

**From:** [Sheri Furman](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Nov 15 Council Agenda Item 13 -- PAN Letter re Sibling Cities  
**Date:** Friday, November 12, 2021 7:36:49 PM

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Dear Mayor DuBois, Vice Mayor Burt, and Council Members,

Palo Alto Neighborhoods enjoyed hearing about Sibling Cities USA from its founder Palo Alto Altan Vicki Veenker. We whole-heartedly support Mayor Dubois and council members Lydia Kou and Greer Stone in their colleagues' memo. It is exciting that Palo Alto and Bloomington, Indiana have joined to launch the pilot program.

PAN would like to assist Mayor DuBois and the steering committee in encouraging Palo Altans to participate in this program of shared community engagement, exploration of economic collaboration, cultural exchange, and perspectives on civic issues and city management, with the lofty goal of bridging divides on the role of government, race and the economy, while sharing and exploring our commonalities as well as our differences.

Additionally, PAN is happy to assist in setting up relationships with counterpart neighborhood grassroots organizers in Bloomington.

We understand that Neighbors Abroad will be adding this effort to the work they already do in the international sister cities arena without additional cost to the city, which is most generous. Plus we encourage the steering committee to leverage organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, etc. These organizations already have significant national infrastructure in place and will save our having to "reinvent all the wheels" in this exciting new effort.

We heartily approve of this outreach to build trust and to collaborate on best practices for residents' participation in city government and look forward to participating in a program to foster national unity.

Thank you,

Becky Sanders

Sheri Furman

Co-Chairs

## Palo Alto Neighborhoods

**From:** [Alaee, Khashayar](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Cc:** [Dana Tom](#); [Karen Rohde](#); [Ben Threlkeld](#)  
**Subject:** Rotary Club of Palo Alto Supports Bloomington Sibling City Relationship  
**Date:** Friday, November 12, 2021 11:34:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [Rotary Club of Palo Alto Supports Sibling City Relationship with Bloomington.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Palo Alto's Board of Directors please see attached support letter for the proposed Palo Alto - Bloomington Sibling City Relationship.

Sincerely,

Khashayar "Cash" Alaee, President 2021-22

Cc:

Dana Tom, District 5170 Assistant Governor, Palo Alto Club President 2019-20

Karen Rohde, President Elect 2022-23

Ben Threlkeld, Immediate Past President 2020-21

### **About the Rotary Club of Palo Alto**

Chartered on May 1, 1922, the Rotary Club of Palo Alto is celebrating A Century of Service. Palo Alto Rotarians share a passion for local and international community service. Rotary's causes include promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment. Being a Rotarian allows members to connect with community leaders, learn about various topics through insightful speakers, and make an impact in their community and around the world through service projects. For more information, please visit the Rotary Club of Palo Alto's website: [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org). The Rotary Club of Palo Alto meets on Mondays at 12:30 P.M. We welcome your attendance.



November 12, 2021

Dear Palo Alto City Council Members,

The Rotary Club of Palo Alto supports establishing a sibling city relationship with Bloomington, Indiana. The opportunity to support and partner with the City of Palo Alto, Neighbors Aboard and Sibling Cities USA in forming a new relationship with Bloomington was unanimously approved by our Board of Directors on October 13, 2021.

We look forward to participating in the effort by engaging with the Rotary Club of Palo Alto University and the Rotary Clubs in Bloomington. We can envision a task force with members from each club that identifies similar community needs/challenges, then develops a joint service project that engages members from each city. The task force can also brainstorm additional ways to connect and serve our two communities.

Rotarians are accustomed to collaborating nationally and internationally in service of our causes and through our avenues of service. Doing this with Bloomington offers us another avenue to live our motto of "service above self."

Sincerely,

Khashayar "Cash" Alaei, President 2021-22

Cc:

Dana Tom, District 5170 Assistant Governor, Palo Alto Club President 2019-20

Karen Rohde, President Elect 2022-23

Ben Threlkeld, Immediate Past President 2020-21

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**From:** [Bonnie Packer](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Sibling City USA - Nov 15 Agenda item 13  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:28:19 PM

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To Palo Alto City Council,

Dear Council Members,

The Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto wishes to notify you that we support the Sibling City USA Program with Bloomington, Indiana.

We look forward to being part of any service projects with Bloomington and part of building the relationship between the two cities.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Packer, President, Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto

Lisette Narragon, Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto Service Committee Chair