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For Immediate Release

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06/15/2023

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MAYOR SCOTT LONG TO SIGN KOROSTEN UKRAINE SISTER CITY AGREEMENT

Wabash is Indiana's 1st city to establish a sister city in Ukraine as part of the Sister Cities International network.

Wabash, IN, June 15, 2023 – Mayor Scott Long will sign a sister city agreement with Mayor Volodymyr Moskalenko of Korosten Ukraine, of the Zhytomyr Region on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 10:30 AM in the City Council Chambers. The signing will take place via WebEx.

Wabash will become one of the first Indiana communities to officially adopt a sister city in Ukraine, signing its agreement with Korosten, Zhytomyr Oblast, following the City of Monticello securing a relationship with Liubar, Zhytomyr Oblast on June 19th, 2023. With both Ukrainian communities located within the same Oblast (equivalent to a US state), these relationships open opportunities for regional collaboration both here and in Ukraine.

The signing is part of a larger effort to explore fostering sister-city relationships with multiple countries. The City of Wabash has been working with an experienced consultant to research and build relationships in Germany, Japan, and others, respectfully.

“As Mayor of Wabash, one of my goals is to better prepare our students and community to compete globally. The relationships that I began building in Asia, beginning in 2018, have made tremendous strides towards that goal. A community of our size can compete with larger communities when we work with our local partners, such as Wabash City Schools, to foster student exchange opportunities, foreign language study opportunities, and working with local foreign owned companies, strengthens these ties. Attracting foreign direct investment into Wabash and Wabash County is the best way to position ourselves for success well into the future.”

Building a relationship with Korosten Ukraine falls in line with Mayor Scott Long’s vision of *Opening the world to Wabash and Wabash to the world*. The agreement will help establish and grow the relationship between the two historic cities with a focus on cultural affairs, business, and education among other initiatives.

Keith Gillenwater, President/CEO of Grow Wabash County - “building stronger relationships abroad brings about greater opportunities for success and prosperity for both communities involved. As we continue to show the world all the great things Wabash City has to offer, sister city relationships, like the one we are entering into with Korosten, will help Wabash County grow in its abilities to compete in the global economy and establish itself as a destination for business and cultural growth.”

Sarah Delgadillo - "As Wabash's first sister city, this partnership displays Wabash's deep roots as a forward-thinking and innovative city. Wabash will work closely with leaders of Korosten, Ukraine to support and mentor its local government. We're thankful to the staff of The International Center in Indianapolis and the USAID HOVERLA Ukraine Sister Cities program for helping to bring this partnership to fruition." Sarah Delgadillo serves as a foreign relations champion and the City of Wabash's point of contact for cultural, education, and international business.

Mayor Scott Long - "I am honored to enter this relationship on behalf of the City of Wabash and its citizens. I expect that new friendships will be established with Mayor Moskalenko and his team, as well as the citizens of Korosten, now and well into the future. This is an exciting time for both cities."

The City of Wabash is located in Northeast Indiana with a population of 10,112 constituents. The city strives to build and foster a great community while preserving, protecting, and enhancing the quality of life for the public. For more information about the City of Wabash, please visit www.cityofwabash.com or call us at 260.563-4171.

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