

## **Resolution in Support of the Somerville/Cambridge Sister City Delegation to San Jose Las Flores, El Salvador**

**WHEREAS**, the Somerville Public Schools values the exceptional partnerships that connect our students to communities around the world and that expand our knowledge of the beautiful diverse cultures that make up our own community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to supporting efforts that expand our impact as educators and caring human beings; and

**WHEREAS**, the city of Somerville is home to many Salvadoran families who enrich our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Somerville's status as a Sanctuary City and Somerville Public Schools' efforts to maintain a strong Educators for Sanctuary Schools demonstrates our commitment to recognizing and honoring our global community and serves as a foundation for a strong Sister City relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Somerville Public Schools and the Somerville community have joined the long-standing efforts based in Cambridge to expand the Sister City Delegation to San Jose Las Flores, El Salvador; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Jose Las Flores community has demonstrated incredible resilience and commitment to rebuilding and strengthening its community, becoming the first community in El Salvador to re-establish itself after massive military attacks in the early 1980's through exceptional community organization efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, San Jose Las Flores serves as a model community in which the needs of all are the centerpiece of the village and where all rural residents have education, health care, housing, and a say in political and economic matters; and

**WHEREAS**, San Jose Las Flores continues to collectively and creatively address environmental and social challenges that may threaten their sense of community; and

**WHEREAS**, San Jose Las Flores serves as the center for the region in the development of popular education and community-based teaching and learning with the message of peace at the core; and

**WHEREAS**, our "sistering" across cities with San Jose Las Flores will contribute to more shared work for solidarity abroad and community justice at home;

**THEREFORE**; be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Somerville School Committee proudly support the Somerville Sister City delegation to San Jose Las Flores, El Salvador and deeply appreciates the sister cities' collective commitment to strengthening our global connections and building communities that honor and center the strengths of our wonderfully diverse members.

Voted: Unanimously

Date: March 20, 2023

By: Somerville School Committee