



Proclamation

Whereas, To facilitate and maintain world peace, cities, their elected officials, and their citizens need to collaborate internationally, through international organizations such as Sister Cities International; and

Whereas, In 2016, Sister Cities International is celebrating 60 years of global citizen and civic diplomatic action, and helping support a future where the world's cities, communities and its citizens can come together in common ground; and

Whereas, Sister Cities International Day is a fitting occasion to commemorate the significant impact that the organization has made in building bridges across nations, cities and communities around the globe in order to create and sustain world peace; and

Whereas, Sister Cities International was founded as a Presidential initiative by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on September 11, 1956 at the White House Conference on citizen diplomacy to create more community-led global relationships so that people of different cultures could appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new national conflicts; and

Whereas, Sister Cities International as described by President Eisenhower promotes that fact "that all people want peace. If we are to take advantage of this assumption that all people want peace, then the problem is for people to get together and to leap governments – if necessary to evade governments – to work out not one method but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other."; and

Whereas, Since President Eisenhower, every sitting president has been the Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities International; and

Whereas, Sister Cities International currently has 550 U.S. member cities, counties and states with relationships with over 2100 communities in 145 countries, spanning 6 continents having representation in nearly every district represented in the House of Representatives; and

Whereas, the City of Belleville is proud to be a driving part of this global network with a Sister City partnership with Paderborn, Germany; and

Whereas, The impact of Sister Cities International's programs in 2014 has included participation of 1.13 million. Collectively, in 2014 the SCI network hosted 2316 events and engaged 32,876 volunteers throughout the U.S.; and

Whereas, countless city, county, and state governments and their leaders have been involved in global relationships due to Sister Cities International and; and

Whereas, these relationships include educational, economic, cultural, municipal and humanitarian assistance exchange programs that are mutually beneficial to each community; and

Whereas, Sister Cities International Day is a call to action for Americans and citizens of the world to come together to celebrate the importance of communities' continued commitment to supporting to a more peaceful and prosperous future through continued people to people exchanges; and

Whereas, Sister Cities International Day is an opportune time for Americans and the world to come together and show how powerful humanity can be when we unite to promote peace, progress and prosperity for a better world.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mark W. Eckert, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby proclaim July 15, 2016 as Sister Cities International Day in the City of Belleville.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the corporate seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed this 5th day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen.

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert, Mayor
July 5, 2016