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Troy Nash Leads Group to Cuba

Councilman Troy Nash, City Councilman 3rd District-at-large, will lead a People to People Mission in Understanding to Cuba. The delegation, which consists of approximately 30 professionals from around the country, is one of the few instances in which citizens of the United States are allowed in Cuba.

On January 5, 1999, President Clinton announced an expansion of people-to-people contacts and direct passenger flights to Cuba in order to facilitate travel of licensed persons from the U.S. to Cuba. However, travel to Cuba is restricted and only select categories of travelers are licensable. Tourist travel is not possible under U.S. law. The Treasury Department considers specific licenses on a case-by-case basis. The Mission being led by Councilman Nash is one that was approved by the Treasury Department.

"The Mission's purpose is to create a better understanding among people of both countries. We will study Cuba's political, economic, and social structure," said Councilman Nash. The itinerary includes meeting with Senior Governmental Officials, a briefing on the current state of U.S./Cuban relations by a representative of the United States Interests Section, and sharing dinner with a Cuban family in their home. The itinerary includes stops in Havana, Santa Clara, Trinidad and Varadero.

While in Trinidad, Councilman Nash will visit a local community health center to learn more about the public health system in Cuba. Despite recent shortages of supplies and medications, Cubans enjoy a high standard of health care accessible to all citizens.

Councilman Nash has traveled extensively and studied international trade law and business in France, England, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, China and the Czech Republic. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for People to People International.

A press conference is being planned upon Councilman Nash's return from Cuba to discuss his experiences. More information will follow.