



## St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral

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May 26, 2023

City of Milwaukee Sister Cities Committee  
Milwaukee City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Subject: Letter of Intent - Establishing Sister City Relationship between City of Milwaukee, USA, and City of Kragujevac, Serbia

Dear Sister Cities Committee Members,

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support and present a formal letter of intent for the establishment of a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee, USA, and the City of Kragujevac, Serbia. By forging a formal sister city relationship, we can harness the power of collaboration to promote mutual understanding, economic growth, and tap into shared experiences and strengths to create meaningful connections that benefit residents and promote understanding between the two nations.

Milwaukee and Kragujevac share many commonalities, making them excellent candidates for a sister city partnership. Both cities have rich histories, a strong industrial base, and thriving cultural as well as educational environments. The City of Milwaukee is renowned for its picturesque location on the shores of Lake Michigan, vibrant arts and music scene, and a proud working-class tradition. It serves as a hub for innovation, manufacturing, and higher education, offering endless opportunities for cultural and economic exchange. The spirit of Milwaukee's residents, characterized by their warmth and hospitality, would undoubtedly provide a welcoming environment for visitors from Kragujevac. Similarly, the City of Kragujevac stands as an important economic and cultural center in Serbia, with a rich heritage and a progressive vision for the future. It boasts a diverse industrial sector, renowned educational institutions, and a wealth of historical landmarks. Kragujevac's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage while embracing innovation aligns closely with Milwaukee's own values and aspirations.

Cultural exchange is one of the most powerful tools for building bridges and fostering global harmony. Through a sister city partnership, the citizens of Milwaukee and Kragujevac will have the chance to engage in reciprocal cultural programs, such as art exhibitions, music festivals, and educational exchanges. These initiatives will not

only celebrate the diversity of the respective cultures but also encourage cross-cultural understanding and appreciation among the residents. Furthermore, establishing economic ties between Milwaukee and Kragujevac holds significant potential for trade and investment opportunities. By leveraging the two cities' complementary strengths, we can explore avenues for business partnerships, trade missions, and ultimately bolster economic growth and job creation in both cities.

In addition to cultural and economic collaboration, a sister city partnership between Milwaukee and Kragujevac would also pave the way for meaningful educational exchanges. The exchange of students, educators, and researchers will foster academic cooperation, facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices, and broaden the horizons of our respective educational institutions. These educational endeavors will enrich the lives of students and contribute to the advancement of both cities' academic landscapes.

We firmly believe that a sister city partnership between Milwaukee and Kragujevac would not only strengthen the bonds between the two cities but also contribute to the broader goals of international cooperation, diplomacy, and global understanding. The City of Milwaukee and the City of Kragujevac have the potential to develop a vibrant and fruitful sister city relationship. The commitment to fostering cultural understanding, strengthening economic ties, and promoting educational exchanges aligns with the core values that underpin such partnerships.

The Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister City initiative has not only sparked great interest among members of Milwaukee's Serbian community, but has also attracted broad interest throughout the US. We have been approached by many individuals expressing their interest and support for this initiative.

With this letter, we kindly ask the committee to extend the opportunity to submit a formal application to formalize the sister city agreement between Milwaukee and Kragujevac. Thank you for considering this proposal and we would be delighted to provide any additional information or have further discussions on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Miroslav "Mike" Jovic  
President,  
Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister Cities Committee