



# Proclamation

*Whereas, today we celebrate Bürgermeister Michael Dreier's remarkable leadership and honor the incredible support he has provided over the years, nurturing a profound friendship between the Belleville and Paderborn Sister Cities affiliation; and*

*Whereas, the purpose of Belleville Sister Cities is to foster friendship and respect and to enhance the cultural heritage between Belleville and Paderborn, and Bürgermeister Dreier has been an exemplary model, demonstrating the great impact of our unity; and*

*Whereas, on September 2, 1990, Mayor Richard Brauer of the City of Belleville and Mayor Wilhelm Lüke of Stadt Paderborn signed an official friendship document at City Hall in Paderborn, Germany that created Belleville Sister Cities, Inc., a Sister City affiliation; and*

*Whereas, the exchange of visitors, families, youth groups, and professional people between Paderborn, Germany, and Belleville, Illinois has resulted in a better understanding of the social, economic, and political conditions of each community. Young people from Belleville and Paderborn have had the opportunity to visit cultures that were once foreign to them and to exchange their cultures, history, and traditions with each other; and*

*Whereas, it is the firm belief of Belleville Sister Cities that joint activities between the people of Paderborn and Belleville will greatly contribute to a better understanding of cultures and heritage and make a meaningful effort toward world peace; and*

*Whereas, in 2008, Mayor Mark W. Eckert and his wife, Rita, and Belleville Sister City delegates visited Paderborn, Germany, and attended the Libori Festival; and*

*Whereas, in 2014, Bürgermeister Michael Dreier, his wife, Beate, and Paderborn Sister City delegates visited Belleville, Illinois, and attended Belleville's Bicentennial Celebration and Oktoberfest; and*

*Whereas, in 2024, Mayor Jenny Gain Meyer and Belleville Sister City delegates visited Paderborn, Germany, and attended the Libori Festival. Bürgermeister Michael Dreier, his wife, Beate, and Paderborn Sister City delegates returned to Belleville and attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Belleville Oktoberfest. During this visit, Bürgermeister Dreier was interviewed on Fox 2 News, St. Louis, Missouri, and*

*Whereas, in 2025, Doris Roach returned to Paderborn, Germany, and was awarded the Kulturadel, an award given in special appreciation of cultural commitment in voluntary work; and*

**NOW THEREFORE, I, Jenny Gain Meyer, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, hereby congratulate **Bürgermeister Michael Dreier** on his retirement in grateful recognition of his dedicated service and many contributions to Belleville Sister Cities.**

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the corporate seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-five.*



Jenny Gain Meyer, Mayor