



City of South San Francisco
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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South San Francisco Delegation Returns Home After Visiting Sister City in Mexico
Group celebrates 30th Anniversary of Sister City Relationship

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., October 14, 2016 – It's been more than a decade since members of the South San Francisco Rotary Club visited Atotonilco el Alto, Mexico, so last week's trip is something the Sister City committee president, Frank McAuley, said was long overdue.

"Their delegation has made several trips to the United States during our 30 year relationship with them, so our trip was certainly a timely and productive one," said McAuley.



Ten representatives from South San Francisco, which consisted of Mayor Mark Addiego, South San Francisco Unified School District Board and Sister City committee members, spent last week in Atotonilco discussing ways in which to further strengthen the relationship between the two cities.

The group visited many sites in Atotonilco, including Avenida South San Francisco where the City of Atotonilco unveiled a large granite monument showcasing the South San Francisco City seal, which also includes the Biotech seal. The group was accompanied by members of the Rotary Club of Atotonilco, the Presidente Municipal of Atotonilco El Alto, and several of its Council members during their entire visit.

Michele Evans, one of the representatives from South San Francisco delegation, said the Sister Cities relationship has been instrumental in supporting sustainable programs to benefit the orphanage, hospital, and senior center in Atotonilco. She also adds that involving our youth is

another important goal. "Another milestone we hope to accomplish in the future is to develop cultural and educational exchange opportunities between the South San Francisco High Schools and the high schools in Atotonilco."

The U.S. sister city program began in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a people-to-people, citizen diplomacy initiative. Originally a program of the National League of Cities, Sister Cities International became a separate, nonprofit corporation in 1967, due to the growth and popularity of the U.S. program. The Sister Cities program is designed as means for cultural exchange. A community of any size decides to join with a community in another nation to learn more about one another. Sister City relationships begin for a variety of reasons. Generally sister city partnerships share similar demographics and town size.

The Sister Cities of South San Francisco are:

- Atotonilco El Alto, Mexico
- Kishiwada, Japan
- Lucca, Italy
- Pasig City, Philippines
- Saint Jean Pied de Port

More than 2,000 cities, states and counties are partnered in 136 countries around the world. For more pictures on the Sister City visit, please visit our Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofSouthSanFrancisco.

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About the City of South San Francisco

The City of South San Francisco proudly remains *The Industrial City*, a reflection of its steel mill and ship building past, redefined to reflect the innovative, entrepreneurial and industrious spirit which has made South San Francisco the Biotech Capital of the World, with 211 active biotech companies and growing. A vibrant community of 64,585 residents, South San Francisco enjoys a high quality of life with an extensive public parks system, active library and learning programming and a dynamic, engaged community making South San Francisco a great place to live, learn, work and play.