

**Town of Bel Air
Seal**



**Maryland - Estonia Exchange Council
(MEEC)**



**City of Narva
Coat of Arms**



Memorandum of Cooperation

In order to strengthen the cordial relations forged by the Maryland National Guard with the Estonian Home Guard (Kaitseliit) through the State Partnership Program almost 20 years ago, and in recognition of the regional initiatives of the Maryland-Estonia Exchange Council (MEEC) with the official Sister State links between Maryland and Estonia, as well as the special ties that have developed between the citizens of Harford and Ida-Viru Counties; the County Seats of both these counties, Bel Air and Narva (hereinafter the signatories), hereby agree to this memorandum of cooperation which will form the two cities into partner (twin/sister) cities .

The signatories will explore continuing opportunities to cultivate a greater understanding of each other, raise cross-cultural awareness between both cities and generally advance their friendship. Furthermore, we will work together toward sharing information and creative endeavors between not only Bel Air and Narva Townships, but also all of Harford County and all of Ida-Viru County.

We will develop a climate which fosters educational exchanges, workforce development, healthcare partnerships and mutual prosperity through interaction among recreational and business entrepreneurs promoting investment, expanding commerce and international trade, not only between Bel Air and Narva, but also between all of Maryland and all of Estonia, including the cities of Havre de Grace and Silamae that are already twinned. The signatories will initiate and expand cooperative efforts by seeking to identify appropriate areas for collaboration; and in all spheres of mutual interest, work for the benefit and well being of their respective citizenry.

This memorandum has English and Estonian versions, both being authentic. Each copy is signed by the officials of all parties, and kept by all concerned organizations and municipal governments. Remembering that in the 13th Century, Estonia was also known as "Terra Marina" or Mary's Land, it is especially fitting today in the 21st Century that a city in the State of Maryland and a city in Estonia should agree to this memorandum.

Signed in the spirit of friendship and understanding in Bel Air and Narva during November _____, 2013.

***Edward Hopkins
Mayor of Bel Air***

***Toivo Tagamets
Chair, MEEC***

***Tarmo Tammiste
Mayor of Narva***