



# CITY of SAN ANTONIO

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**RON NIRENBERG, Mayor**

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April 11, 2022

To The Board of Directors of Sister Cities International:

It is with great excitement that I submit my letter of recommendation for the appointment of San Antonio City Councilman Manny Pelaez to serve on the Board of Directors of Sister Cities International.

A fellow Trinity University Tiger, I have known Manny Pelaez now for more than 20 years and worked with him on City Council for the past five years. In this time, I have seen him serve the community in countless impactful ways that I believe make him a strong contender to serve on this board. The first Colombian elected official in the City of San Antonio, Manny is a globally minded leader who possesses robust cultural competencies and a marked ability to build bridges across cultures.

When Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing, North America was looking to build roots in San Antonio, Manny was a coveted first hire as their Managing Counsel for Texas and Mexico. Even before he was elected to serve as a City Councilman, Manny had already demonstrated his ability to build consensus, create dynamic partnerships, and catalyze change as a VIA Metropolitan Trustee, Chairman of the Brooks City Base Development Authority, and Board Member of San Antonio's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Greater Chamber of Commerce. When he was elected, he brought with him strong international credentials through his work as a Chair for the In-House Counsel Committee of the U.S.-Mexico Bar Association.

As a Councilman, Manny has led critical projects and instilled confidence in his leadership via his roles as Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee and Chair of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee. In the intergovernmental role, Manny employs his decades of legal, management, and government affairs experience to build and leverage relationships between the city and local, state, and federal entities. In his economic development work, he helps attract major U.S. and international businesses to our community to build new jobs and invest in San Antonio.

Underscoring his ability to champion Sister Cities International, Councilman Pelaez is a strong emissary to our Sister City in Darmstadt and has jumpstarted a local program to expand San Antonio's relationships in Latin America beyond Mexico. As a result, our city formed a task force with international membership to build new relationships with cities in Panama and Colombia, with the planning for trade missions already underway.

It is for these reasons that I have the utmost confidence in Manny Pelaez's leadership and ability to excel as a Board Member of Sister Cities International. I ask that you give his application every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Nirenberg", enclosed within a circular scribble.

Ron Nirenberg  
Mayor, City of San Antonio