

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



MEETING DATE: January 5, 2010 **ITEM NUMBER:** 6A
TYPE OF ITEM: Special Presentation
PRESENTED BY: Leslie Anderton, Co-President, Longmont Sister Cities Association
Marietta Gonzales, Board Member, Longmont Sister Cities Association
Rigo Leal, Public Information Officer, ext. 8840

SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE: Presentation of Plaque from Longmont's sister city, Ciudad Guzman, Mexico

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: In September 2009 Longmont Sister Cities (LSCA) teamed up with the Longmont Fire Department to donate a surplus brush truck to Longmont's sister city, Ciudad Guzman. Three firemen from Ciudad Guzman came to Longmont to take possession of the brush truck. Officials from Ciudad Guzman have sent a plaque to Longmont and will be presented to the Longmont City Council by members of the Longmont Sister Cities Association as an official thank you from our sister city, to the Longmont Fire Department and the citizens of Longmont for their efforts in making the brush truck available to them.

COUNCIL OPTIONS: None, information only, photo opportunity

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS: None, information only

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION: None

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS: More than three years ago the fire chief from Ciudad Guzman traveled to Longmont at the time of LSCA's student exchange in August and spoke to LSCA and Longmont Rotary about their urgent need for a pumper fire truck. Because there is only one fire hydrant in all of the area of Zapatlan el Grande, the fire department needs to haul its water to all fires. They had only one old pumper truck and it was inadequate for a city with a population of over 110,000.

Later that year Scott Snyder from the Longmont Fire Department and Marietta Gonzales from LSCA visited Ciudad Guzman to assess the city's needs. During their three day visit they were shown their existing meager equipment, met the 18 firemen of the Ciudad Guzman fire department and assessed the needs of the town. Upon their return, Scott presented his assessment to Longmont Sister Cities and the Longmont Rotary and discussions began in an attempt to purchase a pumper truck for Ciudad Guzman. Extensive problems were encountered, primarily with the required papers to make an international donation such as this.

Scott Snyder's interest in Ciudad Guzman's problems and his professional understanding of the needs in Ciudad Guzman continued. He learned of a surplus brush truck in the Longmont Fire Department equipment pool that had been purchased four years earlier for \$1 from the Mountain View Fire Department. Discussions began with Longmont Sister Cities to purchase the truck for



\$1 and then to transfer the ownership to the Ciudad Guzman Fire Department for the same amount.

After more than a month of planning and work on the part of the fire chief in Ciudad Guzman and members of Longmont Sister Cities arrangements were made for a member of LSCA to drive the brush truck to El Paso, transfer the sale to the Ciudad Guzman Fire Department at the border, and to have the Mexican fire men drive the truck on to Ciudad Guzman.

In mid-September, the fire chief and two other fire fighters from Ciudad Guzman arrived in Longmont to learn about the operation of the Longmont Fire Department and to take possession of the brush truck. While the foreign fire fighters were in Longmont they participated in Ladder exercises and a hazardous materials training. Fire fighter Juan Salmon, a fireman from Station 1, acted as translator and host while they were in Longmont. LSCA board member, Beau Townsend, drove the truck from Longmont to El Paso. The truck arrived in Ciudad Guzman on September 22.

The plaque being presented to the Longmont City Council is an official thank you from our sister city, Ciudad Guzman, to the Longmont Fire Department and the citizens of Longmont for their efforts in making the brush truck available to them.

ATTACHMENTS: None