



City of Virginia Beach

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Sister Cities International
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 1400,
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Members of Sister Cities International,

I am pleased to offer my recommendation for Maria Weissenseel as she is considered for election to the Board of Directors.

I have had the opportunity to support Maria's work as president of the Sister Cities Association of Virginia Beach, where I serve as the City Council Liaison. Over several years, I have come to know her well and hold her in very high regard, both professionally and personally.

Maria approaches her responsibilities with consistency and care. She manages a wide range of initiatives in Virginia Beach while maintaining strong, meaningful relationships with our sister city partners around the world.

She regularly coordinates and hosts delegations from our partner cities, handling every aspect of their visits with attention to detail and professionalism. She also oversees the logistics of cultural exchanges between cities, making sure those experiences are thoughtful, well executed, and aligned with the broader mission of the organization.

She is engaged with students in Virginia Beach City Public Schools and students from our sister cities, supporting efforts to raise funds for scholarships and educational programming tied to international exchange. She also works with our economic development team and local business community to strengthen connections and support economic growth through these global relationships.

Maria works well with City staff, board members, and community partners. She understands how to balance local priorities with the broader value of international engagement, and she does so in a steady and effective way.

Maria and her husband, Gunther, are both active volunteers in Virginia Beach. Their commitment to the community leaves a lasting impact, both locally and through our international partnerships. We are fortunate to have them as part of our city.

I strongly recommend Maria and am confident she would be a valuable addition to the Board of Directors of Sister Cities International.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Berlucchi
Council Member