

# SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE City of Milwaukee

## 2024 Annual Report

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



## **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.

### **Milwaukee Sister Cities Website**

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

## **MEMBERS**

### **Russell W. Stamper, II, Chair**

Chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee

### **Adamaris Penaloza**

Representative of the Mayor

### **Alexander Durtka, Jr.**

Representative of the International Institute of Wisconsin

### **Aaron Szopinski**

Representative of the Health Commissioner

*As of May 17, 2023*

### **Colleen Cheney-Trawinski**

Public Member

## **STAFF**

Chris Lee, Staff Assistant

Deborah Moore, Events & Outreach Coordinator

Gunnar Raasch, Legislative Reference Bureau

## **SISTER CITIES & FRIENDLY EXCHANGES AT A GLANCE FOR 2024**

**The City of Milwaukee had 7 (seven) active sister city relationships with signed agreements:**

- Abuja, Nigeria
- Bomet County, Kenya
- Galway, Ireland
- Irpin, Ukraine
- Kragujevac, Serbia
- Tarime District, Tanzania
- Zadar, Croatia

**The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) new sister city relationships established with a signed agreement in 2024:**

- Kragujevac, Serbia

**The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) sister city relationship renewed in 2024:**

- Galway, Ireland

**The City of Milwaukee had no new proposals or applications made in 2024 to establish a sister city relationship.**

**The City of Milwaukee had one pending sister city relationship terminated in 2024:**

- Tema, Ghana

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

## **Annual Reports from Local Sponsors of Sister City Relationships**

2024 Annual Reports were submitted and received for the following sister city relationships:

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

All annual reports received were approved by the Sister Cities Committee, except the annual report for Abuja, Nigeria, which the committee has not reviewed yet. The annual reports are contained within CCFN [230568](#) for Abuja, CCFN [181446](#) for Galway, CCFN [221872](#) for Irpin, and CCFN [201103](#) for Zadar, respectively.

2024 Annual Reports has not been received for the following sister city relationships:

- Bomet County, Kenya
- Kragujevac, Serbia
- Tarime District, Tanzania

The tables below summarizes the City's active sister city relationships, local sponsoring entities, and information at the end of 2024.

Current Sister City Relationships									
Sister City	Local Sponsoring Organization	Local NGO Main Contact	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
Abuja, Nigeria	Milwaukee Action Network, Inc.	Dr. Dele Ojelabi	230568	9/19/2023	9/28/2023	12/13/2023	12/23/2028	6/23/2028	10/28
Bomet County, Kenya	Milwaukee African Women's Association	Reine-Marie Assana	201104	10/12/2021	10/12/2021	11/23/2015	11/23/2025	5/23/2025	11/11
		Dr. Alice Kones, David Muqun							
Galway, Ireland**	Irish Festivals, Inc.	Amelia Bursi	231810	5/21/2024	5/24/2024	8/15/2008	5/23/2029	11/23/2028	6/23
		Caitlin Ward							
Kragujevac, Serbia	St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral	Stefan Dostanic, Miroslav (Mike) Jovic	230665	10/10/2023	10/12/2023	1/26/2024	1/26/2029	7/26/2028	11/11
Irpın, Ukraine	Friends of Be An Angel, Inc.	Boris Nayflish, Anya Verkhovskaya	221872	5/9/2023	5/16/2023	3/15/2018	3/15/2028	9/15/2027	6/15
Tarime District, Tanzania	Mosorec International Foundation	Dr. Christine Mosore	210902	11/2/2021	11/11/2021	11/7/2016	11/7/2026	5/7/2026	12/11
Zadar, Croatia	Federation of Croatian Societies,	Nevenka Bralic	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,									

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
<b>Carora, Venezuela* (2009 - 2016)</b>	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
<b>Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea</b>	VACANT	160733	3/28/2017	4/6/2017	9/20/2017	9/20/2022	3/20/2022	5/6	221046	12/19/2022
<b>Morogoro, Tanzania (2007 - 2012)</b>	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
<b>Medan, Indonesia (2014 - 2021)</b>	VACANT	190453	9/24/2019	10/4/2019	10/30/2014	10/30/2024	4/30/2024	11/3/2019	210069	6/3/2021
<b>Tema, Ghana (2019 - 2024)</b>	Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc.	191027	11/5/2019	11/15/2019	NA	NA	NA	NA	240877	11/11/2024
<b>uMhlathuze, South Africa* (2008 - 2019)</b>	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
<b>Ninbo, China (2005 - 2014)</b>		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.							

# Summary of Sister City Accomplishments, Activities, and Relationships in 2024

## ACTIVE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

### Abuja, Nigeria



2024 activities include providing essential medical supplies to Abuja, planned technology skills transfer and training to Abuja, ongoing educational exchange and scholarship program between universities from both cities, and initiative to provide firefighting expertise and training to Abuja. There is also efforts to plan a trade mission trip to Abuja and Nigeria. Primary goals of the relationship include fostering cultural exchange, enhancing economic cooperation, promoting educational exchange, facilitating civic engagement, and addressing global challenges. Areas of mutual interest include business, culture, health care, education, and tourism among other aspects.

The sister city relationship with Abuja is in its first term. Abuja became an official sister city with the signing of a sister city agreement between His Honorable, Christopher Zakka, as the Executive Chairman of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and Mayor Cavalier Johnson from the City of Milwaukee on December 13, 2023 in a signing ceremony at Milwaukee City Hall. Resolution to establish the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number [230568](#) was signed by Mayor Johnson on September 28, 2023 and adopted by the Common Council on September 19, 2023. The Sister Cities Committee approved the application and recommended approval to establish a sister city relationship at its September 6, 2023 meeting.

The local nonprofit sponsor to the relationship in Milwaukee is the Milwaukee Action Network, Inc. under the leadership of Dr. Dele Ojelabi and Dr. Ayo Francis Obuseh. The local sponsor and community have been active and engaged with the Sister Cities Committee and sister city related events.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Abuja, Nigeria and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Number [230568](#).

### Bomet County, Kenya



2024 activities include efforts to establish partnerships to export avocado from Bomet to Milwaukee as part of an avocado farming initiative. Other activities include promoting tourism in Kenya, cultural exchange, and student exchange between the cities. Activities of the

relationship have historically included student exchanges between universities from both cities, advancement of women's economic and social empowerment in Bomet, supply of materials to Bomet, assistance towards a water project in the village of Sigowet in Bomet, and an annual summer picnic for the African community. Areas of mutual interest have included tourism (Kenyan safaris), agriculture crop export (avocado), student exchange, health care exchange, economic exchange, and cultural exchange.

The sister city relationship is 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 Common Council adopted the resolution on October 12, 2021. The Sister Cities Committee at its September 22, 2021 meeting recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship.

The sister city relationship with Bomet County was first established on July 30, 2015 with resolution Common Council File Number [141899](#) signed by 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.

The local nonprofit sponsor to the relationship in Milwaukee is Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA) led by its president, Reine-Marie Assana. Dr. Alice Kones and David Mugun are the local sister city representatives from MILAWA.

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 [201104](#) and [141899](#).

## **Galway, Ireland**



2024 activities include year-round Celtic cultural enrichment and tourism events (music, dance, culture) highlighted by the annual Irish Fest festival in Milwaukee in August with delegates and officials from Galway in attendance on a consistent basis. CelticMKE hosted the annual Association of Irish and Celtic Festivals (AICF)

Conference in Galway in 2023, which helped bring international exposure to Galway and musical talent. Celtic cultural enrichment through dance and music instruction has been ongoing both locally and abroad. Primary goals center on promotion, support, and community engagement on Celtic culture and tourism as well as advancing United Nations-based Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The sister city relationship with the Galway is in its fifth term. It last was renewed



on May 24, 2024 after Mayor Cavalier Johnson signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number [231810](#). The Common Council adopted the resolution on May 21, 2024. The Sister Cities Committee at its March 21, 2024 meeting recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship.

The sister city relationship with Galway was first recognized in 1997, established formally on January 7, 2002 with the signing of the original resolution CCFN [010680](#) by the City of Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist. An official agreement for the sister city relationship was subsequently signed at Milwaukee City Hall on August 15, 2008 between Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Pdraig Conneely of Galway.

The local nonprofit sponsor to the relationship in Milwaukee is Irish Festivals, Inc. (dba CelticMKE) led by Executive Director, Caitlin Ward, and Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager, Amelia Bursi. The local sponsor and community have been active and engaged with the Sister Cities Committee and sister city related events.

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 [231810](#), [181446](#), [131640](#), [071505](#), and [010680](#).

### **Irpın, Ukraine**



2024 activities include providing ongoing humanitarian aid, resources, and refuge to support the Irpin, Ukraine, and citizens abroad and locally. Tremendous public and private support (direct and indirect) has been donated locally through the leadership of the local sponsor, Ukrainian community, current and past local nonprofit sponsors, City of Milwaukee, local businesses, and various philanthropies. Such support includes resettling children and families from Irpin to Milwaukee; getting medical treatment for resettled children; collection and donation of generators, Wi-Fi access points, and medical supplies to Irpin and Ukraine; and efforts towards providing rental housing for resettled families. In 2023 there was mayoral exchange regarding mutual projects, donation of children's books from Irpin to the Milwaukee Public Library, and celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day. Prior to the war, areas of mutual interest included business, culture, health care, education, and tourism.

The sister city relationship with Irpin is in its second term. The relationship was renewed another 5 years on May 16, 2023 with a resolution to renew the relationship via Common Council File Number [221872](#) signed by Mayor Cavalier Johnson. The Common Council adopted the resolution on May 9, 2023. The Sister Cities Committee recommended approval to renew the sister city

relationship at its April 19, 2023 meeting.

The sister city relationship first became official when 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. Legislation (Common Council File Number [171188](#)) establishing the sister city relationship 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 the sister city relationship at its November 15, 2017 meeting.

The local nonprofit sponsor to the relationship in Milwaukee is Friends of Be An Angel, Inc., under the leadership of its Chair Anya Verkhovskaya and Boris Nayflish. The local sponsor and community have been active and engaged with the Sister Cities Committee and sister city related events.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Irpin, Ukraine and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers [221872](#) and [171188](#).

### **Kragujevac, Serbia**



2024 activities include focus on economic development, culture, and education. Those companies who were a part of the itinerary for the Kragujevac delegation's visit during the sister city relationship signing ceremony were being engaged further. Organizational by-laws and a working committee were being developed further. A counter-signing visit and ceremony in Kragujevac was being planned. Other activities included cultural events held in the summer such as Serbian Days, Arsenal Fest, and an international soccer tournament.

The sister city relationship with Kragujevac is in its first term. Kragujevac became an official sister city with the signing of a sister city agreement between President of the Interim Body/Mayor of Kragujevac, Nikola Dasic, and Mayor Cavalier Johnson from the City of Milwaukee on January 26, 2024 in a signing ceremony at Milwaukee City Hall. Resolution to establish the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number [230665](#) was signed by Mayor Johnson on October 12, 2023 and adopted by the Common Council on October 10, 2023. The Sister Cities Committee approved the application and recommended approval to establish a sister city relationship at its September 6, 2023 meeting.

The local nonprofit sponsor to the relationship in Milwaukee is St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral led by its President Miroslav "Mike" Jovic and committee members Stefan Dostanic, Rose and Mile Sasich, and Bojana Zoric-Martinez.

The local sponsor and community have been active and engaged with the Sister Cities Committee and sister city related events.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Kragujevac, Serbia and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Number [230665](#).

### **Tarime District, Tanzania**



2024 activities include aid and resources provided to the local school, children, youths, and families in the village of Tarime. Resources include education, school supplies, clean safe drinking water equipment, electric generator, musical instruments, and training and employment. Other activities include projects to empower, support, train girls and women in Tarime with respect to business, leadership, and entrepreneurship; delegation visits to Tarime including a summer student exchange visit in August; Tanzanian Day celebration event held in November to commemorate the relationship in its 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary year; and participation/presentation in Sister Cities International related conferences or summits on African diaspora. Ongoing activities include efforts to facilitate coffee trade from Tarime, a trade mission trip to Tarime and Tanzania, and a second student exchange trip in 2025 with students from Bomet visiting Milwaukee.

The relationship is 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 Common Council adopted the resolution on November 2, 2021. The Sister Cities Committee at its September 22, 2021 meeting recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship.

The sister city relationship with Tarime District was first established on July 14, 2016 when the original resolution Common Council File Number [160176](#) was signed by the 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.

The local nonprofit sponsor in Milwaukee to the relationship is the Mosorec International Foundation, Inc. (MIF) led by Dr. Christine Mosore. The foundation also has a chapter based in Tarime. The local sponsor and community have been active and engaged with the Sister Cities Committee and sister city related events.

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 [210902](#) and [160176](#).

## Zadar, Croatia



2024 activities include development of a STEAM water health and lead testing research project between elementary schools from both cities. Collaboration is still being sought to acquire participation from Milwaukee Public Schools. Other activities include an annual Croatian Fest held in July, visit to Zadar in the summer by dancers from the Federation, and an Ivan Marcelic meet-and-greet in May 2023. The sister city relationship with the Zadar, Croatia share a common interest in business, culture, health care, education tourism, and other areas.

The relationship is 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 Common Council adopted resolution on December 15, 2020. The Sister Cities Committee at its November 23, 2020 meeting recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship.

The sister city relationship with Zadar was first established on November 25, 2014 with the signing of the resolution to establish the relationship via Common Council File Number [140088](#) by 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 local nonprofit sponsor in Milwaukee to the relationship is the Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. of Milwaukee led by Nevenka Bralic and the Federation's President, Tom Kuzmanovic. The local sponsor and community have been active and engaged with the Sister Cities Committee and sister city related events.

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

## TERMINATED SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

### Tema, Ghana



The pending prospective sister city relationship with Tema was terminated via Common Council File Number [240877](#), which was adopted by the Common Council and signed by Mayor Cavalier Johnson on November 6, 2024 and November 11, 2024, respectively. The Sister Cities

Committee recommended to terminate the relationship at its September 25, 2024 meeting. The relationship was terminated due to a lack of a signed agreement, lack of local sponsorship and community support, and inactivity.

The City of Tema became a new prospective sister city via resolution Common Council File Number [191027](#), which 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 at its September 26, 2019 meeting. The sister city relationship was pending a signed agreement to formalize the relationship. Areas of mutual interest include trade, culture, nursing, education, and student exchange.

The relationship was initiated by previous Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton. Efforts to facilitate a sister agreement signing ceremony early on failed to memorialize due to travel issues from officials in Tema. Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc. was the local sponsor to the relationship but became nonresponsive and inactive due to changes in leadership since Spring of 2023. Continued or new interest and commitment to support the prospective relationship was lacking despite attempts by the committee. The local sponsor and community have not been active and engaged with the Sister Cities Committee and sister city related events.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Tema, Ghana and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Number [240877](#) and [191027](#).

## **SISTER CITIES RELATED EVENTS**

### **Milwaukee Sister Cities Day and Meet-and-Greet**

The committee, staff, and Milwaukee Sister Cities discussed holding the next event to Spring 2025 to allow better coordination and participation from the local sister city communities. The event would follow and build upon the first event, which was successfully held on July 12, 2023 at Milwaukee City Hall. The event featured a gathering of local Milwaukee Sister City representatives showcasing their respective cultures, meet-and-greet with guests, cultural food and music, and a proclamation from Mayor Cavalier Johnson recognizing Milwaukee Sister Cities Day and the Milwaukee Sister Cities. The event was established to introduce, raise awareness, and promote the Milwaukee Sister Cities.

### **Holiday Folk Fair 2024**

The committee resumed its participation with having a sister cities booth at the Holiday Folk Fair International from November 22-24, 2024 at Wisconsin State

Fair Grounds Expo Center. Sister Cities Committee members, City staff, sister city local sponsoring representatives, and other community volunteers helped contributed to showcase cultural display items and information, staff the booth, and greet and converse with visitors. The fair is organized by the International Institute of Wisconsin on an annual basis.

## **Sister Cities Committee meetings held in 2024:**

- March 21, 2024
- July 25, 2024
- September 25, 2024

Minutes and materials pertaining to meetings and activities of the Sister Cities Committee can be found within Common Council File Number [231371](#) and/or at <https://milwaukee.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

## **Committee Meeting Highlights:**

At the **March 21, 2024** meeting, the committee:

- Welcomed Adamaris Penaloza, Community Outreach Liaison, as a new member from the Mayor's Office replacing former member Oscar Tovar.
- Reviewed and approved the application to renew the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland.
- Reviewed and approved the 2024 annual reports for Galway (Ireland) and Zadar (Croatia) as well as the 2023 annual reports for Bomet County (Kenya) and Tarime District (Tanzania).
- Discussed giving another opportunity to the local sponsoring organization (Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc.) to provide an update on their commitment and support to the prospective sister city relationship with Tema (Ghana).
- Were given a recap on recent sister city signing ceremony events and upcoming activities for the sister city relationships with Abuja (Nigeria) and Kragujevac (Serbia).
- Received introduction from Caitlin Ward as the new Executive Director for the local sponsoring organization (Irish Festivals, Inc dba CelticMKE) for the sister city relationship with Galway (Ireland).
- Held from discussing (due to lack of time) Holiday Folk Fair International Milwaukee Sister Cities Booth (recap), Sister City International conferences, and meet-and-greet event.
- Reviewed and approved the 2023 Sister Cities Committee annual report.

At the **July 25, 2024** meeting, the committee:

- Held review of the 2024 annual report for the sister city relationship with Irpin (Ukraine) for an amended report to be submitted to detail activities at the local level.
- Reviewed and discussed a revised annual report form questionnaire for utilization going forward for the sister city relationships. The committee made recommendations to alter the form to focus on current year activities, measureable outcomes, and to be condensed. The committee held the matter to allow further review and revisions, if any.
- Discussed giving one final opportunity to the local sponsoring organization (Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc.) to provide an update on their commitment and support to the prospective sister city relationship with Tema (Ghana); otherwise, the relationship would risk the committee making a termination determination.
- Received an update on sister city activities for the relationship with Abuja (Nigeria) with dialogue with City agencies that were in attendance towards future connection and collaboration.
- Received updates on sister city activities for the relationships with Kragujevac (Serbia) and Tarime District (Tanzania).
- Discussed for members and existing local sponsor representatives to try to identify interested organizations who may want to spearhead a sister city relationship with a city in South Africa.
- Discussed coordination by staff to work with the Milwaukee Sister Cities to have a booth at the upcoming Holiday Folk Fair International in November to promote the sister cities.
- Discussed that further planning and coordination was needed by staff to determine the next meet-and-greet event that would work with all the Milwaukee Sister Cities.
- Discussed Sister Cities International related conferences, such as the 2024 US-China Sister Cities Summit in July 2024 and US-Japan Summit in September 2025.

At the **September 25, 2024** meeting, the committee:

- Recommended to terminate the sister city relationship with Tema (Ghana) due to inactivity and a lack of a signed agreement, local sponsorship, and local community support.



- Received an update on activities from the sister city relationships with Tarime District (Tanzania), Kragujevac (Serbia), Abuja (Nigeria), and Galway (Ireland).
- Reviewed and approved conditionally the 2024 annual report for the sister city relationship with Irpin (Ukraine) contingent upon submittal of a listing of local organizational leadership information.
- Discussed, reviewed, and approval of a worksheet and amended annual report form questionnaire for utilization by Milwaukee Sister Cities to submit their annual reports going forward. Of importance will be for the sister city relationships to report on current year activities, progress, and measureable outcomes of those activities.
- Discussed returning to in-person meetings for everyone. Virtual participation would be allowed on an exception basis based on acceptable reasons. Presentation of annual reports shall be made in-person by local sponsor representatives.
- Discussed making further improvements, contributions, and participation from everyone for the Milwaukee Sister Cities booth at the Holiday Folk Fair International in November.
- Discussed holding the next meet-and-greet after spring break in 2025 with staff making a determination on a final date.