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Assistant City Attorneys

September 15, 2006

Ronald D. Leonhardt, City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 205

Re: Sister Cities Committee, § 320-47, Milwaukee Code of Ordinances

Dear Mr. Leonhardt:

By correspondence dated August 15, 2006, you forwarded to this office some samples of sister city agreements that might be used by the City of Milwaukee to enter into sister city relationships with comparable foreign units of government under the auspices of Sister Cities International, Inc. (SSI). You informed us that the chair of the committee having jurisdiction, Alderman Joe Davis, has requested that this office review the proposed form and forward any suggestions regarding entering into such an agreement. In addition to reviewing the materials enclosed with your letter, we have reviewed the articles of incorporation of SSI and that organization's bylaws as amended.

Based upon that review, it is our opinion that there is no legal impediment to the City entering into sister city arrangements by use of the sample form agreement. It appears that the only liability to which the City would find itself by executing the agreement would be the liability for the payment of the annual dues. There does not appear to be any other contractual liability, nor does the execution of the agreement seem to place the City in a position of possible tort liability

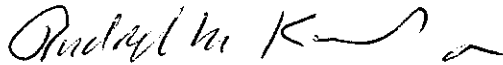
SSI represents itself as having been created for the purpose of enhancing world peace by promoting sister city relationships between local, county, and state governments in the United States of America with similar governmental units in foreign countries with the object of developing closer understanding and cooperation between people of other nations and those of the United States of America. Whether or not the City should become a member of SSI, or enter into

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sister city relationships with other governmental units throughout the world is, of course, a policy decision left to the sound discretion of the Common Council.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



GRANT F. LANGLEY  
City Attorney



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