

WILLIAM C. SMITH, JR.
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Chair

Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 24, 2026

Sister Cities International, Inc.
1012 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Sister Cities International,

It is my pleasure to wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Jean Bailey as a candidate for the Sister Cities International Board of Directors. Jean has been a consistent fixture in our Maryland Sister States program for years and is currently the President and CEO of the Board of Directors of the Sister States of Maryland, Inc.. She is skilled at bringing people together, she understands the importance of people-to-people diplomacy, and her expertise in coordinating events would be a great asset to any organization challenged with keeping their members connected.

I have personally seen the impact Jean has made in the District of Columbia's underserved populations in Wards 1 and 2, in Baltimore City and Montgomery County, Maryland in her work as current Secretary/Treasurer and Project Director of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition (NAADPC), a national coalition of the 25 premier African American Professional Organizations housed at the Center for Drug Abuse Research (CDAR) at Howard University. Through her involvement in the Sister States of Maryland and other international programs such as the Howard University Republic of South Africa Program (HURSAP), she has been able to translate these best practices into international settings, in organizations such as the International Society for Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) and MOUs between State of Maryland Departments and South Africa Departments.

Since 2019, Jean has directed the America's Voices Against Apartheid Project (AVAA), a major archival research project and exhibition exhibited at the Apartheid Museum in South Africa (Opened May 2023), the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. in September 2023 and Baltimore City Hall in June, 2024. She is also the Project Director for the "Exploring Cultural Linkages Between Black Marylanders and Civil Rights Movements Abroad" and the "Dr. Joseph E. Harris Maryland Routes of Enslaved Peoples Heritage Trail" major initiatives supported through the U.S. Congress and the Maryland General Assembly.

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As President and CEO of the Board of Directors of the Sister States of Maryland, Inc. and Chair of the Maryland/KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Sister State Committee, Jean directs the Strategic Planning/Fund Development Committee. In that capacity, she has been responsible for development of the strategic plan for the organization and securing funding of over \$2.25m for implementation of specific Sister State programs. Additionally, she has established MOUs between Maryland Departments of Higher Education, Basic Education, Social Development and Science and Technology and their counterpart departments in South Africa.

In 2022, Jean chaired a Maryland high level delegation to South Africa which included receptions hosted by the U.S. Embassy as well as the three (3) consulates, meetings with Sister State governmental partners and businesses, and visits to cultural and other programs in Durban, Johannesburg, and Cape Town. In February 2023, Jean headed the Sister States of Maryland delegation to the Sister Cities International Africa Regional conference in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa. In addition to serving as a Graduate Professor of Human Development at Howard University, she has served in various capacities throughout her distinguished career, including as Undergraduate Faculty Trustee for the Howard University Board of Trustees and Professor and Chair of the Department of Human Development.

I have no doubt that Jean would be an outstanding addition to the Sister Cities International Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss her qualifications further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Smith, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland State Senate