



**Commissioners**  
Angelo Brown  
Neil Brunetz  
Elizabeth Jamison  
Leslie Patton  
Sheb True

**Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission  
Meeting Agenda  
October 7, 2025 6:00 PM  
Kennesaw City Hall Conference Room  
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)**

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- 1. Call to Order / Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
  - A. Minutes: June 10, 2025 Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission Meeting**  
Approval of the June 10, 2025, Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission Meeting minutes.
- 3. Financial Report**
- 4. Old Business**
- 5. New Business**
  - A. Memorandum of Understanding: Sister Cities/Friendship Agreement**  
Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Kennesaw and Montepulciano, Italy establishing a collaborative relationship.
- 6. Public Comments**
- 7. Staff Comment**
- 8. Adjourn**

**MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING**  
**CITY OF KENNESAW**  
**City Hall Conference Room**  
**(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)**  
**June 10, 2025**  
**6:00 PM**

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**1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Leslie Patton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Members Present: Leslie Patton, Angelo Brown, Neil Brunetz, and Sheb True

Staff Liaison Present: Anna Trapp

Council Liaison Absent: Anthony Gutierrez

Other attendees: Ken Hill, Site Director at Kennesaw State University's international educational facility in Montepulciano, Italy

**2. Old Business**

Ms. Trapp began introductions with the Commission, since this was the first time they had met following her appointment as Staff Liaison. Ms. Trapp and each Commission Member gave a brief overview of their professional backgrounds and what brought them to sit on the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission. Ms. Trapp also provided a brief overview of the status of the Commission, noting that three of the seven seats are currently open. Ms. Patton suggested that the City promote the three seats in an attempt to gain interest. Ms. Trapp agreed to work with the City Clerk to advertise and promote the open seats.

**3. New Business**

**A. Discussion: Next Steps to Establishing a Sister Cities Agreement with Montepulciano, Italy**

Ms. Trapp and Mr. Hill provided an update on the status of the communications with Montepulciano, Italy. In March, a Zoom call was held for introductions between Mayors Derek Easterling and Michele Angiolin. Following this Zoom call, Mr. Hill spoke with Mayor Angiolin's office while working at Kennesaw State University's campus site in Montepulciano, Italy, and they made the decision to move forward with creating a mutually acceptable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the relationship between the City of Kennesaw and Montepulciano, with the goal signing date of October 8, 2025.

Ms. Trapp then presented a template MOU for the Commission to review. It was discussed that feedback on the MOU would be returned to Ms. Trapp by Wednesday, June 18, 2025. Once changes are implemented, the draft copy will be returned to Montepulciano's Public Information Officer, Mattia Nocchi, for review by Mayor Angiolin and his staff. Once those edits are approved by the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission, the MOU will be presented to Kennesaw's Mayor and Council for approval.

Once the MOU is approved and signed by both municipalities, Kennesaw staff will work on the application to register as an official "Sister City" with the International Sister Cities organization.

**4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**5. Staff Comment**

Ms. Trapp noted that the next meeting would fall on Tuesday, July 8th. With no-one having any known conflicts, the members plan to meet again on that date at 6:00 p.m.

**6. Adjourn**

Motion by Mr. True to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brunetz. Vote taken, motion approved unanimously 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

DRAFT



## Item Report

**TO:** The Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission  
**FROM:** Anna Trapp, Assistant to the City Manager  
**DATE:** October 7, 2025  
**TITLE:** **Memorandum of Understanding: Sister Cities/Friendship Agreement**  
Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Kennesaw and Montepulciano, Italy establishing a collaborative relationship.

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### **Summary:**

Following several virtual meetings and discussions between City of Kennesaw Staff, the City leadership of Montepulciano, and KSU staff, the provided Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted and revised into this final product. The MOU establishes a structured collaborative relationship between the City of Kennesaw, Georgia and the City of Montepulciano, Italy, promoting cultural exchange, economic cooperation, educational partnerships, and friendship between the two communities.

### **Recommendation:**

City staff recommends approval of the MOU.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

### **Attachments:**

1. Sister Cities MOU Draft - 9.17.25

**FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT/ MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between the Municipality of Montepulciano (Tuscany, Italy) and the City of Kennesaw**  
**(Georgia, USA)**

**Whereas:**

Friendship agreements between communities and institutions promote long-lasting relationships based on shared values, mutual respect, and a common desire to enhance knowledge, culture, and human capital. The citizens of the communities mentioned in this agreement are called upon to be the true protagonists of exchanges at all levels and in multiple sectors: civic associations, economic and productive activities, education and training, sports and health, folklore traditions, and cultural events.

The **Municipality of Montepulciano**, located in the province of Siena, in Tuscany - Italy, has around 13,000 inhabitants and is internationally recognized for its historical, artistic, and gastronomic heritage. This ancient medieval and Renaissance town has preserved a vibrant cultural identity over the centuries, expressed through popular traditions such as the *Bravio delle Botti*, and renowned musical events like the *Cantiere Internazionale d'Arte*, the *Bruscello Poliziano*, and the *Live Rock Festival*. The town has a strong vocation for tourism based on the quality of its landscape and local products.

The municipality is set in a highly productive rural landscape, with gently rolling hills covered in vineyards, which produce the celebrated *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*, one of Italy's most prestigious wine denominations. The **Lake Montepulciano Nature Reserve**, an important protected area and destination for nature tourism, is a testament to the environmental richness and biodiversity of the area. In the nearby village of Sant'Albino, a thermal spa contributes to the town's wellness and tourism offerings. Montepulciano is also home to the **Nottola Hospital**, a key healthcare facility serving the southern part of the province of Siena and many residents from the neighboring region of Umbria.

The **City Kennesaw**, Georgia, traces its roots to the 1830s with the construction of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, around which settlements like Big Shanty grew due to its water supply and high ground. Big Shanty became notable during the Civil War, hosting Camp McDonald and witnessing the dramatic theft of the locomotive *The General* in 1862, an event later known as "The Great Locomotive Chase." After wartime destruction, the area was rebuilt and officially incorporated as the City of Kennesaw in 1887. The town grew slowly through the late 19th and early 20th centuries, relying on cotton and rail commerce, but suffered economic setbacks during the Great Depression. By the 1980s, Kennesaw began to thrive again as part of the Metropolitan Atlanta area with regional growth and commercial development. In the 2000s, the City invested in cultural and recreational facilities, including the 2003 expansion of the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, the opening of Swift-Cantrell Park in 2008, followed by Kennesaw Skate Park in 2013. Smith-Gilbert

Gardens, with over 3,000 plant species and a unique blend of art, history, and horticulture, began accepting paid admissions in 2009, further enhancing Kennesaw's cultural landscape. The City established an Entertainment District in 2019, opened the Kennesaw Recreation Center in 2022, and celebrated the opening of the Piedmont Bank Amphitheater at Depot Park in 2024, continuing a legacy of growth and community enrichment as the population surpassed 34,000 by 2024.

**Recalling that:**

**Kennesaw State University (KSU)**, with nearly 48,000 students, is one of the largest and most dynamic academic institutions in the southeastern United States. Since 1998, KSU has been present in Montepulciano, where it established its first international campus, contributing significantly to the restoration of the town's historic Fortress, which now serves as a center for cultural exchange and international academic programs.

Whereas a multi-year Agreement is still in force between the Municipality of Montepulciano and the Kennesaw State University Foundation for the use of the municipal premises located on the first floor of the Fortress of Montepulciano, where KSU has made a significant financial contribution to its restoration project.

Considering that a multi-year agreement (25 years) is still in force between the Municipality of Montepulciano and the Kennesaw State University Foundation, signed in 2013, for the use of the municipally owned premises located on the first floor of the Poliziana Fortress, KSU has made a significant contribution to the Fortress' renovation project and to the promotion of Montepulciano area to the City of Kennesaw and the State of Georgia.

KSU's presence represents a tangible bridge between the communities of Montepulciano and Kennesaw, generating meaningful exchanges between students, faculty, citizens, and institutions. Examples of past and ongoing initiatives include:

- Nursing student internships at Nottola Hospital (**health sector**);
- Digitalization workshops at Montepulciano's Historical Archives, including the cataloging of letters by Cosimo I de' Medici (**cultural sector**);
- Entrepreneurship and marketing activities carried out by KSU students in local wineries (**economic sector**).

**IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Friendship Agreement is to establish a structured collaborative relationship between the City of Kennesaw, Georgia (USA) and the City of Montepulciano (Italy), promoting cultural exchange, economic cooperation, educational partnerships, and friendship between the two communities.

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities

Each party agrees to:

- Promote cultural, educational, and economic exchanges that benefit both cities;
- Encourage cooperation among local businesses, schools, universities, and community organizations;
- Support tourism and economic development initiatives;
- Facilitate engagement and communication between residents of both cities;
- Organize joint events, delegations, and exchange programs.

## 3. Recognition of Kennesaw State University

The **central role of Kennesaw State University** is recognized as a key catalyst for dialogue and cooperation between the two communities, especially in the promotion of education, culture, and institutional collaboration.

## 4. Areas of Collaboration

The parties agree to jointly promote initiatives in the following areas:

- **Education and training:** through exchange programs, joint research, seminars, and internships;
- **Culture and heritage:** including shared events, archiving projects, art, music, and history;
- **Health and wellness:** by supporting clinical and practical experiences that benefit both communities;
- **Sustainable development and local economy:** promoting youth entrepreneurship and the enhancement of territorial resources;
- **Economy and typical products:** promotion of excellence (e.g. *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano*).

## 5. Terms and Conditions

- Both parties commit to principles of mutual respect, cooperation, and transparency;
- Any confidential information shared under this agreement will be protected and not disclosed without mutual consent;
- Intellectual property resulting from joint initiatives will be managed in accordance with applicable laws and mutual agreement;
- Disputes arising from this Memorandum will be resolved through good-faith negotiations between the parties.

## 6. Resource Support

Each city agrees to support the partnership through in-kind or collaborative contributions:

- **City of Kennesaw:** may provide support such as personnel coordination, local event planning, and promotional efforts;
- **City of Montepulciano:** support in welcoming delegations, offer cultural programming, and assist with local coordination of joint activities.

## 7. Amendment Procedure

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by written agreement between the parties. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing and approved by authorized representatives of both cities.

## 8. Termination Clause

Either party may withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding with written notice of 90 days. Such withdrawal shall not affect ongoing projects unless otherwise agreed.

## 9. Disclaimer

This Memorandum of Understanding is a non-binding agreement made in good faith, outlining the intentions and expectations of both parties. It does not create legal obligations or enforceable rights.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned representatives of the City of Kennesaw, Georgia (USA) and the City of Montepulciano (Italy), have entered into this Friendship Agreement.

### City of Kennesaw, Georgia, USA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### City of Montepulciano (SI), Italy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_