century, the Chapel of the Lady of Carmen was built on the initiative of the mestizo Patricio Joseph Tovar in the old neighborhood of Tlazintla. In 1779, the viceroy of New Spain, Don Antonio María de Bucareli y Ursúa, appointed Mr. Diego Alarcón de Ocaña as mayor of Ixmiquilpan. During his government, drinking water and other works of social benefit for the population are introduced, for which he is considered a great benefactor of the town.

During the process of Independence of Mexico, Ixmiquilpan was besieged by the insurgent forces under the command of Ignacio López Rayón, on October 18, 1812, and occupied after the defeat of the royalists in the town of Tamaleras, today the town of López Rayón. During the revolution of Ayutla, led by Juan N. Álvarez in the state of Guerrero in 1854, the authorities of Ixmiquilpan, in need of money, demanded the payment of contributions in an exaggerated way, which provoked peasant rebellions of indigenous people in several towns of the region, such as the uprisings in Orizabita and Remedios, led by Sotero Lozano, considered a social bandit.

Between the years of 1906 and 1910 the Municipal Palace was built. On two occasions, the federal presidents Lázaro Cárdenas and Manuel Ávila Camacho visited the municipality, the first to celebrate the first anniversary of the Oil Expropriation, in March 1939; the second in May 1942 to inaugurate the municipal market.

It is located in the center of the main square created by the sculptor Juan Fernando Olaguíbel. The sculpture was donated to the town in 1970 by Alfonso Corona del Rosal when a replica of the Diana the Huntress fountain was built by placing the replica in Mexico City and the original in Ixmiquilpan. The sculpture was made by Juan Fernando Olaguíbel and is 22 m high in the art deco style.



The municipality of Ixmiquilpan keeps some traditions such as the Procession of the Lord of Jalpan that is celebrated on September 7 where "the scaled waxes" that adorn the great arches, the altars, the dancers, the rockets and the pyrotechnic games make it stand out procession party through the main streets of the town.

The culture can be observed through the artistic manifestations, such as the authenticity of the music of Ixmiquilpan, which can be found in some songs of Otomi origin. In this municipality artistic groups have been integrated to interpret representative songs and dances of the region such as the Ixtla dance, the Coyote dance and some others.

It is a tradition of the municipality to celebrate popular festivities in which music in its different forms cannot be absent, highlighting among them the wind bands.

II. Economy and Industry

The main economic activities are agriculture (mainly vegetables, especially irrigated), trade, tourism (aimed at the convent of San Miguel Arcángel and nearby spas) and livestock (sheep, goats and cattle).

The population has a great vocation for migration combined with deep roots in their land of origin, although there is significant economic mobility within the municipality, they leave for the United States, originating remittances, which are monetary transfers in cash that migrants who work in the abroad send to their country of origin, the intended use of remittances is 80.5%. Despite the fact that the sending of remittances has decreased by 20%, it is estimated that a little more than six million dollars a year reach the municipality; therefore, it continues to be one of the most important generators of economic income for the municipality.

III. Justification of the request

The desire to twin Ixmiquilpan with Clearwater was born for the reason that most of the migration from the Mexican municipality has found that Florida city as their destination.

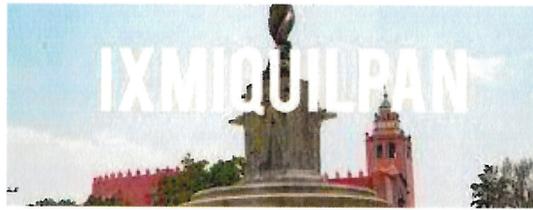
The Ixmiquilpan migrant community in Clearwater has been working to build a better city since the mid-1980s.

Today second and third generation of people with dual citizenship make Clearwater, and Ixmiquilpan, more prosperous places economically, but also culturally.

The societies and economy of both cities are intrinsically linked, which is why they are ideal sister cities.

With this twinning, Ixmiquilpan wishes to propose an intense academic and cultural exchange.

In terms of culture, the original community of Ixmiquilpan living and born in Clearwater makes important contributions for being a community of indigenous origin, belonging to the Otomi culture, whose culture, traditions, gastronomy and are unique in the world.



IV. Other sister cities

Ixmiqulpan does not have any previous sister city agreement. Clearwater would be its first Sister City.



ARACELI BELTRÁN CONTRERAS



Araceli Beltrán Contreras is the first female Mayor of Ixmiquilpan. Strong, empathetic, and warm hearted are words that define this female leader of the Valle del Mezquital. She has a rich story and essence that highlight the roots of Ixmiquilpan. Mayor Beltrán Contreas governs a region that is rich in culture, gastronomy, and in an area that has a vast variety of natural hot springs. The Hñahñu people, who are the primary indigenous people in the area, continue to keep their traditions alive. They pass them down by generations, unite others, and add strength to their identities as Ixmiquilpenses.

Raised in the way of life in the towns of Ixmiquilpan municipality, from a simple and humble family, since she was little her parents instilled in her a deep respect for work and discipline. This helped her in times of challenging situations. She thinks about the times that her father had overcome an obstacle and kept a cool head, to not lose sight on what he had to do. Her mother was very supportive of her at a young age. She always knew she wanted to run her own business. These aspects that she learned from her parents encouraged her to attend the America Latina University in Zapopan, Jalisco.

Mayor Beltrán Contreas is a committed social activist and she has a degree in International Trade. In 2009 she was a sub-delegate of one of the most rooted Hñahñu communities. Mayor Beltrán Contreas founded the company “Proyectos San Nicolás Ixmiquilpan SA de CV” that produces and distributes goods. Some of her experience came from when she traveled abroad to India and Central America. As a female entrepreneur, she helps others by inspiring them and giving advice to young entrepreneurs.

Since being elected as Mayor of Ixmiquilpan at a young age, Mayor Beltrán Contreas has brought in fresh ideas to help revitalize the city. Due the pandemic, her administration has focused more on the health of the citizens and reactivating the city’s economy, by having events in open air areas while socially distancing and having personal protective equipment (PPE) ready for anyone that needed them.

Mayor Araceli Beltrán Contreras has won the hearts of her community, she is a strong female leader that hopes to unite both Ixmiquilpan and the City of Clearwater, to gather a better understanding of both communities and benefit the people of both cities.





Orlando, FL., March 1st, 2022

Oficio: ORL02012/2022

SUBJECT: Request of meeting

FRANK HIBBARD
MAYOR OF CLEARWATER, FL
PRESENT

I hereby have the honor to address you to convey cordial greetings from the Consulate of Mexico and the Federation of Hidalguenses in Florida; wich is a non-profit organization committed to the development of the community in Florida with Hidalgo background.

On March 14 Hon. Araceli Beltran Contreras, Mayor of Ixmiquilpan, one of the most important municipalities of Hidalgo, Mexico, will be visiting Clearwater, in order to reconect with the people with Ixmiquilpan origin and also to explore the posibilidad of becoming sister city with Clearwater.

This possible sister city agreement could bring important benefits to both communities with impact in academic exchange, economical developement and touristic promotion, among others.

As you may know, a large community from Hidalgo has chosen Clearwater to become their home since mid 80's. This community is nowadays a vibrant and important part of Clearwater, contributing economically as a workforce since they decided to migrate. Today, they are a well established community, they have offered to Clearwater not only their work skills, but they have also developed business that generate employment and pay taxes. They have also shared their culture with Clearwater, most of them come from the Otomi people and still keep their traditions, gastronomy, handcrafts, arts and language (hñahñu).

This community contributes to improving educational quality and promoting the academic development of children and youth through the BINATIONAL MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM, since it is of their interest that the new generations born in the U.S. feel proud of their origin as they are proud of being Americans.

The imminent advance of education and exchange of educational experiences in the teaching-learning process is strengthened by the sum of the work of Mexican teachers from the state of Hidalgo.

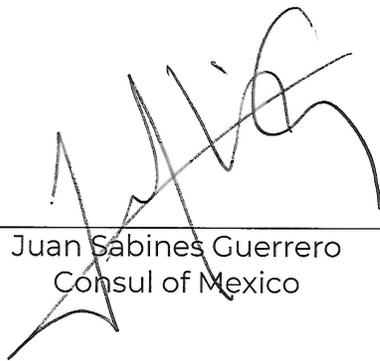




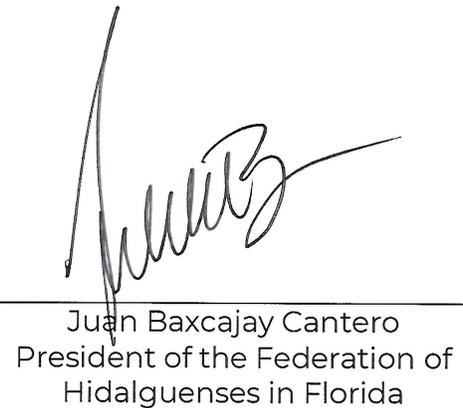
Aware of your professionalism and commitment to the community of Clearwater, we would like to kindly ask you to support the sister city agreement project, reason why we would like to request you for a meeting on March 14.

Certain of counting on your participation in this great educational, economic and cultural project between Clearwater, Florida and Ixmiquilpan, Mexico, we subscribe to you, thanking you in advance for your acceptance and reiterating our expressions of gratitude and respect towards you.

Sincerely,



Juan Sabines Guerrero
Consul of Mexico



Juan Baxcajay Cantero
President of the Federation of
Hidalguenses in Florida



