

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 200

Approved April 13, 2015

WHEREAS, The Members of the City Council of Providence, Rhode Island desire to re-establish a Sister City relationship with Santo Domingo Distrito Nacional and to establish a Sister City relationship with Municipio de Santiago de los Caballeros; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1498 by Bartholomew Columbus (younger brother of Christopher), Santo Domingo is the oldest continually inhabited European settlement in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, The city was the first seat of the Spanish colonial authorities in the New World; and

WHEREAS, Santo Domingo is the capital of the Dominican Republic and, with more than three million people in its metro area, the largest city in the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, Santo Domingo is the home to the first university, first cathedral, first castle, and first monastery in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, The earliest constructed neighborhood in Santo Domingo, Ciudad Colonial (“the Colonial City”) has been declared a World Heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) due to its rich history, architecture, and cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, Santiago de los Caballeros was founded in 1495 during the first wave of Spanish colonization of the Americas; and

WHEREAS, With roughly 1.2 million people in its metro area, Santiago de los Caballeros is the second largest city in the Dominican Republic and the fifth largest city in the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, Santiago de los Caballeros has at times served as the capital of the Dominican Republic and is currently the capital of the Santiago Province; and

WHEREAS, The second major battle of the Dominican War for Independence took place in Santiago de los Caballeros and was a pivotal victory for the greatly outnumbered Dominican forces; and

WHEREAS, Santiago de los Caballeros is a major commercial and industrial

center that is home to many of the Dominican Republic's largest manufacturers and employers; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is home to 34 thousand Dominicans, who have made significant contributions to the cultural and economic development of our great city, while maintaining significant ties to the homeland of their ancestors; and

WHEREAS, On July 15th, 2003, the Providence City Council passed Resolution No. 537, establishing a Sister City relationship with Santo Domingo Distrito Nacional; and

WHEREAS, A Sister City relationship will promote understanding between the people of both countries, facilitating and expanding upon the existing strong ties between Providence, Santo Domingo, and Santiago de los Caballeros, and creating new opportunities for humanitarian and social exchanges between the United States and the Dominican Republic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby declare and re-establish an official Sister City relationship between the City of Providence and Santo Domingo Distrito Nacional.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby declare and establish an official Sister City relationship between the City of Providence and Municipio de Santiago de los Caballeros.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the legislatures of Santo Domingo Distrito Nacional and Municipio de Santiago de los Caballeros.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 02 2015

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE

Mayor

Date:

4/13/15