



LA-Beirut Sister Cities Organization PRESS OFFICE

For Immediate Release

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LA-Beirut Sister Cities Delegation Returns from Lebanon Ready to Continue Their Mission

LOS ANGELES (July 31, 2006) – The last members of the Los Angeles delegation returned Wednesday from the battered country of Lebanon after witnessing the accord that officially twinned the two cities on June 30th with a mission in hand to make a difference for the civilians of Lebanon.

The board of the LA-Beirut Sister Cities Organization announced today that the agency is planning to create humanitarian assistance for war victims in Lebanon. The relief, to be provided through various fund raising efforts including an entertainment rally in August, will provide shelter, clothing, and supplemental bulk food assistance for displaced Lebanese in Beirut and Southern Lebanon.

LA-Beirut, through the leadership of Councilmember Dennis Zine, also introduced a Motion in City Council in May to allow surplus City Equipment to be sold to Sister Cities for \$1.

Ferris Wehbe, president of the organization proposed that there be peace in the region through a cease fire and unity through humanitarian aid.

This assistance and call to action is in response to a severe and extreme damage inflicted on civilian regions of Lebanon. "The decision for additional assistance was recommended by our entire board following our assessments of the damaged areas and massive displacements," says organization president Ferris Wehbe. "Lebanon is in our minds and hearts as these tragic moments unfold. It is painful to witness the destruction here."

"Unity and humanitarian aid will help to meet the needs of the approximately 1 million people who have been affected by the bombings," Wehbe continued. "The people of Lebanon have done a heroic job in coping with the effects of this catastrophe. This additional assistance is a demonstration of the sympathy and support of the American people and a hope for mercy and peace."

Media Requests: Please direct to Michael Lloyd at Unique Image 818/727-7785.