



Karlshamn – 2010.12.17

Attn. City of Milpitas
Mr Jose Esteves
Mayor of Milpitas

Dear Mr Esteves,

Thank you for your interest in the Municipality of Karlshamn and the offer made by the City of Milpitas and the Sister Cities Commission, to establish a cooperation between Karlshamn and Milpitas.

I have visited your website and read about Milpitas which seems to be an interesting city. However, I feel that we don't have enough information to give you an answer concerning a sister city cooperation.

In Karlshamn we have historically a strong bond to the United States. During the great emigration in the 19th century people from different parts of Sweden travelled to Karlshamn in order to take one of the many boats that sailed to the USA. Currently, we have some American citizens living in Karlshamn and we also have an active Swedish-American association.

Karlshamn is a small municipality in the south of Sweden with about 31 000 inhabitants. We are situated in the middle of the Baltic Sea region, one of EU's fastest growing macroregions which is strategically very important for us. In the development of our municipality we have chosen focus areas such as:

- Triple helix cooperation
- Transport and logistics
- Energy
- Food sector
- Tourism
- Attractive living

Our international cooperation is focused to the Baltic Sea region but we are open also for cooperation with partners from other parts of the world such as the city of Milpitas.

However, before we take a decision we would like to know why you would like to establish a sister city relationship with Karlshamn? Do you have any specific area of cooperation in mind that both our cities could benefit from?

Kind Regards,

Sven-Åke Svensson
Mayor of Karlshamn