SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., July 9, 2020 – The South San Francisco Sister Cities program has won the 2020 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award, for cities with a population between 50,000 and 100,000. The Annual Awards Program highlights sister city program achievements and brings international recognition to each community's contributions to the citizen diplomacy movement. Sister Cities International established the Annual Awards Program in 1962 to recognize exceptional sister city programs.

"Through the Sister City Program our members have made lifelong friends around the world. It has enriched all of our lives and hopefully in the process, helped to bring the world together in some small way" says Frank McAuley, President of the South San Francisco Sister Cities Program.

South San Francisco has been a member of Sister Cities International since 1978, when the city first partnered with Lucca, Italy. Since then, South San Francisco has established a Sister Cities partnership with:

- Atotonilco El Alto, Mexico
- Kishiwada, Japan
- Lucca, Italy
- Pasig City, Philippines
- Saint Jean Pied de Port, France

"Winning this award sets the standard for what it means to be a citizen diplomat," says South San Francisco Mayor Rich Garbarino. "Being a part of the Sister Cities organization is a great way to further develop our diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties to cities around the world."

The City of South San Francisco was recognized during the Sister Cities International 2020 Virtual Annual Conference, which occurred July 8 and 9,
Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. Its mission is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation by establishing and maintaining city-to-city relationships. It coordinates with over 2,000 partnerships in more than 140 countries.

Learn more about our partnership with these five cities by visiting https://bit.ly/SisterCitySSF.

**About the City of South San Francisco**

The City of South San Francisco proudly remains *The Industrial City*, a reflection of its steel mill and ship building past, redefined to reflect the innovative, entrepreneurial and industrious spirit which has made South San Francisco the Biotech Capital of the World, with 217 active biotech companies and growing. A vibrant community of 67,585 residents, South San Francisco enjoys a high quality of life with an extensive public parks system, active library and learning programming and a dynamic, engaged community making South San Francisco a great place to live, learn, work and play.