

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE City of Milwaukee

2023 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
As of December 13, 2023

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
As of September 26, 2023

PREVIOUS MEMBERS

Oscar Tovar
Representative of the Mayor
Ending November 20, 2023

Tyler Weber
Interim Health Commissioner
February 14 to May 17, 2023

Kirsten Johnson
Health Commissioner
Ending February 14, 2023

Bruce Spann
(Public Member)
Ending September 20, 2023

STAFF

Mr. Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Deborah Moore, Events & Outreach Coordinator
Gunnar Raasch, Legislative Reference Bureau

SISTER CITIES & FRIENDLY EXCHANGES AT A GLANCE FOR 2023

The City of Milwaukee had 6 (six) active sister city relationships with signed agreements:

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

The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) new sister city relationships established with a signed agreement in 2023:

- Abuja, Nigeria.

The City of Milwaukee had 2 (two) new prospective sister city relationships pending signed agreements in 2023:

- Kragujevac, Serbia
- Tema, Ghana.

The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) sister city relationship renewed in 2023:

- Irpin, Ukraine

The City of Milwaukee had no sister city relationships that were terminated in 2023.

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

Annual Reports from Local Sponsors of Sister City Relationships

2023 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 [221872](#) for Irpin, and CCFN [201103](#) for Zadar, respectively.

2023 Annual Reports that were not submitted and received for the following sister city relationships:

- Bomet County, Kenya
- Tarime District, Tanzania

The tables below summarize the City's active sister city relationships, local sponsoring entities, and information at the end of 2023.

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.	Caitlin Ward	181446	2/5/2019	2/15/2019	8/15/2008	5/23/2024	11/23/2023	3/16
		Cailin Branchford							
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 Nayflisch, 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	5/7/2025	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 tables below summarize the City's current pending new sister city relationships, local sponsoring entities, and information at the end of 2023.

Pending 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
Kragujevac, Serbia	St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral	Stefan Dostanic, Miroslav (Mike) Jovic	230665	10/10/2023	10/12/2023				
Tema, Ghana	Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc.	Dennis Anan, Isaac Ashun	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									

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
uMhlathuze, 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.							

Summary of Sister City Accomplishments, Activities, and Relationships in 2023

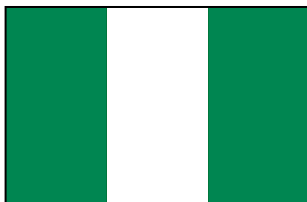
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The Sister Cities Committee had the following membership changes in 2023:

- **Adamaris Penaloza** replacing Oscar Tovar as the representative from the Mayor
- **Aaron Szopinski** replacing Tyler Weber and Kirsten Johnson as the representative from the Health Commissioner
- **Colleen Cheney-Trawinski** replacing Bruce Spann as a public member

CURRET SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

Abuja, Nigeria



The sister city relationship with Abjua, Nigeria 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. The sister city relationship is valid for five years from the date of the signed agreement. 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. Areas of mutual interest include business, culture, health care, education, and tourism among other aspects.

The local nonprofit sponsor to the relationship in Milwaukee is the Milwaukee Action Network, Inc. under the leadership of Dr. Dele Ojelabi, Dr. Ayo Francis Obuseh, Cordelia Ekwueme, and Milwaukee County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor. The local sponsor representatives and local community have been very active and committed with their engagement and/or contributions to the Sister Cities Committee, various sister city-related events, officials from Abuja, the sister city agreement signing ceremony, hosting of the Abuja delegation, and facilitation of the delegation's visits to local agencies in Milwaukee.

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



All 2023 activities for the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya is unknown absent submittal of a full 2023 annual report. Local sponsor representatives have attended Sister Cities Committee meetings and have participated in the 2023 Milwaukee Sister Cities Day Meet-and-Greet event. Based on the last 2022 annual report, activities for the sister city relationship with Bomet County have included hosting of a picnic for the African community in summer 2022, support to the sister cities booth at the Holiday Folk Fair International in November 2022, and ongoing distribution of sanitary pads to girls in Bomet. There have been no cultural exchange and tourism activities since the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, and assistance towards a water project in the village of Sigowet in Bomet. There continues to be desire towards mutual exchanges in tourism (Kenyan safaris), agriculture crops (avocado), education, health care, business, and culture.

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 relationship is sponsored by 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 [141899](#) and [201104](#).

Galway, Ireland



The sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland remains centered on cultural, festival, dance, and music exchanges. The main activities of the relationship have been year-round cultural enrichment events (music, dance, culture) highlighted by the annual Irish Fest in Milwaukee with delegates and officials from Galway in attendance on a consistent basis. Irish cultural enrichment through dance and music instruction has been ongoing both locally and abroad. Since 2022, events and activities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic have returned to some normalcy post-pandemic. The local community has ongoing engagement with the Sister Cities Committee and sister city related events, such as the Holiday Folk Fair International and the Milwaukee Sister Cities Day Meet-and Greet event.

The sister city relationship with the Galway is 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 Common Council adopted the resolution on February 5, 2019. The Sister Cities Committee at its January 10, 2019 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 Padraig Conneely of Galway.

The local nonprofit sponsor in Milwaukee to the relationship is Irish Festivals, Inc. (dba Celtic MKE) led by new Executive Director, Caitlin Ward, and previous Executive Director Mike Mitchell.

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](#).

Irpın, Ukraine



The sister city relationship with Irpin, Ukraine 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. There was also a

change of local sponsorship to Friends of Be An Angel, Inc., under the leadership of its Chair Anya Verkhovskaya and Boris Nayflish. The previous local sponsor was St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church. 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 remains impacted by the war and invasion from Russia in Ukraine. Main activities have centered on providing ongoing humanitarian aid and resources to support the city, country, and citizens/refugees abroad and locally. Tremendous public and private support (direct and indirect) has been donated locally through the leadership of the local Ukrainian community, current and past local nonprofit sponsors, City of Milwaukee, local businesses, and various philanthropies. Prior to the war, areas of mutual interest included business, culture, health care, education and tourism. 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 sponsor and community have ongoing engagement and participation with the Sister Cities Committee, committee meetings, and sister city related events, such as the Holiday Folk Fair International and Milwaukee Sister Cities Day Meet-and-Greet event.

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.

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 [171188](#) and [221872](#).

Tarime District, Tanzania



All 2023 activities for the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania is unknown absent submittal of a full 2023 annual report. Local sponsor representative and/or community members have regularly attended Sister Cities Committee meetings, participated in the 2023 Milwaukee Sister Cities Day Meet-and-Greet event, and

participated in the sister cities booth at the Holiday Folk Fair International. There was held a celebratory Tanzania Day event at Milwaukee City Hall commemorating the 7th anniversary of the sister city relationship with cultural showcase, food, and entertainment. Based on the last 2022 annual report, activities for the sister city relationship have included supporting Mosorec International Foundation (MIF) in Tanzania, providing clean safe drinking water for Tarime, providing electricity for school and villagers in rural Tarime, empowering girls and women through training and education, empowering youths through entrepreneurship and leadership training, celebration of Milwaukee Bucks championship in Tanzania, increasing awareness and visibility of the sister city relationship, and trips to Tarime/Tanzania.

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.

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 Zadar, Croatia share a common interest in business, culture, health care, education tourism, and other areas. The relationship is centered on culture and water health research/education. Ongoing is an initiative to build a water health research project between elementary schools from both cities.

Recent and past activities have included an annual Croatian Fest in July and an Ivan Marcelic meet-and-greet in May 2023. The local community has regular engagement and participation with the Sister Cities Committee, committee meetings, and sister city related events, such as the Holiday Folk Fair

International and Milwaukee Sister Cities Day Meet-and-Greet event.

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.

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](#).

PROSPECTIVE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

Kragujevac, Serbia



The City of Kragujevac became a new prospective sister city via resolution Common Council File Number [230665](#), which was adopted by the Common Council and signed by Mayor Cavalier Johnson on October 10, 2023 and October 12, 2023, respectively. The Sister Cities Committee approved the application and recommended approval to establish the sister city relationship at its September 6, 2023 meeting. The sister city relationship is pending a signed agreement, which will formalize the relationship 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 once the relationship becomes official. An agreement signing ceremony is scheduled for January 26, 2024 at Milwaukee City Hall. Areas of mutual interest include business, culture, health care, education, and tourism among other aspects.

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 parish and local community have been very active and committed with their engagement and/or contributions to the Sister Cities Committee, various sister city-related events, officials from Kragujevac, the preparation process for the upcoming agreement signing ceremony, and delegation visits to local agencies in Milwaukee.

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](#).

Tema, Ghana



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 is pending a signed agreement, which will formalize the relationship 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 once the relationship becomes official. Areas of mutual interest include trade, culture, nursing, education, and student exchange.

There were planned dates set to establish an agreement signing but those dates were canceled due to VISA travel or other scheduling issues from officials in Tema. An agreement signing is anticipated for March 2024 pending further commitment and confirmation from Tema officials and the local nonprofit sponsor, Ghana-Milwaukee Association Inc.

The relationship was initiated by previous Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton. Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc. has acted as the local sponsor to help establish the relationship and oversee activities. There have been changes in leadership in the association over the last few years, which has affected ongoing local community commitment and involvement as of late. The Sister Cities Committee has remained open to inquire with the association and local community regarding their level of commitment going forward prior to taking any action.

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 [191027](#).

SISTER CITIES RELATED EVENTS

Milwaukee Sister Cities Day and Meet-and-Greet

Under the leadership of the Sister Cities Committee, Milwaukee Common Council – City Clerk's Office, Mayor's Office, and current and prospective Milwaukee Sister Cities, the first Milwaukee Sister Cities Day and Meet-and-Greet event 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. There is intent to continue the event on an annual basis.

Holiday Folk Fair 2023

The committee resumed its participation with having a sister cities booth at the Holiday Folk Fair International from November 17-20, 2023 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 2023:

- April 19, 2023
- June 6, 2023
- September 6, 2023
- November 17, 2023

Minutes and materials pertaining to meetings and activities of the Sister Cities Committee can be found within Common Council File Number [221435](#) and/or at <https://milwaukee.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Committee Meeting Highlights:

At the **April 19, 2023** meeting, the committee:

- Welcomed Tyler Weber, Interim Health Commissioner, as a new member from the Milwaukee Health Department.
- Reviewed and approved the application to renew the sister city relationship with Irpin, Ukraine with a change of local sponsorship to Friends of Be an Angel, Inc.
- Reviewed and approved the 2022 annual reports for Bomet County (Kenya) and Tarime District (Tanzania) as well as the 2023 annual reports for Zadar (Croatia), Irpin (Ukraine), and Galway (Ireland).
- Discussed Tema officials having VISA travel challenges, inability to schedule a signing ceremony with prospective sister city Tema (Ghana) due to travel issues, and intentions to contact state and federal officials to assist in the travel issues.
- Was given a presentation and interest to establish a sister city relationship with Kragujevac, Serbia. A letter of interest would follow and formally be submitted.
- Discussed the experiences of those who traveled and participated in the Sister Cities International South African Summit in Cape Town, South Africa. Some main takeaways from the summit were proposals to establish Africa Basketball League, establish 500 new sister city relationships in Africa, and establish a sister city relationship in South Africa.
- Discussed the success of the sister cities booth and participation in the Holiday Folk Fair International in November 2022.

- Discussed intentions of clerk staff and Dr. Christine Mosore to meet to plan the meet-and-greet event.
- Reviewed and approved the 2022 Sister Cities Committee annual report.

At the **June 6, 2023** meeting, the committee:

- Welcomed Aaron Szopinski as a new designee member from the Milwaukee Health Department.
- Reviewed and approved a letter of intent from the Milwaukee Action Network, Inc. as the local nonprofit sponsor to establish a sister city relationship with Abuja, Nigeria. A sister city relationship new application would be extended to the local sponsor to complete and submit.
- Reviewed and approved a letter of intent from the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral as the local nonprofit sponsor to establish a sister city relationship with Kragujevac, Serbia. A sister city relationship new application would be extended to the local sponsor to complete and submit.
- Discussed the ongoing delay for an in-person sister city agreement signing ceremony with Tema (Ghana) and advocated for a virtual signing ceremony should travel remain an issue after August 6, 2023 from Tema officials.
- Was given an update on the Zadar, Croatia sister city activities of a water lead poisoning testing elementary school exchange program and a meet-and-greet with Ivan Marcelic, a dignitary from Zadar.
- Discussed proceeding with a Milwaukee Sister Cities Day and Meet-and-Greet event for July 12, 2023 entailing a short program with remarks, proclamation from the Mayor, food/music/entertainment, and participation by all Milwaukee sister cities. Event to be finalized further and to utilize City resources to cover gaps, as needed.
- Discussed Sister Cities International upcoming conferences and updates. Ald. Stamper to attend the SCI Leadership and Annual Membership Meeting in Durham, North Carolina from July 26-28, 2023 for the first time as a board member.

At the **September 6, 2023** meeting, the committee:

- Reviewed and approved the application to establish a new sister city relationship with Abuja, Nigeria with Milwaukee Action Network, Inc. as the local nonprofit sponsoring organization. Next steps to entail legislative approval via a resolution through the Common Council process.
- Reviewed and approved the application to establish a new sister city relationship with Kragujevac, Serbia with St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral as the local nonprofit sponsoring organization. Next steps to entail legislative approval via a resolution through the Common Council process.
- Discussed wanting to get a response on the level of involvement and response, which has been lacking, from Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc. as the local sponsor to the prospective sister city relationship with Tema (Ghana) prior to moving forward with a signing ceremony.
- Discussed the success of the Milwaukee Sister Cities Day and Meet-and-Greet event and idea of holding the event at a different date next year.
- Discussed SCI past and future events, conferences, and initiatives; inquired about the status of British Virgin Islands as a prospective sister city; and to explore establishing a sister city relationship with South Africa.
- Was given an update on Tarime District (Tanzania) sister city activities. Of note was a Milwaukee/Tarime Sister Cities Day-Tanzania Day celebration event to be held November 9, 2023 at Milwaukee City Hall with a program, cultural activities, food, meet-and-greet, and gathering.
- Was informed of Bruce Spann resigning from the committee as a public member.

At the **November 7, 2023** meeting, the committee:

- Welcomed Colleen Cheney-Trawinski as a new public member.
- Discussed again to get a response on the level of involvement and response, which has been lacking, from Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc. as the local sponsor to the prospective sister city relationship with Tema (Ghana) prior to moving forward with a signing ceremony.
- Discussed to prepare and hold a sister city agreement signing ceremony on December 13, 2023 to formalize the sister city relationship with Abjua, Nigeria.
- Discussed to prepare and hold a sister city agreement signing ceremony

on January 26, 2023 to formalize the sister city relationship with Kragujevac, Serbia.

- Was informed of the interest still to pursue a sister city relationship with the British Virgin Islands. The delay was due to political changes in the British Virgin Islands and effort to reestablish relationships.
- Discussed to further explore establishing a sister city relationship in South Africa.
- Discussed supporting and participation in the upcoming sister city related events of the Holiday Folk Fair International sister cities booth for November 17-19, 2023 and Milwaukee-Tarime Sister Cities & Tanzania Day event for November 9, 2023.
- Discussed setting the next meet-and-greet event for September 2024.
- Discussed an upcoming December 9, 2023 tryout opportunity in the SCI NBA Basketball without Borders Junior Pilot Program.