

While attention in Bloomington focuses on its Central American **sister city**, Posoltega, Nicaragua, devastated by Hurricane Mitch, a Bloomington **City Council** member is raising support for developing another international relationship.

Tony Pizzo will propose a resolution today supporting the formation of a **sister city** relationship between Bloomington and the Cuban **city** Santa Clara.

"We found the conditions in **Cuba** to be as deplorable as those in Nicaragua," said Pizzo. "We think the federal government's attitude toward **Cuba** is inappropriate and is harming the Cuban people. Hopefully, we can make our country as compassionate as our **city**."

Sister Cities International does not officially recognize **sister** cities in countries where the United States does not have diplomatic relations.

Pizzo said the idea was initiated a couple of years ago by Jack Hopkins, a former **city** council member and a professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

But the process was slow. It began with research to find a **city** with characteristics similar to Bloomington's.

"It's been very slow for all kinds of reasons," Hopkins said. "Communications have been difficult. The Cuban government has moved very slowly in every step of the way."

Eventually the small group of about 15 Bloomington residents began to get a favorable response from **Cuba**.

The residents made a trip to Santa Clara with artwork from school children, medical supplies, clothing and other items, Hopkins said.

Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez signed a letter of friendship. Authorities in **Cuba** suggested it might help if the group had the support of the Bloomington **City Council**, Hopkins said.

Also today, the council will consider a resolution in response to the recent dissemination of hate literature in Bloomington.

The council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers in **City Hall**, 401 N. Morton St.

CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

Jennifer Jill Fowler; Herald-Times Staff Writer, 'Council to consider new sister city - Despite political and bureaucratic roadblocks, Pizzo suggests ties with Santa Clara, Cuba', *Herald-Times* (online), 9 Nov 1998 <<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.ezproxy.monroe.lib.in.us/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/1446A5E98B2ED6B8>>