



Norfolk Sister City Association

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Global Friendship, Cooperation and Opportunity

February 28, 2022

Norfolk City Council
810 Union Street, 10th Floor
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Mayor Alexander and Norfolk City Councilmen and Councilwomen:

This letter is written on behalf of the Board of Directors of Norfolk Sister City Association in response to Mayor Alexander's request that Norfolk Sister City Association immediately end its relationship with Kaliningrad, Russia.

The mission of Sister Cities International is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation - one individual, one community at a time. The value of face-to-face meetings and personal relationships is that it changes more than just the lives of individuals but communities. In support of this mission, Norfolk Sister City Association has relationships with ten cities in ten different countries.

Kaliningrad Russia is but one of these relationships. Norfolk and Kaliningrad became Sister Cities in 1992. However, the relationship has waned over the years and is currently one of our least active relationships. The Kaliningrad Sister City Committee has been without a Chair for over a year. It is however our firm belief that lasting peace can best be achieved through the development of personal relationships and the natural affinity that results. To that end, we desire to continue our quest to establish a meaningful relationship with the people of Kaliningrad.

To demonstrate our support for Ukraine, the Kaliningrad directional marker on the Norfolk Sister City signpost at Town Point Park will be hooded. The hood will remain until the Russian invaders have left the sovereign country of Ukraine.

The decision for the City of Norfolk to establish or disestablish relationships with sister cities lies with Norfolk City Council. Norfolk Sister City Association will abide by and assist the Council in whatever decision is made.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Inscoe
President, Norfolk Sister City Association
Chair, Kitakyushu Sister City Committee

