



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH
A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE CITY OF MILPITAS, USA, AND
THE COMUNE DI FIGLINE VALDARNO, ITALY

Whereas, based upon the rapport as the basis of friendship between the County of Santa Clara and the Province of Florence since 1987, and reinforced by strengthening the bond established through the years of reciprocal cooperation, and;

Whereas, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the Council of the Province of Florence recognized and commended the City of Milpitas and the Comune di Figline Valdarno on November 8, 2011, for combined efforts to recognize areas of interest through the cultivation of relationships among their peoples, and;

Whereas, civic and government representatives of both cities met in Comune di Figline Valdarno on October 6, 2011 on the occasion of an official visit to the Province of Florence and in the presence of the Provincial Administrator to discuss reciprocal interests and to begin a sister city (twinning) relationship which would contribute to a cultural exchange of a better understanding of respective traditions, and;

Whereas, the Comune di Figline Valdarno presented its official crest to the City of Milpitas as a symbol of interest in forming a sister city relationship during this visit of October 6, 2011, and;

Whereas, the Milpitas City Council approved establishing a sister city relationship with Figline Valdarno on December 6, 2011, and;

Whereas, in order to begin a successful sister city relationship between the City of Milpitas and the Comune di Figline Valdarno, both cities agree to the following focus areas and expectations:

1. Encourage and support opportunities for mutually beneficial cultural exchanges. The exchanges do not have to always involve travel and can be realized through informational exchanges and sharing such as art, culture, history, business and commerce, education, and best practices for public health and safety and governmental administration.
2. Develop mutual cooperation to expand business and scientific information between schools, universities and research institutes, and the cultural connections in the areas of education and training for youth, and facilitating communication between young people of our two cities.
3. Recognize the financial constraints of both cities when planning cultural exchange visits or sharing projects and include innovative and lower-cost options such as individual "pen pal" connections between students (and all means of social media such as email, Facebook, Twitter, Skype, etc.).
4. To recognize visits of officials, civic, business and school groups of both cities as ambassadors of goodwill to organize cultural exchanges that may include travel at their own expense.
5. Cultural exchange visit details and activities, including the number of visitors, shall be mutually agreed upon between Milpitas and Figline Valdarno. Planning for visits shall begin at least twelve (12) weeks before the date of travel.
6. City contacts will maintain and facilitate open channels of communication and cooperation on questions of common concern and during exchange planning.

The City of Milpitas and the Comune of Figline Valdarno, in consideration of their respective policies and procedures, commit themselves to realize the objectives indicated above with the certainty that our initiative of cooperation will reinforce the rapport of friendship begun with the acceptance of this Memorandum of Understanding for at least two years effective May 8, 2012.

City of Milpitas
On its behalf

Jose Esteves, Mayor
May 8, 2012

Comune di Figline Valdarno
On its behalf

Dott. Riccardo Nocentini, Mayor
8 May 2012