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Krakow, Poland, is the newest S.F. sister city

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Move over Paris and Sydney - there's a new sister city for this town. San Francisco has added Krakow, Poland, to its growing list of about 15 sister cities.

The official signing ceremony will take place in Krakow on July 3. It looks like Mayor **Gavin Newsom** will send a representative to Poland rather than go himself.

The relationship will be celebrated today at the annual Polonaise Ball at San Francisco's Hotel Whitcomb that honors the founding of the 1791 Polish Constitution. It's true.

The partnership is intended to foster cultural, business and civic ties between the cities. San Francisco has sister cities from A (the Ivory Coast's Abijan and Italy's Assisi) to Z (Zurich, Switzerland), but this is the first one that starts with a K.

Power play: The city is a step closer to getting into the electricity business after a Friday vote to study and develop a "community choice aggregation" plan.

The program, nicknamed "public power light," involves the city buying power in bulk and then selling it to residents and businesses, which could still choose to buy energy from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Unlike other public power proposals, this plan does not involve the city owning transmission lines.

Under Friday's vote, the city's Public Utilities Commission will gather information on the proposal over the next five months and develop a plan.

Proponents argue the program could lead to cleaner energy sources and cheaper rates, while opponents say the private sector is a better choice when it comes to keeping costs down.

So much for promises: State alcohol regulators still seem to be going after some of San Francisco's all-ages nightclubs, despite some promises that the Alcohol Beverage Control agency was going to work with the venues.

As we reported several weeks ago, the ABC has been saying that venues such as Bottom of the Hill and Slim's are violating their liquor licenses by not serving enough food and making minor changes to their operations. The clubs contend these conditions have never been enforced before and that in some cases they weren't aware of them.

Following our story, ABC Chief **Steve Hardy** sat down with state Sen. **Mark Leno** and pledged to work with the legislator on ways to keep the clubs in business. Club owners thought that meant the agency would put on hold the cases against them.

But this week, Bottom of the Hill received notice that it will be in ABC court again on May 6. Cases are also pending against Cafe Du Nord, Slim's and the Great American Music Hall. ABC

spokesman **John Carr** said the new hearing is simply the administrative process moving forward.

Tim Benetti, co-owner of Bottom of the Hill, called the decision to move forward "disgusting." Leno was peeved as well, calling it an "aggressive move" and saying all the hearings should be put on hold until the license issues are resolved.

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