

# Application For A Sister City Relationship\*

City Clerk's Office  
City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202 PH: (414) 286-2221 WEB: [www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities](http://www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities)



## APPLICATION ORGANIZATION

Name St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral

Mailing Address 3201 S 51st St, Milwaukee, WI 53219

Website [www.stsava-milw.org](http://www.stsava-milw.org)

## PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR MILWAUKEE

Name Miroslav (Mike) Jovic

Phone (414) 545-4080

Mailing Address 3201 S 51st St, Milwaukee, WI 53219

Email [president@stsava-milw.org](mailto:president@stsava-milw.org)

## PROPOSED SISTER CITY

Name Kragujevac (Kra-GU-yeh-vatz).

Country Serbia

Population 171,186

## PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR SISTER CITY

Name Nikola Dašić

Phone +381 34 306 106

Mailing Address Trg slobode 3, Kragujevac 34000, Serbia

Email [gradonacelnik@kg.org.rs](mailto:gradonacelnik@kg.org.rs)

## Please attach the following information

### Information about the sister city:

- Demographics
- Geographic description
- Historical background
- Governmental structure
- Educational system
- Areas of mutual interest and involvement between Milwaukee and the sister city in the areas of culture and business
- Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the existing relationship
- Information regarding the local organizational structure in the sister city that supports the relationship including number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information

### Information about the applicant organization:

- Organizational status (e.g. 501c-3). List Board of Directors and attach bylaws
- Number of members and their professional and business background
- Goals of the organization regarding the sister city relationship
- Current activities of the organization in relation to the sister city
- Methods the organization uses to meet the goals of the sister city relationship
- Financial base of the organization and funds available to support the sister city relationship
- Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship, including additional financial support and interest in exchange program

*\*Note: Prior to filing an application, a letter of intent to establish a sister city relationship should be*

*submitted to the Sister Cities Committee.*



**Kragujevac**  
A Milwaukee Sister City



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# **Application for a Sister City Relationship**

**Submitted by**

**Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister City Committee  
of the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral**

**September 1, 2023**

## **Introduction**

This application is presented to your honorable body for the purposes of establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee, USA, and the City of Kragujevac, Serbia (pronounced: Kra-GU-yeh-vatz). By forging a formal sister city relationship, both cities 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. Milwaukee is renowned for its picturesque location on the shores of Lake Michigan and serves as a hub for innovation, manufacturing, and higher education. The spirit of Milwaukee's residents, characterized by their warmth and hospitality – steeped in the working-class tradition - would undoubtedly provide a welcoming environment for visitors from Kragujevac. Similarly, 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 cultural and historical landmarks. Kragujevac's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage while embracing innovation aligns closely with Milwaukee's own values and aspirations.

Cultural, economic, and educational exchanges are 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 engage in reciprocal initiatives that have the potential to promote economic growth, improve educational opportunities and encourage cross-cultural understanding and appreciation among the residents. 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. 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.

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.

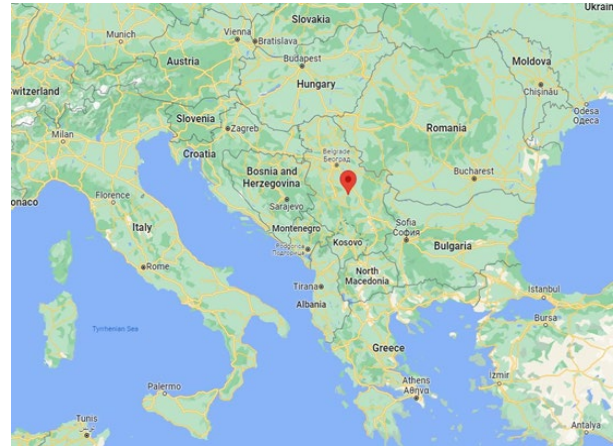
The Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister City initiative has not only sparked great interest among members of Milwaukee's Serbian community, but has also attracted broad interest throughout the

United States. We have been approached by many individuals expressing their interest and support for this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration, and we hope that you will join us in this vision by approving this application.

### **Information About the Sister City:**

**Demographics** - Kragujevac's population is 171,186, according to the 2022 census. Around 70% are of working age (aged 15 to 64). The employed population in 2014 was 42,148 (47% of whom were women), most of whom work in metalworking (22%) and medical and social services (13%). About 54% of persons older than 15 have only secondary education, while 17.7% hold a college or university degree.



**Geographic description** - Kragujevac is located in the Southeastern European country of Serbia and sits on the Lepenica River, which is a tributary of the Morava River. It is the fourth largest city in Serbia and the administrative center of the Sumadija region. The city covers an area of 322 square miles, surrounded by the slopes of the Rudnik, Crni Vrh, and Gledić mountains. Kragujevac is the traditional center of Sumadija, a region characterized by its rolling hills and fertile orchards.

**Historical background** - The history of Kragujevac dates back to 1476 when a settlement called “Kraguj” was mentioned in an Ottoman census. The settlement was named “Kraguj” in honor of a type of eagle believed to live in the surrounding forest. Kragujevac was at the center of the uprising against the Ottoman rule in the early 19th century and became Serbia’s capital from 1818-1841. The country’s first constitution, considered one of the most liberal in Europe, was signed in Kragujevac.

During this period, the city experienced a cultural, economic and political awakening. The first Serbian high school was built in Kragujevac in 1838. The first newspaper in Serbia, “Novine Srbske,” rolled off the press in 1834. During this period, musical organizations such as Knjazevko – Srpska Banda delighted audiences, and Knjazevsko-Serpski Teatar, the oldest in Serbia, opened its doors.



Though Kragujevac ceased to be the capital in 1841, the city thrived as the young Balkan nation's industrial center. The first armament factory was built in 1850, and was soon followed by a telephone exchange and a railroad that connected Kragujevac to the new capital, Belgrade.



Kragujevac experienced great hardships during World War I and World War II. During World War II, the Nazis massacred almost 3,000 civilians on October 21, 1941 in retaliation for an attack against German soldiers. The victims are remembered in Kragujevac Memorial Park.

Today, Kragujevac is the fourth largest city in Serbia and a center of industry, producing cars, machinery, and textiles. Its thriving culture attracts tourists from all over the Balkans.

**Governmental structure** - Mayor Nikola Dasic leads the local government, which is a democratically elected assembly. The city assembly consists of 87 councilors who are elected by citizens in direct elections with votes cast by secret ballot, in accordance with the law. Decisions are made by the majority of votes of the councilors present, unless otherwise specified by law or the Statute.



**Educational system** - Education is an important part of the city landscape. Kragujevac has 22 primary and 8 secondary schools. The University of Kragujevac, which is the fourth largest in Serbia, was established in May 1976.

Today the University of Kragujevac is a modern education and research center embracing almost all major areas of teaching and research, with a student population of 18,000 and 1,200 academic staff.

## Areas of Mutual Interest and Involvement Between the Sister Cities

Milwaukee and Kragujevac share several areas of mutual interest and involvement, particularly in the realms of culture and business. Culturally, both cities have a rich heritage and a strong commitment to preserving and promoting their local traditions. The two cities could explore opportunities for cultural exchange programs, art exhibitions, and performances that



would foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's unique cultural expressions. Additionally, both cities boast vibrant creative industries, providing potential for collaboration and cross-cultural ventures in the fields of film, music, and design.

From a business perspective, Milwaukee and Kragujevac can capitalize on each other's strengths and expertise. Milwaukee, known for its manufacturing prowess and innovative industries, could potentially benefit from exploring partnerships with Kragujevac. Conversely, Kragujevac could find valuable opportunities to expand its presence in the American market through potential joint ventures or export-import ventures with businesses in Milwaukee. Several large Milwaukee-area firms already have a presence in Kragujevac, including but not limited to Johnson Controls, Milwaukee Tool, Generac, and John Deere. There are also other medium and small sized firms doing business between the two cities as well.



The cities' respective chambers of commerce can play a crucial role in facilitating trade missions and business delegations between the two regions, fostering stronger economic ties. By leveraging each other's strengths and fostering a spirit of cooperation, the City of Milwaukee and the City of Kragujevac can create a mutually beneficial relationship that nurtures cultural understanding and drives economic growth for both communities.

### **Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the existing relationship**

Sister cities committees have been in constant communication about forging the relationship and establishing ties on a standing monthly basis as well as in the interim period as necessary. The matters discussed, besides logistical matters, involved the principal areas of exchange, including but not limited to economic, cultural, and educational cooperation..

### **Information about the applicant organizations**

Milwaukee/Kragujevac Sister City Committee is an auxiliary organization of our church-school congregation St. Sava in Milwaukee and as such will be governed by the 501(c)3 section of the Internal Revenue Code. The by-laws of the Milwaukee/Kragujevac Sister City Committee are attached to this application. The Sister City Organization is supported by the congregation and all of the members with the blessing from our local priests and Bishop Longin.

In addition, membership as members-at-large is open to any interested members of the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral and residents of Milwaukee. The Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral was established in 1912 on Milwaukee's South Side and has been part of Milwaukee's history for more than 111 years. There are several thousand active members and over 22,000 community members in southeast Wisconsin.

The members of the Milwaukee/Kragujevac Sister City Committee board currently include:

- Miroslav (Mike) Jovic (CEO, JMB Express Trucking LLC)
- Stefan Dostanic (Deputy County Clerk, Milwaukee County)
- Mile Sasich (Retired Manager of International Economic Development, City of Milwaukee)
- Marija Andric (Editor, Milwaukee Area Technical College)
- Rose K. Sasich (Retired Officer, Northwestern Mutual)
- Angelina Sasich Radke (Attorney)

The Kragujevac/Milvoki Gradovi Pobratimi is the counterpart organization behind the sister cities relationship effort in Kragujevac. Its board members include:

- Kragujevac Mayor Nikola Dasic
- Very Rev. M.A. Rajko Stefanovic (Secretary of Sumadija Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church)
- Fr. Ivan Gasic (Sumadija Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church)



- Dr. Slobodan Milosavljevic (Regional Hospital Chief of Surgery and the Dean of the Surgical Division of Kragujevac's Medical College).

### **Goals of the organization regarding the sister city relationship**

The purpose of this organization is to further international understanding through educational, cultural, charitable, professional, technical, and economic exchanges. Immediate goals include:

- a) To cause the people of the City of Milwaukee and the people of Kragujevac to acquire an appreciation of each other's cities, to understand one another as individuals, as members of their community, as citizens of their country and as part of the family of nations;
- b) To foster as a consequence of such knowledge and appreciation a continuing relationship of mutual understanding between the people of the City of Milwaukee and the City of Kragujevac;
- c) To undertake both in seeking and in consequence of such awareness and concern any activities and programs which will provide to one another appropriate economic, cultural, educational and mutual understanding;
- d) To promote charitable goodwill among the citizens of the two cities.

### **Current activities of the organization in relation to the sister city**

Since the inception of the sister cities relationship effort, both Miroslav Jovic and Stefan Dostanic have made separate visits to Kragujevac. On his trip, Miroslav Jovic confirmed the true and sincere intention of the Kragujevac sister city relationship stakeholders to enter into the sister cities agreements. Stefan Dostanic explored various cultural and educational opportunities between Milwaukee and Kragujevac.

### **Methods the organization uses to meet the goals of the sister city relationship**

The Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister City Committee will encourage direct people-to-people contact to build international understanding and foster educational, cultural, and business relationships. At the core of the organization are the volunteers, businesses, and partner organizations who support the organization with their time, financial donations, and in kind services. Funding is provided through member dues, donations, fundraising activities, and grants.

**Financial base of the organization and funds available to support the sister city relationship**

The financial base for the organization are the financial donations from both the parishioners of St. Sava Cathedral, as well as donations from individuals and businesses with an interest in the sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Kragujevac.



At this point in time, we have close to \$15,000 in potential pledges once the sister city relationship has been approved by the Milwaukee Common Council and signed by Mayor Johnson.

Overall funding will be provided through member dues, donations, fundraising activities, and potential grants.

**Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship, including additional financial support and interest in exchange programs.**

The Milwaukee Serbian community, thousands in number, have expressed great interest and support in establishing the sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Kragujevac. In addition, we have had individuals and businesses throughout the United States indicate that they also have an interest in the sister city project and would be receptive to providing both financial and collective support to the project. The congregation looks forward to many years of mutual cooperation pending the approval of this application.



Thank you for your consideration. The Milwaukee/Kragujevac Sister City Committee members stand by to answer any and all questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any via email at: [office@stsava-milw.org](mailto:office@stsava-milw.org) or telephone at 414-545-4080.



**St.Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral**  
**3201 S. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Milwaukee,WI 53219**  
**Phone (414)545-4080**

Email: [office@stsava-milw.org](mailto:office@stsava-milw.org)

Website [www.stsava-milw.org](http://www.stsava-milw.org)

## **BY-LAWS OF THE MILWAUKEE-KRAGUJEVAC SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**

### **ARTICLE 1: NAME**

Section I. Name:

The name of this auxiliary organization of the St. Sava Cathedral is ***Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister City Committee***, with its office at 3201 S 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219.

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

Section 1. Purpose: The purpose of this organization is educational, cultural, charitable and economic. The organization's objectives are:

- a) To cause the people of the City of Milwaukee and the people of Kragujevac to acquire an appreciation of each other's cities, to understand one another as individuals, as members of their community, as citizens of their country, and as part of the family of nations.
- b) To foster as a consequence of such knowledge and appreciation a continuing relationship of mutual understanding between the people of the City of Milwaukee and the City of Kragujevac.
- c) To undertake both in seeking and in consequence of such awareness and concern any activities and programs as will provide to one another appropriate economic, cultural, educational and mutual understanding.
- d) To promote charitable goodwill among the citizens of the two cities.
- e) The organization will be an auxiliary organization of St. Sava Cathedral and as such will be governed by the 501(c)3 section of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Individual Membership:**

Membership in the Committee shall be open to any person of goodwill and moral character who wishes to support and expand the goals and objectives of the Milwaukee-Kragujevac sister city relationship.

**Section 2. Organization Membership:**

Organization membership shall be open to any organization or business enterprise in the United States that endorse the purpose of the Milwaukee-Kragujevac Committee. An Organization Member shall designate one official representative to attend meetings and functions of the Committee, who shall have the rights and privileges of an Individual Member, and who shall be registered annually with the Secretary.

**Section 3. Membership Dues:**

Any person or organization meeting the requirements of Article III, Section 1 or 2, may be admitted to the membership of this Committee by acceptance of the membership application by the President and Secretary of the Corporation, and upon payment of the membership dues as determined by the Board of Directors:

Individual	\$250.00
Youth	\$10.00
Business	\$2500.00
Sustaining	\$ open
Family	\$400.00
Organization	\$1500.00
Patron	\$1000.00

**ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

**Section 1. Regular Meetings:**

A regular meeting of the members shall be held at the office of the Committee twice annually,; the first meeting to be held on 04/18/2023 for the purpose of election of a Board of Directors and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

**Section 2. Notice of Regular Meeting:**

The President shall order the Secretary to give members ten days' notice of a regular meeting by mail, or electronically, stating in such notice the time, place and business to be transacted at said meeting. In case the office of the Secretary is vacant, any director or person designated by the President may mail the notice of a meeting to members.

**Section 3. Special Meetings:**

Special meetings of members may be called at any time by the vote of the majority of the Executive Board or upon petition to the Secretary by one-fifth of the members. At special meetings of

the members, only such business as stated in the call for such meeting shall be transacted. The Secretary shall give the members ten days' notice of such meeting by mail therein stating time, place and the business to be transacted at the special meeting.

**Section 4. Quorum:**

At any meeting of the members, members present in person shall constitute a quorum for all purposes including the election of directors except when otherwise provided by law.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 1. Numbers:**

The affairs of the Committee shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by a Board of Directors consisting of members. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. There will be as many members at large as needed. If applicable, at least one director shall be a youth of not more than 21 years of age, to represent the sister cities youth program chapter.

**Section 2. Qualifications:**

Directors shall be elected from the membership of the Committee and must continue to be a member in good standing during their term of office.

**Section 3. Compensation:**

The directors shall receive no compensation or expenses from the Committee.

**Section 4. Term of Office:**

The directors shall be elected for a five-year term and each shall hold such office until their successors are elected.

**Section 5. Election:**

The directors shall be elected by the members of the Committee at the first regular meeting and thereafter, the election of directors shall be held at the annual meeting of the members.

**Section 6. Vacancies:**

Vacancies in the board shall be filled from the membership by a majority vote of the remaining directors and such person filling the vacancy shall hold office until the expiration of the term being filled.

**Section 7. Regular Meetings:**

The first meeting of the directors shall be held immediately after their election by the members for the purpose of election of officers. The regular meetings of the board shall be held as needed but a minimum of quarterly.

**Section 8. Special Meetings:**



The President, when he/she deems necessary, or three members of the Executive Board, shall call a special meeting of the Board of Directors and each call for a special meeting shall be in writing, giving ten days' notice to members of the Board and stating the purpose of the meeting.

**Section 9. Quorum:**

One-third of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 10. Powers and Duties of Directors:**

- a) The directors shall have the power to conduct, manage and control the affairs and business of the Committee.
- b) The directors shall maintain a complete record of all their business transactions, their minutes, acts and proceedings of the members and present a full statement at the regular annual meeting of the members, showing in detail the condition of the affairs of the Committee.
- c) The Board of Directors shall have the authority to create and fill the office and the position of executive secretary or executive director.

**ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS**

**Section 1.**

All officers of the Committee shall be elected or appointed by the directors from their numbers except as hereinafter provided.

**Section 2.**

Officers of the Committee shall be the President, a Vice President(s), a Secretary and a Treasurer.

**Section 3.**

Powers and Duties of Officers:

- a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the directors and members. He shall sign, as President, all certificates of membership and all contracts and other instruments
- b) The Vice President shall assume the duties of President in his absence and assume such duties assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- c) The Secretary shall:
  - 1. Keep records and minutes of all board and membership meetings.
  - 2. Be custodian of the corporate seal.
  - 3. Keep the membership book showing the name of each member and pertinent information relative to each member.

4. Sign, where required, all corporate papers in conjunction with the President.

d) The Treasurer shall:

1. Be the custodian of all funds of the Corporation depositing such funds in banks designated by the Board of Directors.

2. Disburse funds only as prescribed by the directors and in no instance, other than petty cash, except by bank, bearing the signature of either the President or Vice President in addition to that of the Treasurer.

#### **Section 4.**

Financial Records:

Financial records shall be open for inspection upon the reasonable request of any member. A complete statement of receipts and expenditures shall be presented at the annual meeting.

#### **ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the members or at any other meeting called for that purpose, by a vote of a majority of a quorum at a meeting duly called. The written assent of a majority of the membership is effectual to repeal or amend any Bylaws or to adopt additional Bylaws without the necessity of a formal membership meeting.

# CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPT STATUS

(Religious, Charitable, Scientific or Educational Organization)

Wisconsin Department of Revenue  
Income, Sales, Inheritance & Excise Tax Division

DUPLICATE

Sales to the below named organization are exempt from taxation under the Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Law pursuant to Section 77.54(9a) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

This certificate is valid until revoked by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

St. Sava Cathedral  
3201 S. 51st Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53219

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE NUMBER

DATE

April 30, 1962

## IMPORTANT:

Sales to your organization are taxable unless you furnish your supplier with the certificate number shown above.

Sales by your organization may be subject to tax.

**St. Sava Church Federal Tax number:** [REDACTED]

**St. Sava State Tax number:** [REDACTED]

**St. Sava sales tax exempt number:** [REDACTED]

**St. Sava Monastery – Libertyville Federal Tax number:** [REDACTED]

**St. Sava Church Federal Tax number:** [REDACTED]

**St. Sava State Tax number:** [REDACTED]

**St. Sava sales tax exempt number:** [REDACTED]

**St. Sava Monastery – Libertyville Federal Tax number:** [REDACTED]

**Internal Revenue Service**

**Date:** February 10, 2005

ST SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
3201 S 51ST ST  
MILWAUKEE WI 53219-4514

**Department of the Treasury**  
**P. O. Box 2508**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45201**

**Person to Contact:**

Ms. Smith #31-07262  
Contact Representative

**Toll Free Telephone Number:**

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET  
877-829-5500

**Fax Number:**

513-263-3756

**Federal Identification Number:**

**Group Exemption Number:**

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of September 23, 2004, regarding your organization's tax-exempt status.

Your organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code because it is included in a group ruling issued to Serbian Orthodox Church of the United States and Canada, located in Libertyville, Illinois.

Our records indicate that contributions to your organization are deductible under section 170 of the Code, and that you are qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,

*Janna K. Skufca*

Janna K. Skufca, Director, TE/GE  
Customer Account Services