

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE City of Milwaukee

2014 Annual Report

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



SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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.

Members (for 2014)

CHAIR

Ald. Joe Davis., Sr.

(Chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee)

MEMBERS

Leslie Silletti

(Representative of Mayor Tom Barrett)

Alexander Durtka, Jr.

(Representative of the International Institute of Wisconsin)

Charles Vang

(Public member, appointed by Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.)

Eric Gass

(Representative of the Health Commissioner)

Staff

Mr. Chris Lee, Staff Assistant

Amy Hefter, Legislative Liaison

Ms. Charlotte Rodriguez, Council File Specialist

Milwaukee Sister Cities Website

<http://city.milwaukee.gov/sistercities#.VJM9nDrnZHG>

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SISTER CITIES AND FRIENDLY EXCHANGES

The City of Milwaukee currently has four active sister city relationships with signed agreements:

- Carora, Venezuela
- Galway, Ireland
- Medan, Indonesia
- uMhlathuze, South Africa

The City of Milwaukee has one pending sister city relationship requiring a signed agreement:

- Zadar, Croatia

The City of Milwaukee has one expired sister city relationship with a signed agreement:

- Morogoro, Tanzania

The City of Milwaukee has no active friendly exchange relationships.

The City of Milwaukee has one expired friendly exchange relationship:

- Ningbo, China

The tables below summarizes the City's current active sister city relationships.

Current 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
Carora, Venezuela (2009 - Present)	The Peace Education Project of Peace Action Wisconsin	80769	10/7/2008	10/9/2008	3/24/2009	3/24/2014	9/24/2013	11/8
		131429*	3/4/2014	3/7/2014		3/8/2019	9/8/2018	4/6
Galway, Ireland** (2002 - Present)	Irish Festivals, Inc.	010680	12/21/2001	1/7/2002				
		071505*	3/18/2008	3/27/2008	8/15/2008	8/15/2013	2/15/2013	4/26
		131640*	5/13/2014	5/22/2014		5/23/2019	11/23/2018	6/21
Medan, Indonesia (2014 - Present)	Pan-African Community Association, Inc.	140085	5/13/2014	5/22/2014	10/30/2014	10/30/2019	4/30/2018	6/21
uMhlathuze, South Africa (2008 - Present)	Metro Milwaukee Association of Commerce	71584	4/9/2008	4/17/2008	5/1/2008	5/1/2013	11/1/2012	5/17
	The Business Council, Inc. African American Chamber of Commerce							
	Pan-African Community Association, Inc.	140008*	5/13/2014	5/22/2014		5/23/2019	11/23/2018	6/21
*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, 2006.								

The table below summarizes the City's pending sister city relationships requiring a signed sister city relationship agreement.

Current 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
Zadar, Croatia*	Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. of Milwaukee	140088	11/25/2014	11/25/2014				
*Requires a signed sister city relationship agreement. A signing ceremony will be scheduled in the near future when both mayors from both cities are able to come together.								

The table below summarizes the City's expired sister city relationships since the creation of Chapter 335 Sister Cities, which was adopted October 24, 2006 and became effective November 10, 2006.

Expired 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
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
*Since the creation of Chapter 335 Sister Cities, which was adopted October 24, 2006 and became effective November 10, 2006.								
*Chapter 335 Sister Cities established that sister city relationships shall expire after 5 years unless extended for another 5 years by council resolution. There was no resolution to extend the relationship.								

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
Ningbo, 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.							

Accomplishments and Activities in 2014

New Sister City Relationships

City of Medan, Indonesia

In 2014, one new sister city relationship was officially established. The City of Medan, Indonesia became the City of Milwaukee's first sister city since 2009, fourth active sister city, and fifth sister city with a signed agreement. The sister city relationship became official when City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and City of Medan Mayor Dzulmi Eldin came together to sign a sister city relationship agreement in a signing ceremony at the Common Council Chambers of Milwaukee City Hall on June 30, 2014. Substitute resolution establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and the City of Medan, Indonesia (Common Council File Number 140085) was adopted by the Common Council on May 13, 2014 and signed by Mayor Tom Barrett on May 22, 2014. The Sister Cities Committee approved the application and recommended approval to establish a sister city relationship with the City of Medan on May 12, 2014.

The Pan-African Community Association (PACA), led by Board Member Khay Khong and Executive Director Fessehaye Mebrahtu, is the local sponsoring organization in the City of Milwaukee. The Chamber of Commerce of Medan is the sponsoring organization in the City of Medan headed by Mr. Rudi Zalman.

The relationship is fully supported by the Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago, whose efforts have been vital in initiating, spearheading, and establishing the sister city relationship. Efforts first stemmed from a meeting in Milwaukee in January 15, 2013 when the Consul General Andriana Supandy and Consul for Economic Affairs Alberd Pardede first visited with City of Milwaukee officials and various business representatives. The consulate's office have since visited Milwaukee several times, made exchanges with local businesses, and contributed to various activities and events leading to a sister city relationship. Examples include an Indonesia - U.S. Midwest Business Forum on June 4, 2014 in Milwaukee, a Milwaukee delegation trade exposition trip to Indonesia during the month of October 2014, and an Indonesian delegation visit to Milwaukee at the end of October 2014.

The sister city relationship with the City of Medan is for five years with an expiration date of October 30, 2019. An annual report regarding this sister city relationship will be due June 21st of every year to the Sister Cities Committee.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Medan and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 131540 and 140085.

Expired Sister City Relationships

Morogoro, Tanzania

In 2014, the City remains to have one expired sister city relationship, with a signed sister city relationship agreement, with the City of Morogoro, Tanzania. This relationship has been expired since August 3, 2012. No renewal application has been submitted and no resolution has been adopted to extend the relationship. No annual reports have been received for the last several years. The original local sponsor, Hope in Tanzania Foundation, has relocated and is no longer active in this particular sister city relationship.

Pending New Sister City Relationships

Zadar, Croatia

In 2014, a second new sister city relationship was established but requires a signed sister city agreement to become official. A signing ceremony has yet to be scheduled. The City of Zadar, Croatia can become the City of Milwaukee's second sister city since 2009, fifth active sister city, and sixth sister city with a signed agreement. Substitute resolution establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and the City of Zadar, Croatia (Common Council File Number 140088) was adopted by the Common Council and signed by Mayor Tom Barrett on November 25, 2014. The Sister Cities Committee approved the application and recommended approval to establish a sister city relationship with the City of Medan on November 3, 2014.

The Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. of Milwaukee, led by Member Paul Lucas and President John Braovac, is the local sponsoring organization in the City of Milwaukee. The City of Zadar has three local organizations sponsoring the relationship: Association of Trades and Crafts Zadar (Udruzenje obrtnika Zadar), Zadar City Sports' Community (Sportska zajednica Grada Zadar), and Zadar Writers Association (Udgruga Zadarski Pisci).

The relationship is fully supported by the Croatian Consul General in Chicago, Dr. Jelena Polic. Her efforts have been vital in initiating, spearheading, and establishing the sister city relationship.

The sister city relationship with the City of Medan will be for five years after a sister city agreement is signed by both mayors from both cities. A signing ceremony will be scheduled in the near future when both mayors are able to come together.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Zadar and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 131540 and 140088.

Renewal of Sister City Relationships

In 2014, three existing sister city relationships were renewed and extended for another five years: Carora, Venezuela; Galway, Ireland; and uMhlathuze, South Africa. Two of the relationships were expired in 2013: Galway, Ireland and uMhlathuze, South Africa.

Carora, Venezuela

In 2014, the sister city relationship with the City of Carora, Venezuela was renewed for the first time through the adoption and mayoral signature of Common Council File Number 131429, a substitute resolution renewing the sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Carora, Venezuela, on March 4, 2014 and March 7, 2014 respectively. The Sister Cities Committee approved the renewal application and recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship with the City of Carora at its February 13, 2014. The relationship previously was set to expire on March 24, 2014. With its renewal, the relationship was extended another five years with an expiration date of March 8, 2019. This sister city relationship has been in place since March 24, 2009.

This relationship is led by its original local sponsoring organization, Peace Education Project of Peace Action Wisconsin, and its committee, Milwaukee-Carora Sister Cities Committee. Main representatives and contributors from the local sponsor and its committee are Mike Helbick, Daniel Pneuman, and Erik Sperling.

The sponsor and its committee have primarily been engaged in sending delegations from Milwaukee to Carora. Another delegation trip to Carora is planned for early February 2015. Moving forward, the desire is to advance the relationship further by connecting both cities in terms of business and other avenues.

With the renewal, an annual report regarding this relationship is due on April 6th of every year to the Sister Cities Committee. Annual reports for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 have been received and approved by the committee at its April 17, 2014 meeting.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Carora and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 131540 and 131429.

Galway, Ireland

In 2014, the sister city relationship with the City of Galway, Ireland was renewed a second time through the adoption and mayoral signature of Common Council File Number 131640, a substitute resolution renewing the sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Galway, Ireland, on May 13, 2014 and May 22, 2014 respectively. The Sister Cities Committee approved the renewal application and recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship with the City of Galway at its April 17, 2014. The relationship previously had expired and lapsed on August 15, 2013. With its renewal, the relationship was extended another five years with an expiration date of May 23, 2019. This sister city relationship has been in place since

January 8, 2002 and August 15, 2008, when an official sister city agreement was signed by both mayors.

This relationship is led by its original local sponsoring organization, Irish Festival, Inc. Main representatives from the local sponsor are Director Patrick Boyle and past President Donna Brady.

The local sponsor has primarily been engaged with annually hosting Milwaukee Irish Fest, a celebration of Irish music and culture held annually on the third weekend in August on the shores of Lake Michigan at the Henry W Maier Festival Park. Additionally, the sponsor has been engaged with activities related to delegation trips from Milwaukee to Galway and from Galway to Milwaukee over the years. Moving forward, the desire is to advance the relationship further by connecting both cities in terms of business and other economic avenues.

With the renewal, an annual report regarding this relationship is due on June 21st of every year to the Sister Cities Committee. Annual reports regarding this relationship for the years 2012 and 2013 have been received and approved by the committee at its April 17, 2014 meeting. No annual report for the year 2014 has been received.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Carora and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 131540 and 131640.

uMhlathuze, South Africa

In 2014, the sister city relationship with the City of uMhlathuze, South Africa was renewed a second time through the adoption and mayoral signature of Common Council File Number 140008, a resolution renewing the sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and the City of uMhlathuze, South Africa, with a change in local sponsoring organization, on May 13, 2014 and May 22, 2014 respectively. The Sister Cities Committee approved the renewal application and recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship with the City of uMhlathuze at its April 17, 2014. The relationship previously had expired and lapsed on May 1, 2013. With its renewal, the relationship was extended another five years with an expiration date of May 23, 2019. An annual report regarding this relationship will be due June 21st of every year to the Sister Cities Committee. This sister city relationship has been in place since May 1, 2008, when an official sister city agreement was signed by both mayors.

This relationship is led by its new local sponsoring organization, Pan-African Community Association. Main representatives from the local sponsor are Executive Director Fessehayee Mebrahtu and Marketing Director Magugu Davis.

With the renewal, an annual report regarding this relationship is due on June 21st of every year to the Sister Cities Committee. No annual reports for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 have been received.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Carora and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Numbers 131540 and 131640.

Requests for Friendly Exchanges or Sister City Relationships

Bomet County, Kenya

In 2014, there has been interest in establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and the County of Bomet, Kenya. Efforts have been led by University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee students Alice Kones and David Mugun, the Pan-African Community Association (PACA), and the Bomet County Director of Trade and Industry Bill Rutto. Ms. Kones, Mr. Mugun, and PACA representatives have met the committee on a few occasions. At its April 17, 2014 meeting, the committee moved for the establishment of a friendly exchange relationship. Governor Isaac Ruto from Bomet County visited Milwaukee and met with City officials in July 2014. At its November 3, 2014 meeting, the committee was requested to move forward and establish a sister city relationship. The committee did not extend an application for a friendly exchange relationship or a sister city relationship. The committee was concerned about the government structure of the County of Bomet and whether or not a relationship between a county and city was appropriate. The committee held the matter and requested additional information to address these concerns.

Expired Friendly Exchange Relationships

Ningbo, China

The friendly exchange relationship with the City of Ningbo, China expired on October 10, 2014 when Chapter 335 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinance established that friendly exchange relationships shall expire after five years unless extended for another five years by council resolution. This friendly exchange has been in place since October 6, 2005 with the mayoral signature of Common Council File Number 050754, a resolution authorizing the establishment of a friendly exchange agreement with the City of Ningbo, China. There has been no resolution to extend the relationship.

Sister Cities Committee meetings held in 2014:

- February 13, 2014
- April 17, 2014
- May 12, 2014
- September 15, 2014
- November 3, 2014

2014 Committee Meeting Highlights:

At the **February 13, 2014** meeting, the committee reviewed the sister city renewal application and recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship with Carora, Venezuela with The Peace Education Project of Peace Action Wisconsin as the continuing local sponsor. The committee was presented with interest to establish sister city relationships with Medan, Indonesia and Bomet County, Kenya. The committee held action on these proposals. The Pan-African Community Association proposed interest to serve as the local sponsoring organization for all sister city relationships in Africa. The committee held action on this proposal.

At the **April 17, 2014** meeting, the committee moved to extend a sister city application to the Pan-African Community Association as the local sponsoring organization regarding Medan, Indonesia. The committee reviewed the sister city renewal application and recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland with Irish Festivals, Inc. as the continuing local sponsor. The committee reviewed the sister city renewal application and recommended approval to renew the sister city relationship with uMhlathuze, South Africa with Pan-African Community Association as the new local sponsor. The committee moved to recommend a friendly exchange with Bomet County, Kenya. The committee moved to further establish criteria in the City ordinance to clarify the process for friendly exchange and sister city relationships. The Pan-African Community Association proposed to serve as the local sponsoring organization for all sister city relationships in Africa. The committee held action on this proposal. The committee approved the 2012, 2013, and 2014 annual reports that were submitted by the local sponsor for the sister city relationship with Carora, Venezuela. The committee approved the 2012 and 2013 annual reports that were submitted by the local sponsor for the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland. The committee reviewed and approved the 2011, 2012, and 2013 annual reports and activities of the Sister Cities Committee.

At the **May 12, 2014** meeting, the committee reviewed the sister city application and recommended approval for a sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia with the Pan-African Community Association as the local sponsor.

At the **September 15, 2014** meeting, the committee was presented with interest to establish a sister city relationship with Zadar, Croatia. The committee moved to extend a sister city application to the Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. of Milwaukee as the local sponsoring organization regarding Zadar, Croatia. The committee was presented with information regarding a February 2015 delegation trip to Carora, Venezuela from Barry Keefe of Peace Education

Project of Peace Action Wisconsin and the Milwaukee-Carora Sister Cities Committee. The committee gave guidance concerning the delegation trip and inquired information regarding the current membership information of the local sponsor and its sister city committee. The committee reviewed, amended, and recommended approval of Common Council File Number 140083, a substitute ordinance relating to a sister cities friendly exchange program. The ordinance establishes a friendly relations policy and an application process similar to the formal sister city relationship policy and application process with the exception of requiring a signed agreement.

At the **November 3, 2014** meeting, the committee reviewed the sister city application and recommended approval for a sister city relationship with Zadar, Croatia with the Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. as the local sponsor. The committee revisited of Bomet County, Kenya moving forward as a sister city rather than a friendly exchange. The committee held action and requested further information regarding the government structure of Bomet County, Kenya. The committee reflected on a recent delegation trip to Medan, Indonesia and the successful sister city agreement signing ceremony that took place at City Hall on October 30, 2014 regarding Medan, Indonesia. The committee reviewed and approved the Friendly Exchange Relationship Application Form.

Further information regarding all committee meetings can be found within the meeting minutes, which are contained within CCFN 131540 or online at <https://milwaukee.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Friendly Exchange Criteria and Process Further Established

On October 10, 2014, Chapter 335 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinance was amended by Common Council File Number 140083, a substitute ordinance relating to a sister cities friendly exchange program. The ordinance change further established a friendly relations policy, expiration policy, and an application process similar to the formal sister city relationship policy, expiration policy, and application process. In contrast to a sister city relationship, friendly relations shall not require formal signed agreements in accordance with Sister Cities International policy.