

Proclamation

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 international conflicts; and

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

WHEREAS, there is no better day to celebrate the birth of the modern sister cities movement than on the birthday of its founder, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, on October 14; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International currently has 400 member cities, counties, and states with relationships with 1,800 communities in 138 countries on six continents; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International in recent years has held several bilateral and regional sister cities summits to strengthen existing and expanding new sister city relationships in places like Ireland, Mexico, Russia, China, and across the African continent; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belleville, Illinois is proud to be part of a global network with sister city partnerships in Paderborn, Germany; and

WHEREAS, sister city 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 Belleville residents and citizens of the world to come together to celebrate the importance of the communities' continued commitment to supporting a more peaceful and prosperous future through continued people-to-people exchanges; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International Day is an opportune time for Belleville and cities across the world to show how powerful humanity can be when communities unite to promote peace, progress, and prosperity for a better world.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patty Gregory, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2024, as **Sister Cities International Day** in the City of Belleville.*

Pride in the Past . . . Promise for the Future

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 7th day of October, 2024.



Patty Gregory
Patty Gregory, Mayor
Dated this 7th day of October, 2024