



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 7E04

May 11, 2018

Sister Cities International  
ATTN: Board of Directors  
915 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Elections Committee of the Board of Directors:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate my friend, Courtney D. Bennett, to the Sister Cities International's Board of Directors. The epitome of citizen diplomacy and community leadership, I am confident your consideration of her candidacy will be worthy of your time.

As a District resident, Courtney has shown exemplary community involvement by pioneering several initiatives and mobilizing underrepresented communities around issues that affect them the most. I first met Courtney while campaigning for the seventh Mayor of the District of Columbia, Vincent C. Gray. She served as the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator and was instrumental in orchestrating 8 successful citywide youth town halls in conjunction with Young Democrats DC. These town halls provided young people the platform to voice their concerns for community change, an area Courtney has over 10 years experience. For several years, she has organized Beat the Streets, a 13-day traveling community festival to dispel violence, improve community relations and promote peace. This is done community by community in partnership between the Metropolitan Police Department, local social service agencies and community vendors – what Courtney considers “powerful partnerships to promote peace.”

During Gray's administration, Courtney represented the United States and the District of Columbia as a Sister Cities Delegate in Beijing, China. There she spoke about her experiences in community organizing and presented authored position paper: *Millennials and Self-Integration in City Administration – Involving Young People in the Creation of Their Own Destinies*, detailing the formidable involvement of the District's youth in local government. Furthermore, Courtney welcomes over 100 young professionals from 29 countries (and counting) to Washington D.C. every summer to help strengthen their understanding of other cultures, build global networks and develop their professional and interpersonal skills.

Courtney's resume illustrates the wonders of her achievements, but her commitment to promoting sustainability and peace through people goes well beyond the print and is true to who she is as a person. Her desire to engage the world through meaningful, mutually beneficial dialogue and understanding is what makes her unparalleled. At just 31 years of age, the many lives touched through her work in the District and the world over is remarkable, and she sees her achievements as “just her responsibility to the world.” This is why I believe she will truly complement your Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Takiyah “T.N.” Tate  
Ward 7 Democrats, Vice Chair  
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7E04 and Vice Chair, ANC 7E