PROCLAMATION

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL DAY

July 15, 2016

WHEREAS, in 2016 Sister Cities International is celebrating 60 years of global citizen and civic diplomatic action, and helping support a future where the world’s cities, communities, and its citizens can come together in common ground; and

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

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 national conflicts, and since President Eisenhower, every sitting president has been the Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities International; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International currently has 550 U.S. member cities, counties, and states, having relationships with over 2,000 communities in 145 countries, spanning 6 continents, and having representation in nearly every district represented in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Sister Cities International’s programs in 2014 has included participation of $13 million, and collectively, in 2014 the SCI network hosted 2,206 events and engaged 22,876 volunteers throughout the U.S., and countless city, county, and state governments and their leaders have been involved in global relationships due to Sister Cities International; and

WHEREAS, these 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 Americans and citizens of the world to come together to celebrate the importance of communities’ continued commitment to supporting to a more peaceful and prosperous future through continued people-to-people exchanges; and

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International Day is an opportune time for Americans and the world to come together and show how powerful humanity can be when we unite to promote peace, progress, and prosperity for a better world;

WHEREAS, York County is proud to be a driving part of this global network with a sister city partnership in Port-Vendres, France; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the York County Board of Supervisors that July 15, 2016, be, and it is hereby, designated as Sister Cities International Day in the County of York, Virginia, and the Board encourages all citizens to celebrate 60 years of peace through people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of York, Virginia, to be affixed this 3rd day of May, 2016.

Jeffrey D. Waitsner, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors