



**Office of the Mayor**  
Ron Nirenberg



## **CITY HOSTS HISTORIC SIGNING BETWEEN TWO MAJOR GLOBAL CITIZEN DIPLOMACY ORGANIZATIONS: AGREEMENT TO BENEFIT CITY GROWTH**

**San Antonio, TX** – Two historic and influential global nonprofits signed an agreement Tuesday to improve relations among its organizations. The historic signing took place today on November 19<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio.

The National League of Cities (NLC) and Sister Cities International (SCI) agreed to develop better communication, networking, and outreach between membership cities, states, and countries who have active memberships. This commitment signifies a more targeted effort and initiative to tackle important global issues that affect our communities. This includes, but is not limited to, economic growth, environmental protection, and political discourse.

“City to city diplomacy creates the infrastructure for future peace and prosperity between nations,” said San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, who currently sits as Chairman of Sister Cities International (SCI). “Every city has a role in strengthening public diplomacy and the significance of city diplomacy in this era of geopolitical challenge cannot be understated. Bringing local government by way of the National League of Cities closer to this goal through collaboration with Sister Cities International will be transformative.”

NLC and SCI have a shared history. NLC has served U.S. cities, towns, villages and state municipal leagues since 1924. SCI’s origins date from the 1956 White House Summit on Citizen Diplomacy. The NLC, then the American Municipal Association, approved participation in a joint cooperative program with the Civic Committee of People-to-People to further the U.S. Sister Cities program on July 24, 1957 for sustained community to community connection.

“The National League of Cities is proud to formalize our partnership with Sister Cities International,” said Clarence E. Anthony, CEO and Executive Director of the National League of Cities (NLC). “This partnership represents an important step in our shared commitment to building stronger, more prosperous communities. There is no better place to sign this agreement than in the global city of San Antonio, Texas, as we kick off NLC’s 2019 City Summit conference. We look forward to the important work that lies ahead.”

As its Town Affiliation Program, SCI was spun out and incorporated as an independent public benefit organization in 1967. Since then, NLC and SCI have cooperated on a periodic and/or episodic basis. This MOU is intended to formalize continuing collaboration for programmatic and cost efficiency, and leveraging each organization’s strengths.

“This is a significant moment in the history for our country, to have two of the biggest city membership organizations come together to build a stronger and more prosperous America,” said Roger Mark De Souza, President and CEO of Sister Cities International. “We will be connecting on another level with the rest of the world to improve partnerships and communication between global communities.”

For media inquiries, you can contact Carolina Krauskopf, Communications Manager at SCI at [ckrauskopf@sistercities.org](mailto:ckrauskopf@sistercities.org)

# # #

**About Sister Cities International:** Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for close to 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 1,800 communities in 137 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance. Visit [sistercities.org/](http://sistercities.org/)

**About National League of Cities:** [The National League of Cities \(NLC\)](http://www.nlc.org/) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people. NLC works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions. Stay connected with NLC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

**San Antonio: America's 21st Century City:** San Antonio is a global city with a dynamic economy and workforce, a deep cultural heritage and diverse communities that are resilient and welcoming. It is one of the strongest fiscally managed cities in the country, nurturing entrepreneurship, encouraging investment and funding infrastructure. America's seventh-largest city offers a vibrant business climate and growth opportunities in bioscience, financial services, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy, transportation, manufacturing and healthcare. In 2015, UNESCO designated San Antonio's 18th century Spanish colonial missions as a World Heritage Site – the first in Texas. Proudly called Military City, USA®, San Antonio is home to one of the largest populations of active duty military, veterans and crucial military commands. For more information, visit [www.sanantonio.gov](http://www.sanantonio.gov).