

AN ORDINANCE 2009-03-12-0193

**APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF DRESDEN, SAXONY IN GERMANY CONFIRMING AN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ALLIANCE AS A PRECURSOR TO A POTENTIAL SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREAS**, San Antonio's German community leaders spent years in search of the ideal German city to establish a presence in Europe, finally selecting the City of Dresden for its strong scientific, technological, manufacturing, education, trade and cultural assets; and

**WHEREAS**, post-war reconstruction provided Dresden with next-generation scientific research and auto manufacturing, and its proximity to the Polish and Czech borders mirrors San Antonio's cross-border activity with Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, its rich cultural heritage and location on the River Elbe hold promise for mutual interest in a variety of sectors and the Cities concur that a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") provides an ideal vehicle through which to strengthen the relationship and promote cooperation in these fields; and

**WHEREAS**, in the terms of the MOU, the Cities subscribe to the following principles:

1. Dresden, Saxony in Germany and San Antonio, Texas in the USA, declare themselves to be *Economic and Cultural Alliance Cities*, and thus commit to establish and enhance relations between their respective communities; and
2. The cities will cooperate by exchanging information and seeking to establish exchange programs on economic development, science, education, culture, and other fields of mutual interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of San Antonio International Affairs Department will serve as the lead support for this Alliance in San Antonio, in cooperation with local support entities such as the Sister Cities of San Antonio Corporation and the Office of the Honorary Consul of Germany; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dresden will entrust coordinating duties to a high-ranking member of its municipal government or an equally important member of its community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that it is in the best interests of the City of San Antonio to enter into the proposed MOU; **NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:**

**SECTION 1.** The City Council approves the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Dresden, Saxony in Germany, a copy of which is attached in substantially final form as Attachment I, confirming an *Economic and Cultural Alliance* between the cities.

**SECTION 2.** The City Council authorizes the Mayor and the City Manager, or her designee, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding approved in Section 1.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon the affirmative vote of at least eight (8) City Councilmembers. In the event that less than eight (8) affirmative votes are garnered, then this ordinance shall be effective on the tenth (10th) day after passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.

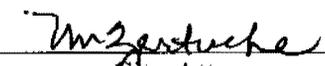


M A Y O R  
**PHIL HARDBERGER**

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
for City Attorney

## ATTACHMENT I

**ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ALLIANCE**  
**"Investment, Trade, Science, Education, Arts and Culture**  
**Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding"**

**Between**

**CITY OF DRESDEN, SAXONY**  
**GERMANY**

**&**

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**  
**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Preamble**

In 1925, Johannes Scholze, a young woodcarver from Dresden, Germany immigrated to San Antonio, Texas to begin a new life. Having been in San Antonio for only two months John Tobin, the then Mayor of San Antonio, learned of this young talented woodcarver from Germany and asked him if he would design and hand carve out of oakwood the first coat of arms for the city. Johannes Scholze gracefully accepted and shortly thereafter presented the San Antonio City Council with the coat of arms that emblazons all City documents and offices to this day.

In this same spirit of friendship, desiring to bring closer the peoples of Dresden and San Antonio, and taking into consideration the mutual interest to leverage the economic and cultural strengths of their respective communities, The City of Dresden, Saxony in Germany and the City of San Antonio, Texas in the United States of America, (collectively, "the Cities"), confirm the willingness to seek an **Economic and Cultural Alliance** between the Cities and more specifically, between areas of mutually beneficial exchange.

**Terms of Understanding**

The Cities desire to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") to facilitate the reciprocal exchange of investment, trade, science, education and culture.

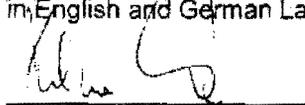
Observing standing laws and regulations of the respective Cities, the Mayor of Dresden, the Honorable Helma Orosz, and the City Council of San Antonio, through its Mayor, the Honorable Phil Hardberger, and City Manager Sheryl Sculley, subscribe to the following principles for the purposes expressed above:

1. Dresden, Saxony in Germany and San Antonio, Texas in the USA, declare themselves to be *Economic and Cultural Alliance Cities*, and thus commit to establish and enhance relations between their respective communities.
2. The Cities will cooperate by exchanging information and seeking to establish exchange programs on economic development, science, education, culture, and other fields of mutual interest.

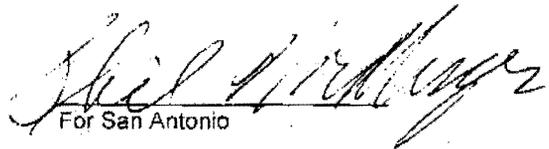
3. In San Antonio, the City of San Antonio International Affairs Department will serve as the lead support organization for this Alliance in cooperation with local support entities such as the Sister Cities of San Antonio Corporation and the Office of the Honorary Consul of Germany. In Dresden, the City of Dresden will entrust coordinating duties to a high-ranking member of its municipal government or an equally important member of its community.

The MOU will have a two (2) year term renegotiable after that period in accordance with the interests and desires of both Cities. Termination of this MOU will have no effect on existing or current programs and projects not the subject of this MOU.

Given and signed in Dresden, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February in the Year 2009, in duplicate in English and German Languages.

  
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For Dresden

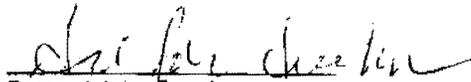
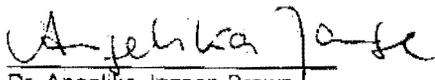
Hon. Helma Orosz  
Mayor of Dresden  
Free State of Saxony  
Federal Republic of Germany

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For San Antonio

Hon. Phil Hardberger  
Mayor of San Antonio  
Texas  
United States of America

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheryl Sculley  
City Manager  
San Antonio  
Texas  
United States of America

**Witnesses**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernard John Buecker  
Honorary Consul General of Germany,  
Co-chair of German Sister City Task Force  
San Antonio  
Texas  
United States of America  
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Dr. Angelika Jansen Brown  
Co-Chair German Sister City Task Force  
San Antonio  
Texas  
United States of America