

Memorandum

To: Common Council

From: Becky Magestro-Chief of Staff

Date: February 4, 2025

Re: Establishing a Sister City

The City of Whitewater has a unique opportunity to strengthen international connections through a sister city partnership with San José de Otates, a municipality in Manuel Doblado, Guanajuato. This initiative aims to enhance cultural exchange, economic collaboration, and community integration, reinforcing Whitewater's commitment to global engagement.

At a recent virtual meeting, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), heard from Miguel Aranda, who has been leading efforts to establish this partnership. Miguel had previously worked with the former City Manager to launch the initiative, but progress was delayed due to leadership transitions and the EOC lacking a quorum. Now, with renewed commitment, the EOC is ready to move forward, pending approval from the Common Council.

Goals of the Sister City Partnership

- **Improve Relations:** Strengthen global ties and promote mutual understanding.
- **Promote Cultural Exchange:** Facilitate educational, culinary, and technical programs.
- **Develop Economic Opportunities:** Encourage business collaboration and economic growth.
- **Support Sustainable Development:** Implement initiatives that enhance quality of life.

Community Benefits

- Strengthens cultural and historical bonds, particularly with Whitewater's Mexican community.
- Expands youth education opportunities through cross-cultural engagement.
- Reduces polarization by fostering international collaboration and understanding.

Established Networks

- **Sister Cities International** – A national initiative promoting cultural, economic, and technical exchanges.
- **Sister Cities Network for Sustainable Development** – Focused on city partnerships for sustainable growth.



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The EOC is committed to completing the necessary steps for this partnership once it receives approval from the Common Council. Please see the attached documents outlining the process for moving forward. Establishing this sister-city relationship will not only honor Whitewater's cultural heritage but also create new opportunities for its residents.

Becky Magestro
Chief of Staff City of Whitewater