



**City  
of  
Milwaukee**

*INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU*

## **M E M O**

**To:** Ald. Michael D'Amato, Chair, Judiciary and Legislation Committee  
**From:** Teodros W. Medhin, Ph.D., Research Supervisor  
Legislative Reference Bureau  
**Date:** December 6, 2001  
**Re:** Sister Cities

Per your request for information concerning Common Council legislation setting forth guidelines for selection of sister cities:

The Common Council adopted File Number 8711178 on May 17, 1988, a resolution establishing city policy for selection of sister cities (copy attached). The file was subsequently amended twice, by File Number 881299 on November 1, 1988, and File Number 920775 on October 13, 1992. Hence, the policy for selection of sister cities, as amended, is as follows:

1. There should exist a logical area of mutual interest and involvement with the prospective city in the areas of culture and business.
2. Strong consideration should be given to factors which contribute to a good balance between the cities: geographic location, governmental structure, comparable size, population composition and education.

3. There should be evidence of strong local community support for the prospective sister city relationship in order to assure a strong financial base and interest in exchanges.

4. During the selection process, there should be consultation and communication between the city and other related agencies such as Sister Cities International.

5. The total number of sister cities adopted should not exceed 10, and no more than 2 cities should be adopted within a 2-year period.

6. Consideration should be given to the number of prior relationships held by the prospective city. Some flexibility may be allowed for unusual circumstances.

7. Any expenditure associated with a sister city program must be approved by the Common Council.

8. No city funds shall be used for travel expenses by city officials in connection with any sister city program.

9. The Mayor's Office shall have oversight responsibility for the sister city program.

The City of Milwaukee currently has sister city relationships with a total of 8 cities, as follows:

1. Ticuatepe, Nicaragua; File Number 870376, adopted 5/27/1987.

2. Mulhouse, France; File Number 880499, adopted 6/22/1988.

3. Omsk, Siberia; File Number 920639, adopted 7/28/1992.

4. Queenstown, South Africa; File Number 960630, adopted 3/21/1997.

5. Parma, Italy; File Number 961901, adopted 5/13/1997.

6. Schwerin, Germany; File Number 970335, adopted 6/3/1997.

7. Athlone, Ireland; File Number 990612, adopted 10/19/1999.

8. Nuevitas, Cuba; File Number 000432, adopted 10/10/2000.

In addition to these cities, a resolution (FN941598) was introduced on January 24, 1995, which invited the City of Cap-Haitien, Haiti, to join with the City of Milwaukee in establishing a sister city relationship. However, this sister city relationship was not approved by the Common Council, and the file was placed on file on June 13, 2000. Furthermore, when the Common Council authorized a sister city relationship with Queenstown, South Africa, (FN960630) in March, 1997, it also rescinded Resolution File Number 881118, adopted in November, 1988, which established a sister city relationship with Postdam, South Africa.

The Common Council last approved a sister city relationship with Nuevitas, Cuba, in October 2000. Since the sister city guidelines provide that not more than 2 sister city relationships may be established within any 2-year period, it would be possible for the Common Council to consider establishing a new sister city relationship at this time. Furthermore, if the Common Council approves the proposed resolution (FN 010680) establishing a sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland, the number of Milwaukee's sister cities will still be 8 since this file also rescinds Resolution File Number 000432, which established a sister city relationship with Athlone, Ireland.

Please contact me if I may be of further assistance to you in this manner.

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