

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 231

Approved April 12, 1985

WHEREAS, The Members of the City Council of Providence, Rhode Island desire to establish a City Sister Relationship between their city and Niquinohomo, and

WHEREAS, Niquinohomo is a town of 13,000 in an agricultural region, south of the capitol city of Managua, a very pretty-but poor town, and

WHEREAS, They have recently begun paving the main streets, have developed health services and started a high school and night school in town, they are a leader in immunization campaigns to eliminate infectious diseases, infant mortality and have begun prenatal care programs, and

WHEREAS, a City Sister Relationship will promote understanding between the people of two countries and facilitate fund-raising efforts, for humanitarian aid to the town, such as school and medical supplies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That His Honor the Mayor, and the Members of the City Council of Providence, Rhode Island, hereby declare and establish an Official City Sister Relationship between their City of Niquinohomo.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 4 1985

READ AND PASSED

Richard W. Estor PRES
Robert M. Menlove CLERK

APPROVED

APR 12 1985

Julius

Council President Easton

Sister City Proposal

Proposal

To introduce into the Providence City Council a resolution to officially establish a Sister City relationship between Providence and the town of Niquinohomo, Nicaragua, in Central America.

The proposal might include a symbolic gesture such as exchanging keys to the city, but would involve no monetary outlay.

Purpose

To promote understanding between the people of the two countries, and to facilitate fund-raising efforts for humanitarian aid to the town, such as school and medical supplies.

Rationale

Niquinohomo ("Nicki-Nomo") is a town of 13,000 in an agricultural region about an hour south of the capitol city of Managua. One of the Sister City Project members, Bill Warren, met with the town's elected Community Development Commission (the town council) on a trip to Nicaragua in January, 1985. Sister City relationships have been established between New Haven and Leon, Seattle and Managua, and several other cities, and the Community Development Commission in Niquinohomo was very interested in establishing a similar relationship.

Like the rest of Nicaragua, Niquinohomo is pretty but very poor, and the 11-member Commission is responsible for raising the town's standard of living. The elected Town Coordinator, Carloz Romero Lopez, said they have succeeded in paving the main streets, developing health services, opening the first low-cost pharmacy, and starting a high school and night school in town. The region has been a leader in the immunization campaigns that have eliminated polio and dramatically reduced measles, malaria, and infant mortality, and extensive prenatal care programs have been started. There are three schools in Niquinohomo, one public

and one parochial elementary school and the new high school, which graduated its first class in 1981. There is also a large Catholic church on the main square.

The Commission has ambitious plans for the town, but little in the way of resources. There are severe shortages of basic school supplies such as pencils, paper, and books, and the Commission plans to add five classrooms to the school building. There are also shortages ^{of} medical supplies. The top priority is a medical vehicle such as a jeep to service the rural areas, and the Commission wants to build the first infirmary in town, with 10 to 12 beds. Other projects include continuation of street paving, improving the town square, and adding books to the small town library.

There is a great opportunity for people in Providence to have a real impact on a town the size of Niquinohomo. The Sister City Project envisions sending a delegation of teachers, clergy, and community leaders to visit Niquinohomo, setting up correspondence between school children, church groups, and business groups, organizing donations of books and school supplies, and raising funds for a medical vehicle or contributions toward a new infirmary. In the process, citizens of Providence and Niquinohomo will increase their mutual understanding of the two countries, their problems, and their commonalities.

An official declaration by the Providence City Council would aid immensely in gaining community interest and support for this effort.

Providence Sister City Project

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