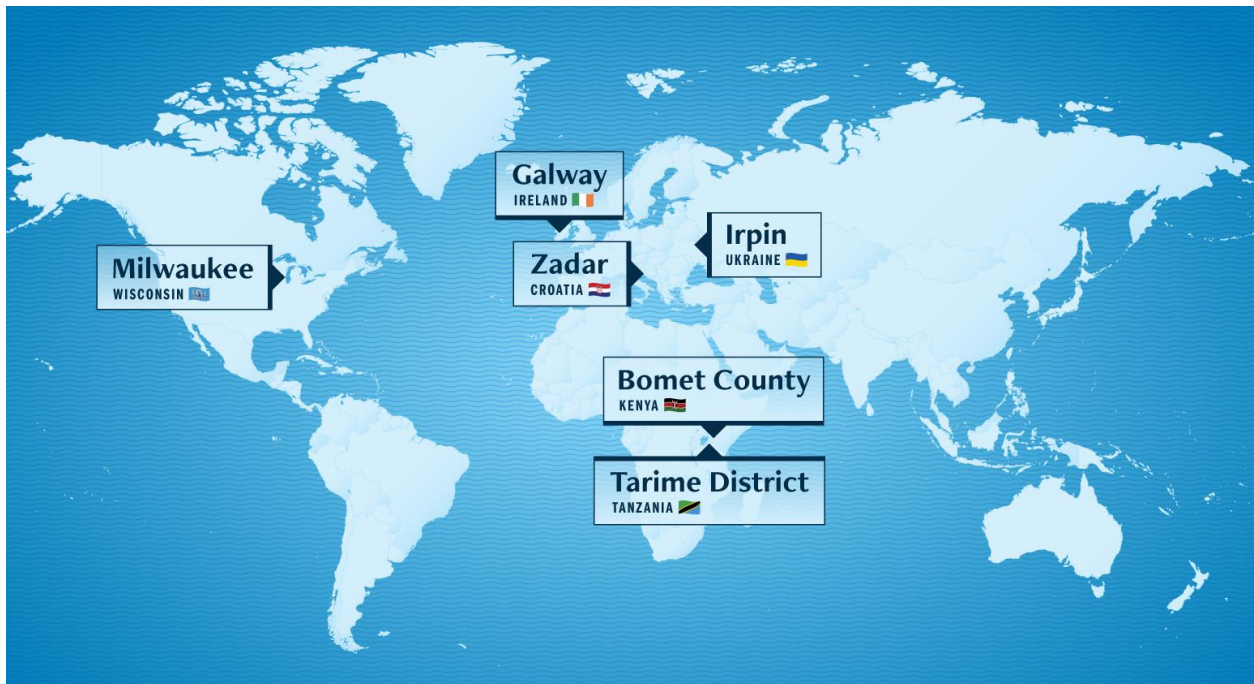


SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE City of Milwaukee

2022 Annual Report

The attached report is submitted pursuant to s. 320-47 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances.



This page left intentionally blank

Purpose: (Per s. 320-47 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances)

The Sister Cities Committee is created to assist the City, through its Common Council, with the establishment and maintenance of sister city relationships in accordance with Sister Cities International regulations.

MEMBERS

Russell W. Stamper, II, Chair

Previously Ald. Khalif J. Rainey

(Chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee)

Oscar Tovar

(Representative of Mayor Tom Barrett)

Alexander Durtka, Jr.

(Representative of the International Institute of Wisconsin)

Kirsten Johnson

Previously Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya

(Representative of the Health Commissioner)

Bruce Spann

(Public Member)

STAFF

Mr. Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Gunnar Raasch, Legislative Reference Bureau

Milwaukee Sister Cities Website

<http://city.milwaukee.gov/sistercities>

SISTER CITIES AND FRIENDLY EXCHANGES SUMMARY 2022

The City of Milwaukee had 5 (five) active sister city relationships with signed agreements:

- Bomet County, Kenya
- Galway, Ireland
- Irpin, Ukraine
- Tarime District, Tanzania
- Zadar, Croatia

The City of Milwaukee had no new sister city relationships established with a signed agreement in 2022.

The City of Milwaukee has 1 (one) new sister city relationship pending a signed agreement in 2022.

- Tema, Ghana

The City of Milwaukee had no sister city relationships renewed in 2022:

The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) sister city relationship that was terminated in 2022:

- Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea

The City of Milwaukee has no active or pending friendly exchange relationships.

Annual Reports from Local Sponsors of Sister City Relationships

2022 Annual Reports were submitted and received for the following sister city relationships:

- Galway, Ireland
- Irpin, Ukraine
- Zadar, Croatia

All annual reports received were approved by the Sister Cities Committee. The annual reports are contained within CCFN 181446 for Galway, CCFN 171188 for Irpin, and CCFN 201103 for Zadar, respectively.

2022 Annual Reports were not submitted and received for the following sister city relationships:

- Bomet County, Kenya
- Tarime District, Tanzania

The tables below summarize the City's current active sister city relationships, local sponsoring entities, and information.

Current Sister City Relationships								
Sister City	Local Sponsoring Organization	File Number Establishing Relationship	Council Final Action	Mayor Signed Resolution	Signed Sister City Relationship Agreement	Relationship Expiration	Sister City Relationship Renewal Deadline	Annual Report Deadline
Bomet County, Kenya	Milwaukee African Women's Association	201104	10/12/2021	10/12/2021	11/23/2015	11/23/2025	5/23/2024	11/11
Galway, Ireland**	Irish Festivals, Inc.	181446	2/5/2019	2/15/2019	8/15/2008	5/23/2024	11/23/2023	3/16
Irpin, Ukraine	St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church	171188	12/19/2017	1/2/2018	3/15/2018	3/15/2023	10/15/2022	2/1
Tarime District, Tanzania	Mosorec International Foundation	210902	11/2/2021	11/11/2021	11/7/2016	11/7/2026	5/7/2025	12/11
Zadar, Croatia	Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. of Milwaukee	201103	12/15/2020	12/28/2020	5/12/2015	5/12/2025	11/12/2024	1/27

*Sister city relationship renewed.

**This relationship was established prior to the creation of Chapter 335 Sister Cities, which was adopted October 24, 2006 and became effective November 10, 2006.

The tables below summarize the City's current pending new sister city relationships, local sponsoring entities, and information.

Pending Sister City Relationships								
Sister City	Local Sponsoring Organization	File Number Establishing Relationship	Council Final Action	Mayor Signed Resolution	Signed Sister City Relationship Agreement	Relationship Expiration	Sister City Relationship Renewal Deadline	Annual Report Deadline
Tema, Ghana	Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc.	191027	11/5/2019	11/15/2019				

*Requires a signed sister city relationship agreement. A signing ceremony will be scheduled in the near future when both mayors from both cities are able to come together.

The table below summarizes the City's terminated sister city relationships since the creation of Chapter 335 Sister Cities, which was adopted October 24, 2006 and became effective November 10, 2006.

Terminated Sister City Relationships*										
Sister City	Local Sponsoring Organization	File Number Establishing Relationship	Council Final Action	Mayor Signed Resolution	Signed Sister City Relationship Agreement	Relationship Expiration	Sister City Relationship Renewal Deadline	Annual Report Deadline	File Number Terminating Relationship	Effective Termination Date
Carora, Venezuela* (2009 - 2016)	The Peace Education Project of Peace Action Wisconsin	131429*	3/4/2014	3/7/2014	3/24/2009	3/8/2019	9/8/2018	4/6	160547	10/19/2016
Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea	VACANT	160733	3/28/2017	4/6/2017	9/20/2017	9/20/2022	3/20/2022	5/6	221046	12/19/2022
Morogoro, Tanzania (2007 - 2012)	Hope in Tanzania Foundation	070043	5/8/2007	5/15/2007	8/3/2007	8/3/2012*	2/3/2012	6/14/2014	161199	4/6/2017
Medan, Indonesia (2014 - 2021)	VACANT	190453	9/24/2019	10/4/2019	10/30/2014	10/30/2024	4/30/2024	11/3/2019	210069	6/3/2021
uMhlatuze, South Africa* (2008 - 2019)	VACANT	140008*	5/13/2014	5/22/2014	5/1/2008	5/23/2019	11/23/2018	6/21/2014	191028	11/15/2019
*Since the creation of Chapter 335 Sister Cities, which was adopted October 24, 2006 and became effective November 10, 2006.										

The table below summarizes the City's expired friendly exchange relationships since October 10, 2014 when Chapter 335 Sister Cities established that friendly exchange relationships shall expire after 5 years unless extended for another 5 years by council resolution.

Expired Friendly Exchange Relationships							
Friendly Exchange City	Local Sponsoring Organization	File Number Establishing Relationship	Council Final Action	Mayor Signed Resolution	Relationship Expiration	Friendly Exchange Relationship Renewal Deadline	Annual Report Deadline
Ninbo, China (2005 - 2014)		050754	9/27/2005	10/6/2005	10/10/2014*		11/5
*Chapter 335 Sister Cities, on October 10, 2014, established that friendly exchange relationships shall expire after 5 years unless extended for another 5 years by council resolution. There was no resolution to extend the relationship.							

Accomplishments and Activities in 2022

Committee Membership Changes

The Sister Cities Committee had the following membership changes in 2022:

- Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II replacing Ald. Khalif J. Rainey as chair and member
- Kirsten Johnson replacing Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya

Sister City Relationship Changes

The sister city relationship with the Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea was terminated on December 19, 2022 after Mayor Cavalier Johnson signed a resolution terminating the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 221046 due to inactivity, lack of sponsorship, lack of community support, and expiration. Further details of the termination can be found under the section “Sister City Relationship, Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea” and CCFN 221046.

Sister City Related Events

Holiday Folk Fair 2022

The committee resumed its participation with a sister cities booth at the Holiday Folk Fair from November 18-20, 2022 at Wisconsin State Fair Grounds Expo Center. Committee members, City staff, sister city local sponsoring representatives, and other volunteers helped contributed to showcase cultural items and information, staff the booth, and greet and converse with visitors. City Clerk Events and Outreach Coordinator helped coordinate the booth. The fair was organized by the International Institute of Wisconsin, led by committee member and President and CEO to the International Institute of Wisconsin.

Sister City Programming and Promotion

The Sister Cities Committee continued to discuss and explore options throughout its meetings to create or improve programming and promotion for the sister cities in areas of capacity, resources, funding, collaborations, events, and infrastructure. There was desire to acquire dedicated personnel perhaps through a university internship program; acquire funding either within or outside the City’s budget to help fund a position; have collaborations with local agencies such as VISIT MKE, Department of City Development, and Port Milwaukee; promote sister cities via possible displays at General Mitchell International Airport or at Port Milwaukee and other spaces; promote sister cities via events such as the Holiday Folk Fair and perhaps a meet-and-greet event; and possible changes to committee membership. Further details regarding these discussions can be found within the 2022 Meeting Highlights of this report.

Sister City Relationships

Bomet County, Kenya

The sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya recently has had little activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic and political elections in Kenya. Both cities share a common interest in education, health care and business, and mutual understanding. Activities of the relationship have included ongoing student and educational exchange between the universities from both cities, the Scholarship and Mentorship Program, advancement of women's economic and social empowerment in Bomet, supply of materials to Bomet, and ongoing water project in the village of Sigowet in Bomet. There continues to desire towards mutual exchanges in tourism (Kenyan safaris) and agriculture crops (avocado). The local community has ongoing engagement with the committee.

The relationship was newly sponsored by Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA). MILAWA had organized annual healthy family picnics catering to the large community of Africans and friends of Africa in Milwaukee over the years. Also, Dr. Alice Kones and David Mugun have been local contributors to the relationship from the beginning.

The sister city relationship was in its second term. It was renewed on October 12, 2021 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 201104. The Sister Cities Committee at its September 22, 2021 meeting recommended to renew the sister city relationship with Bomet County. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 201104 to renew the sister city relationship on October 12, 2021. The relationship is set to expire November 23, 2025.

The sister city relationship with Bomet County was first established on July 30, 2015 when the original resolution CCFN 141899 was signed by the City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. An official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall on November 23, 2015 between Mayor Tom Barrett and Governor H.E. Hon Isaac Ruto of Bomet County.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between Bomet County, Kenya and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 141899 and 201104.

Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea (terminated)

The sister city relationship with the Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea was terminated on December 19, 2022 after Mayor Cavalier Johnson signed a resolution terminating the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 221046 due to inactivity, lack of sponsorship, lack of community support, and expiration. The Sister Cities Committee at its November 2, 2022 meeting recommended to terminate the sister city relationship with Medan. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 221046 to

terminate the sister city relationship on December 13, 2022.

The sister city relationship with Medan was first established on September 20, 2017 when an official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall between Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Kwon Young-jin. The relationship called for mutual benefit by exploring economic, educational and cultural opportunities. The relationship also called for supporting and encouraging opportunities for mutually beneficial practical exchanges in the fields of business, education, culture, health care, tourism, and to share other common interests to promote mutual understanding. The relationship had expired on September 20, 2022 prior to its termination and was not renewed.

The relationship was previously sponsored by The Water Council, a global hub dedicated to solving critical water challenges by driving innovation in freshwater technology and advancing water stewardship. Also the City's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) was involved acting on behalf of The Water Council with respect to the relationship. Main activities conducted under the relationship were delegations from each city visiting and participating in each other's water related summits during the early part of the relationship. The relationship became inactive and The Water Council subsequently withdrew as the local nonprofit sponsor. ECO also withdrew from its participating on the relationship.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 160733 and 221046.

Galway, Ireland

The sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland remains centered on cultural, festival, dance, and music exchange. The main activities of the relationship have been the annual Irish Fest in Milwaukee with music, dance, culture, and participation of delegates and officials from Galway on a consistent basis. Additionally, Irish dance and music instruction has been ongoing both locally and abroad. Recent events and activities had been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic but were set to return to normalcy post-pandemic. The local community has ongoing engagement with the committee and sister city related events, such as the Holiday Folk Fair. The Milwaukee local sponsor to the relationship was and remains Irish Festivals, Inc (Celtic MKE) led by Mike Mitchell and Molly Modlinski.

The sister city relationship with the City of Galway, Ireland was in its fourth term. It last was renewed on February 15, 2019 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 181446. The Sister Cities Committee at its January 10, 2019 meeting recommended to renew the sister city relationship with Galway. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 181446 to renew the sister city relationship on February 5, 2019.

The sister city relationship with Galway was first established on January 7, 2002 when the original resolution CCFN 010680 was signed by the City of Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist. An official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall on August 15, 2008 between Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Padraig Conneely of Galway.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Galway, Ireland and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 181446, 131640, 071505, and 010680.

Irpin, Ukraine

The sister city relationship with Irpin, Ukraine became significantly impacted by the war and invasion from Russia in Ukraine. The country and city had suffered tremendous loss and casualties. Main activities have shifted towards ongoing humanitarian aid to support the city, country, and citizens abroad and locally. Both public and private support (direct and indirect) has been donated locally through the leadership of the local Ukrainian community, local nonprofit sponsor, St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, and business entrepreneur, Boris Nayflisch. Prior to the war, there was ongoing educational exchange at the university level, planned fire department training sessions that were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a planned international festival. Irpin officials have gifted items to Milwaukee, committed funds towards sister city programming and travel, engaged Milwaukee departments and officials, and visited Milwaukee several times. The local community has ongoing engagement with the committee and sister city related events, such as the Holiday Folk Fair.

The relationship was initiated by the City of Irpin and Mayor Karplyuk. Mr. Nayflisch played a vital role on behalf of the City of Irpin to establish the relationship throughout the application process and continues to participate in ongoing activities. Irpin officials, including Mayor Karplyuk, have made several visits to Milwaukee since the first visit in June of 2017. The City of Irpin had gifted more than 90 Ukrainian books to the Central Milwaukee Public Library from Irpin in September of 2017. Areas of mutual interest include business, culture, health care, education and tourism.

The sister city relationship became official when City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and City of Irpin Mayor Volodymyr Karplyuk signed a sister city relationship agreement at a signing ceremony on March 15, 2018 at Milwaukee City Hall. Substitute resolution establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and Irpin, Ukraine (Common Council File Number 171188) was adopted by the Common Council and signed by Mayor Tom Barrett on December 19, 2017 and January 2, 2018 respectively. The Sister Cities Committee approved the application and recommended approval to establish a sister city relationship with the City of Irpin at its November 15, 2017 meeting. The relationship was for five years and is set to expire on March 15, 2023.

St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, led by Joseph Spolowicz, is the local nonprofit sponsoring organization in the City of Milwaukee. Also of Milwaukee local support and

contributor to the sister city relationship was local entrepreneur, Boris Nayflisch. The organization structure in the sister city is the Irpin City Council, an administrative unit and local government. The council is a part of the Kyiv region with an administrative center in Irpin, which has the status of the city of regional importance.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Iprin, Ukraine and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Number 171188.

Tema, Ghana (pending signed agreement)

There was progress made to set a date of December 7, 2023 at Milwaukee City Hall for an agreement signing ceremony to establish the sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana; however, the date was cancelled due to traveling changes from the Tema delegation. A future date would be established. The local community has ongoing engagement with the committee and sister city related events, such as the Holiday Folk Fair.

Tema, Ghana became a new prospective City of Milwaukee's sister city pending a signed agreement. The sister city relationship would become official when both mayors from the City of Milwaukee and the City of Tema are able to sign a sister city relationship agreement either. Substitute resolution establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and Tema, Ghana (Common Council File Number 191027) was adopted by the Common Council and signed by Mayor Tom Barrett on November 5, 2019 and November 15, 2019 respectively. The Sister Cities Committee approved the application and recommended approval to establish a sister city relationship with the City of Tema at its September 26, 2019 meeting.

Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc. was the local nonprofit sponsoring organization in the City of Milwaukee. The organization structure in the sister city is the Office of International Partnerships, a local government unit to the Mayor of Tema. The Office of International Partnerships has established other sister cities such as with Norfolk (Virginia), Columbia (Maryland), San Diego (California), and Greenwich (United Kingdom).

The relationship was initiated by previous Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton. President Hamilton's visitation experiences to Tema resulted in his observance of many similarities and exchange opportunities between the cities. He engaged the Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc., and the association (with other collaborators) has acted as the local sponsor in Milwaukee to establish the relationship throughout the application process and continues to participate in ongoing activities. Areas of mutual interest include trade, culture, nursing, education, and student exchange.

The sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana (once a signed agreement is achieved) would be for five years from the date of the signed agreement. An annual report regarding this sister city relationship will be due annually to the Sister Cities Committee.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Tema and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Number 191027.

Tarime District, Tanzania

The sister city relationship with Tarime, District Tanzania was recently focused on establishing education/student/youth collaborations and exchanges. Recent activities have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both cities share a common interest in education, health care, business, mutual understanding, and other areas. Relationship activities have included improving the local school and community in Tarime; supplying of various materials and education to Tarime students, girls, and community; water well project in Tarime; empowering of women and girls through training and education; empowering youth through entrepreneurship and leadership training; and delegation visits to Tarime and Tanzania. Additionally, there has been an exchange of culture between the cities, sex trafficking programming in Milwaukee, celebrating of the Milwaukee Bucks championship in Tanzania, and participation in Sister City International- Africa Region and Sister City International-Africa Region: Tanzania Sister Cities. The local community has ongoing engagement with the committee and sister city related events, such as the Holiday Folk Fair.

The Milwaukee local sponsor to the relationship was the Mosorec International Foundation Inc. led by Christine Thompson-Mosore. The foundation also has a chapter based in Tarime.

The relationship was in its second term. It was renewed on November 11, 2021 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 210902. The Sister Cities Committee at its September 22, 2021 meeting recommended to renew the sister city relationship with Tarime District. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 210902 to renew the sister city relationship on November 2, 2021.

The sister city relationship with Tarime District was first established on July 14, 2016 when the original resolution CCFN 160176 was signed by the City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. An official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall on November 7, 2016 between Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Hon. Moses Matiko Misiwa of the District of Tarime.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the Tarime District, Tanzania the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 160176 and 210902.

Zadar, Croatia

The sister city relationship with the City of Zadar, Croatia share a common interest in business, culture, health care, education tourism, and other areas. The relationship has

been centered on culture and water research and education. There was a main focus to build a water research project between middle schools from both cities, which remains ongoing. The local community has ongoing engagement with the committee and sister city related events, such as the Holiday Folk Fair.

The sister city relationship with the City of Zadar, Croatia was in its second term. It was renewed on December 28, 2020 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 201103. The Sister Cities Committee at its November 23, 2020 meeting recommended to renew the sister city relationship with Zadar. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 201103 to renew the sister city relationship on December 15, 2020.

The sister city relationship with Zadar was first established on November 25, 2014 when the original resolution CCFN 140088 was signed by the City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. An official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall on May 12, 2015 between Mayor Tom Barrett and Consul General of the Republic of Croatia Dr. Jelena Grcic Polic on behalf of the Mayor of Zadar Bozidar Kalmeta.

The Milwaukee local sponsor to the relationship was and currently remains the Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. of Milwaukee led by Nevenka Bralic and Tom Kuzmanovic. The federation was originally led by its member Paul Lucas and president John Braovac. The City of Zadar had three local organizations sponsoring the relationship: Association of Trades and Crafts Zadar (Udruzenje obrtnika Zadar), Zadar City Sports' Community (Sportska zajednica Grada Zadar), and Zadar Writers Association (Udgruga Zadarski Pisci). The relationship was fully supported by the Croatian Consul General in Chicago, Dr, Jelena Grčić Polić. Her efforts were vital in initiating, spearheading, and establishing the sister city relationship.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Zadar, Croatia the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 201103 and 140088.

Sister Cities Committee meetings held in 2022:

February 9, 2022
April 13, 2022
July 14, 2022
November 2, 2022

Meeting materials pertaining to meetings and activities of the Sister Cities Committee can be found within Common Council File Number [211467](#).

2022 Committee Meeting Highlights:

At the **February 9, 2022** meeting, the committee:

- Held the 2021 annual report for the sister city relationship with Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea due to the nonappearance of local sponsoring representatives.
- Reviewed and approved the 2022 annual reports for Zadar, Croatia and Irpin, Ukraine.
- Reviewed and approved the Sister Cities Committee 2021 annual report.
- Had various presentations made and discussion relative to sister city programming, capacity, resources, funding, collaborations, promotion opportunities, and infrastructure as follows:
 - VISIT Milwaukee's openness to collaboration, sharing of resources, and assistance with visitors in touring Milwaukee.
 - Presentation from Port Milwaukee on their operations, trade (import/export) activities, relations with international cities, and openness to assist sister cities with establishing port trade.
 - Presentation on the UW-Milwaukee Earn and Learn Program regarding an opportunity to acquire undergraduate paid interns as capacity to assist with programming and promotion of the City's sister cities.
 - Possibly submitting a budget amendment for the City's budget process for next year for sister city purposes and also on submitting legislation to establish a sister cities special purpose account to receive contributions.
 - Members to explore the composition of the committee and making changes to the committee membership at the next meeting.
 - Discussed to continue to engage the Milwaukee County Public Affairs

Office, who were not present, to discuss sister city display opportunities at General Mitchell International Airport.

- Discussed no new update/progress made on a proposed sister cities memorial at MacArthur Square as proposed by the Department of Public Works.
- Discussed to keep working towards holding a meet-and-greet event to promote and connect the sister city communities.
- Updates from Christin Thompson-Mosore (Mosorec International Foundation, Inc.) as the point of contact for the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania and from member Spann as a Sister Cities International country representative to South Africa.

At the **April 13, 2022** meeting, the committee:

- Reviewed and approved the 2021 annual report for Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea and permitting the relationship to expire.
- Reviewed and approved the 2022 annual report for Galway, Ireland.
- Was given updates on the following sister city or prospective sister city relationships:
 - Irpin, Ukraine regarding the war there and efforts/contributions to aid the sister city, country, and its citizens locally and abroad.
 - Readiness from Tema, Ghana to move forward in coordinating a sister city signing ceremony to establish a sister city relationship, which had been delayed.
 - Plan to conduct virtual summer youth activities regarding Tarime District, Tanzania.
 - Status update on all existing and prospective sister city relationships from staff.
- Had various presentations made and discussion relative to sister city programming, capacity, resources, funding, collaborations, promotion opportunities, and infrastructure as follows:
 - A presentation on the Marquette University Trinity Fellowship Program regarding an opportunity to acquire graduate paid interns as capacity to assist with programming and promotion of the City's sister cities.

- Department of City Development (DCD) in helping to promote the sister cities program and to keep the committee informed of their international dealings with businesses and other countries, such as the purchase of a Talgo train set from Lagos, Nigeria.
- Port Milwaukee in promoting sister cities and other different communities via displays or signage throughout the various sites at and around the Port.
- Continuing to engage Milwaukee County Public Affairs Office, who were not available, to discuss sister city display opportunities at General Mitchell International Airport.
- Holding the discussion with the Office of Equity and Inclusion, who could not be available.
- Holding review of the composition and membership of the committee for further research and considerations.
- A special purpose account (but with no funds) was being established in the City Clerk's Office for sister city purposes.
- Had presentations made and discussion on establishing new sister city relationships as follows:
 - British Virgin Islands based on tourism, media, and creative artistic exchanges. There was strong local community support and potential local nonprofit sponsor. A letter of intent from a local nonprofit sponsor was required to progress further.
 - An inquiry from Chairman Rainey was made to Belize, but no response was yet received.
- Discussed sister city related events as follows:
 - To develop a working group (led by Christine Thompson-Mosore) composed of sister city relationship local sponsoring representatives and committee members to coordinate a small scale meet-and-greet event with booths, entertainment, and food in the rotunda of Milwaukee City Hall possibly to be held later in the year.
 - Sister Cities International annual conference to be held in New Mexico in July. There should consideration to establish a Mexican-based sister city relationship.
 - The International Institute of Wisconsin Holiday Folk Fair to be developed further and to occur a week prior to Thanksgiving.

At the **July 14, 2022** meeting, the committee:

- Was chaired by new chair and member, Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II.
- Was given updates on the following sister city or prospective sister city relationships:
 - Irpin, Ukraine regarding the war there and efforts/contributions to aid the sister city, country, and its citizens locally and abroad. Milwaukee Police Department unused items (non-weapons) from retired officers would be donated. Monetary donations and sponsorship of families were needed.
 - For there to be further communication from Tema, Ghana to help towards solidifying a date for a sister city signing ceremony. Review of a draft agreement and further ceremony coordination to be had.
 - The Water Council's withdrawal as the local nonprofit sponsor for the sister city relationship with Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea. The Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) to follow-up on capacity to engage other cities from The Water Council and ECO.
 - The delay and altering of activities for the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania. Youth activities would be postponed to the fall, and there was plan for educational exchange with local schools.
 - Status update on all existing and prospective sister city relationships from staff.
- Had discussions relative to sister city programming, capacity, resources, funding, collaborations, promotion opportunities, and infrastructure as follows:
 - Continue to engage Milwaukee County Public Affairs Office, who were not available, to discuss sister city display opportunities at General Mitchell International Airport.
 - Members to further explore ways to fund for additional capacity (either within or outside City budget) towards sister city programming and promotion. An internship program would be an option either through the Marquette University Trinity Program (preferable) or the UW-Milwaukee Earn and Learn Program.
 - Members to consider pursuing dedicated personnel and committee membership additions simultaneously. Committee composition changes should be carefully considered and would require legislative change. Assets such as VISIT Milwaukee and DCD can participate as partners, but

not necessarily as new members, to the committee. Other options could include establishing a subcommittee composed of sister city local sponsoring representatives and the appointment of one sister city local sponsoring representative to the full committee.

- The sister cities special purpose account (SPA) in the City Clerk's Office to be used for sister city functions, monetary donations for humanitarian reasons should go through humanitarian organizations and not to the SPA, contributions could be made to the SPA, and the committee may decide on the disbursement of any monies from the SPA.
- Had presentations made and discussion on establishing new sister city relationships as follows:
 - Effort was being made to establish a non-profit and submit a letter of intent to establish a sister city relationship with Lagos, Nigeria. Interest came from the Talgo train sale and the Nigerian engineering community.
 - The committee approved a letter of intent from The Creative Corridor and to extend an application to establish a sister city relationship with the British Virgin Islands. The relationship to be built on Afro-Caribbean culture.
- Discussed sister city related events as follows:
 - Deborah Moore (Events and Outreach Coordinator in City Clerk's Office) and Christine Thompson-Mosore to coordinate a small meet-and-greet event and report back to the committee.
 - The Holiday Folk Fair to occur November 18-20, 2022 in-person at Wisconsin State Fair Expo Center. Staff directed to assist setting up a sister cities booth at the fair.
 - The Sister Cities International (SCI) Conference in New Mexico was virtual and typical of previous years. Future important SCI related events to include a US-Mexico Summit (October 22, 2022) in San Diego and an African Summit (February 23, 2023) in Cape Town, South Africa. Milwaukee presence would be desired. Member Spann attending the African Summit.
- Made announcements of Croatian Fest on July 16, 2022 and a William Kentridge South African art collection exhibit showing.

At the **November 2, 2022** meeting, the committee:

- Included new member, Kirsten Johnson, Commissioner of the Milwaukee Health

Department.

- Moved termination of the sister city relationship with Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea due to lack of sponsorship, community support, and inactivity. Termination would require subsequent Common Council legislative action.
- Discussed tentatively setting a signing ceremony to establish a sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana for December 7, 2022 (subsequently cancelled) at Milwaukee City Hall. Further coordination to be had offline. Student exchange with Milwaukee Public Schools was being planned.
- Discussed sister city related events as follows:
 - A sister cities booth would be included at the Holiday Folk Fair. All committee members, staff, and sister city relationship local sponsors to help promote, contribute, and staff the sister cities booth at the Holiday Folk Fair.
 - A small meet-and-greet program to be further coordinated for the first quarter of 2023 at Milwaukee City Hall rotundra.
- Was given updates on the following sister city relationships or other aspects:
 - Port Milwaukee would continue to assist sister cities in port trade despite a change in leadership at the Port.
 - There being little activity for the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya due to political elections in Bomet.
 - DCD recently went on a business trip to Spain with other businesses (M7, WEDC, and Ingentine). DCD to further update the committee on any opportunities that would develop.
 - Status update on all existing and prospective sister city relationships from staff.
 - Humanitarian and aid (both locally and abroad) were ongoing and needed due to the war impacting the sister city relationship with Irpin, Ukraine. The relationship would expire in March 2023, and a renewal application would be submitted.
 - Education exchanges collaborations were being done for the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania, and further details would be provided in the future.