



Sister Cities Committee

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City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53202 | (414) 286-2221 | Fax (414) 286-3456 | www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities

November 27, 2023

US Embassy,
Plot 1075, Diplomatic Drive,
FCT, Abuja, Nigeria

Dear Consular General or Consular Chief, US Embassy Abuja:

I am writing you today in support of the VISA application of the following individual:

1. **Lawrenta Igoh** - President/Founder, Auxano Foundation for Empowerment and Development (AFED)

This individual is from Abuja, Nigeria who is being invited to travel to the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the United States to participate in a sister city agreement signing scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in Milwaukee City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., Rotunda, 1st Floor, Milwaukee, WI (United States) 53202. Ms. Igoh has shown interest in being part of the sister City partnership from Nigeria.

The City of Milwaukee invites and supports this individual to visit Milwaukee to attend the formalization of the establishment of a sister city relationship between the City of Abuja and the City of Milwaukee. In order for the relationship to be official, both respective mayors (or their equivalent) from both cities are required to sign an agreement for the establishment of the relationship. Once the agreement has been signed, the relationship shall be valid for 5 years. A resolution establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and Abuja, Nigeria was adopted by the Milwaukee Common Council on September 19, 2023 and signed by Mayor Cavalier Johnson of the City of Milwaukee on September 28, 2023. Attached is a certified copy of the resolution.

The sister city relationship is being established with a signed agreement between the two cities for the purposes of promoting peace, through citizen diplomacy and partnerships, and a long-term, cooperative relationship between the two cities for cultural, educational, business, and technical exchanges to take place.

All hotel accommodations, airline tickets, and travel expenses with regards to any delegation traveling from Abuja to Milwaukee will not involve any Milwaukee city funds. No Milwaukee city funds shall be used for travel expenses by city officials in connection with any sister city or friendly exchange relationship according to the Milwaukee Code of Ordinance Chapter 335.

The City of Milwaukee Sister Cities Committee is created to assist the City, through its Common Council, with the establishment and maintenance of sister city relationships pursuant to Sister Cities International regulations through nonprofit, volunteer based organizations that organize and implement cooperative programs in education, arts, business, and municipal and technical exchanges with Milwaukee's sister cities around the world to collaborate on programs of mutual benefit to our city and its partners. We are also members of the Sister Cities International network, one of the largest citizen diplomacy networks in the world.

Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and International communities. With a network of over 2,000 cities in 146 countries all over the world, we strive to build global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development.

I appreciate any consideration your office can give to this delegation group from Abuja, Nigeria and would encourage you to contact us if you have any concerns. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell W. Stamper, II", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II, Chair
Sister Cities Committee

CC: CCFN 230568