

WHEREAS: The residents of San Jose Las Flores (through the organizations of the church, international solidarity and CRIPDES) reached out to the city of Cambridge to support its renewed existence with the hope that international attention might offer protection from on-going military violence (which turned out to be true when, three months after the repopulation, the Army “captured” eleven members of the community and pressure from Cambridge, in the form of telephone calls and telegrams to the Salvadoran President and a delegation, comprised mostly of lawyers, secured their release); and

WHEREAS: This relationship of a sister city between Cambridge and San Jose las Flores, was formalized in March of 1987 to offer protection, material aid and solidarity with a concerned municipal government and community; and

WHEREAS: With the end of the war in 1992, the tasks of San Jose Las Flores turned to securing land ownership, building an infrastructure of roads, communication and basic sanitation, developing education and health, creating the means of sustainable livelihood and tackling the new challenges facing the country as a whole of unequal distribution of land, violence, diminished political/electoral access, educational inequities, and the rise of sweat shops and free trade policies which threaten agricultural life and Salvadoran self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge has continued its sistering in these years through organizing delegations of teachers, students, health promoters, city officials, clergy; offering technical and material support; sponsoring resolutions to address relevant political concerns, with the participation of the Cambridge Salvadoran community and has received the inspiration and modeling of the people of San Jose Las Flores including education and materials which have made their way into Cambridge classrooms and are the origin of Cambridge curricula about Central America and peacemaking; and

WHEREAS: In the 20 years of its existence as an organized, conscious community, San Jose las Flores has achieved many successes including collective access to ownership of land and houses of the community, the creation of a series of cooperatives (cattle, weaving, sewing, dairy, baking, tourism, agriculture), a fully operative health clinic which provides prevention and interventive care to every member of the community and the surrounding areas, an educational system K-12 with fully accredited teachers, a thriving church community with a convent and lay leadership and the continued commitment to a consciousness of communal well-being for all peoples; and

WHEREAS: San Jose Las Flores is a beacon of self-determination and the power of organizing for neighboring communities and the country; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge does honor San Jose Las Flores on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, June 20th, 2006; and be it further

- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge Council supports the presence of a special anniversary delegation from Cambridge comprised of City Councillor Marjorie Decker, city department heads Cathy Hoffman, Nancy Ryan, city aide Nicole Bukowski, CRLS teachers Rachel Wyon, Eileen Taxe-Levine, Ellen Myers, CRLS graduates Erica Sagrans, Kieran Pearson, Cynthia Orellana, Leigh Hardy, Mario Wyon, Sister City Committee founders James and Julia Wallace, Jack Spence, Susan Freireich, Mario Davila and residents Van Hardy, France Belizaine, Angélica Brisk and daughters Alejandra and Isabella Tumble, Sarah Hershey and Shawn Mattison, Jeanne Gallo, Sunny Robinson many of whom have been part of past delegations; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council does invite the public to hear of the achievements and observations from the delegation at their report-back to be held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2006; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to San Jose Las Flores on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 12, 2006.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

R-30.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 12, 2006

COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR KELLEY
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
MAYOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR TOGMEY

WHEREAS: For much of the 1980's El Salvador was ravaged by a war funded by the United States and waged against poor farmers, labor organizers, priests and nuns, students, women, teachers and all who sought human rights and equity; and

WHEREAS: One of the centers for this courageous organizing was the rural department of Chalatenango and the town of San Jose las Flores; and

WHEREAS: As a result of military incursions and bombings to carry out a policy of depopulation, residents of the area were subject to forced evacuations and conditions of life which included the burning of crops, destruction of homes and deaths of many family members; and

WHEREAS: In 1983 the Salvadoran Armed Forces destroyed San José las Flores forcing the community's survivors to seek refuge in the hills or in refugee camps and in a camp for displaced people outside San Salvador; and

WHEREAS: In June 1986, with the support of international solidarity and church support, 120 former residents of San José las Flores challenged the government's depopulation strategy by leaving the camp for displaced people and returning to repopulate their village, their "land of origin"; and

WHEREAS: The newly repopulated community with the leadership of the directiva set about to rebuild homes, community buildings and the church, plant crops, foster literacy through popular education, provide basic health through health promoters and try to ensure its safety against further attacks on its citizens all in the context of military maneuvers and isolation from the rest of the country; and

RESOLUTION #30

Invitation for Cantabrigians to hear
of the achievements and
observations from the El Salvador
delegation at their report-back
meeting on Wednesday, September
20, 2006.

**Councillor Decker and entire
membership**

**In City Council
June 12, 2006**

ORDER ADOPTED