

Chairman Bulova's Remarks

June 2010

Honorable Mayor Zhang Xiaolian, Distinguished Vice-Mayors and Members of the Harbin City Council, and all other esteemed dignitaries:

It is my great pleasure to appear before you today as our two jurisdictions join together as partners. I wish especially, Mister Mayor, to thank you, and Supervisor Gerry Hyland, for initiating this Sister Jurisdiction Relationship. On March 9, 2009, a similar Signing Ceremony was conducted in our Fairfax County Chambers. It was a great pleasure to receive your Harbin delegation at that time and we are very excited about this partnership.

Joining me at this ceremony are:

- **The Honorable Gerald Hyland, Supervisor of the Mount Vernon District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors,**
- **Gan Tektok Min, the Executive Vice President of Saga Technologies, and**
- **Barry Biggar, Director of Visit Fairfax, our Tourism Board.**

Fairfax County, is located near Washington D.C., spans 395 square miles and has a population of about 1.2 million residents. We are a very diverse community. In our School System, more than 100 languages are spoken in the homes of our students.

Nationally (and internationally) we are known for having one of the finest school systems in the country. Statistically, we are the safest community of our size in the U.S. and have been named the Best Managed Jurisdiction of our Size in the U.S. by Governing Magazine. We are business-friendly and environmentally aware. National media has referred to Fairfax County as "a job machine" and as "one of the greatest success stories of our times."

Our Board of Supervisors is excited about this Partnership for a number of reasons. We appreciate the opportunity to have a relationship with a part of the world that is the native home to so many of our residents. Asian-Americans are the largest and fastest growing minority group in Fairfax County, making up nearly 16% of our population. Our Asian population has brought to our country their impressive value system for education, industry, and family. We currently have 6 Chinese owned firms in Fairfax County. I expect that with this new Partnership, we will experience even more economic opportunity between our two jurisdictions.

I would like to thank you Mayor Xiaolian and Honorable Vice-Mayors for the outstanding itinerary prepared for our delegation. We are very pleased to be in your beautiful city and look forward to much mutually beneficial collaboration as our Sister Partnership matures.