



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

March 28, 2008

The Honorable Kadir Topbaş
Mayor of Istanbul
1st International Istanbul Symposium on Local Governance
Istanbul, Turkey

Dear Honorable Kadir Topbaş:

As Mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you and all members of the 1st International Istanbul Symposium on Local Governance. This symposium is a momentous occasion as we work toward a deeper exchange and relationship between our cultures, governments, and businesses. I sincerely hope that this event is the first step down a long path of cooperation and mutual advancement.

Regretfully, I am unable to be present in person on this memorable occasion. I have no doubt that the gentleman who speaks on my behalf will faithfully convey my enthusiasm and support for your work. I have asked Mr. James Witkowiak to act as my representative. Mr. Witkowiak is one of Milwaukee's senior city council members and has done much to serve our citizens well. Additionally, Mr. Robert Miranda will act as Mr. Witkowiak's official aide and may represent Mr. Witkowiak in all matters under Mr. Witkowiak's care. Finally, I would like to introduce Mr. Suleyman Kurter who will act as an official translator for both Mr. Witkowiak and Mr. Miranda during the symposium.

I hope that all members of the 1st International Istanbul Symposium on Local Governance enjoy a pleasurable, fruitful experience. This is a rare opportunity for international business leaders, government officials, and cultural representatives to work together on goals, such as effective government, growth and economic development, which are common to us all.

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I look forward to a vibrant exchange and relationship between our citizens, our cultures, and our city governments. The City of Milwaukee has much to offer any global citizen, including two major universities, a thriving arts and cultural community, booming industry, and our most stunning natural resource, Lake Michigan. Our yearly ethnic and music festivals are internationally renowned, as are our local breweries, athletic teams, and artistic monuments, such as Milwaukee Art Museum designed by Santiago Calatrava. However, I am sure we have much to learn from our international neighbors and their traditions.

I sincerely hope you join me in forging a new relationship between our communities. Thank you for your support, your hospitality, and your generosity.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett
Mayor