

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 102

Approved February 28, 2025

WHEREAS, The City Council of Providence seeks to establish a sister city/twinning cooperation and friendship agreement with the Municipal District of Athlone, Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Representatives from both cities have expressed a strong interest in fostering a relationship rooted in shared cultural, historical, and economic ties; and

WHEREAS, Delegations from both communities have visited and engaged with each other, demonstrating a mutual willingness to collaborate on programs that will benefit both cities; and

WHEREAS, Long-standing informal ties between the two cities have been fostered through the efforts of Athlone native Patrick Griffin, President of the Providence St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and John Hensen, Chairman of the Athlone St. Patrick's Day Committee, whose work has strengthened cultural and civic connections between Providence and Athlone; and

WHEREAS, This relationship has been further strengthened by visits from Athlone's elected representatives to Providence, including former Mayor Cllr Aengus O'Rourke and current Mayor Cllr Frankie Keena, who have participated in St. Patrick's Day celebrations and worked closely with local leaders-Providence Mayor Brett Smiley and Providence Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan-who have played a leading role in fostering this partnership and advancing the shared heritage and mutual interests of both cities; and

WHEREAS, There is a common interest in developing initiatives that may include, but are not limited to:

- City Council/Municipal District twinning relationship
- Tourism and heritage exchange programs
- Academic and student exchange initiatives
- Business and trade partnerships
- Arts, music, and cultural collaborations
- Sports exchanges, including rugby, rowing, soccer, golf and Gaelic games
- Environmental sustainability and riverfront revitalization projects
- Joint historical preservation and research efforts
- Media, technology, and economic development partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Providence and Athlone share geographic, historical, and cultural connections, including a long tradition of Irish heritage and contributions to the social and economic fabric of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, A sister city/twinning relationship between Providence and Athlone will strengthen cultural understanding, educational opportunities, and economic growth in both communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mayor of Providence is hereby authorized to enter into a sister city/twinning relationship between the City of Providence and the Municipal District of Athlone, Ireland.


IN CITY COUNCIL
FEB 20 2025
READ AND PASSED



RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 2/28/2025



TOWN OF ATHLONE



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Twinning Agreement

Between

The City of Providence, Rhode Island, USA and the Town of Athlone, Ireland

In accordance with the shared commitment of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, USA, and the Municipal District of Athlone, Ireland, this sister city Twinning Agreement is hereby established to promote collaboration and goodwill between our communities is hereby established to promote the following purposes:

1. To strengthen ties and foster meaningful connections between the people of Providence and Athlone.
2. To encourage cultural, educational, professional, and economic exchanges that enhance mutual understanding and cooperation.
3. To facilitate the sharing of ideas and best practices across a wide range of sectors, including arts and culture, business, education, sports, municipal governance, environmental initiatives, and community development.
4. To support opportunities for engagement that celebrate the historical, cultural, and social bonds between Providence and Athlone.

This sister city Twinning Agreement shall take effect upon the formal execution of this document on March 6, 2025, by the Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island, and the Mayor of Athlone, Ireland.

Brett P. Smiley
Brett P. Smiley, Mayor of Providence

Frankie Keena
Cllr. Frankie Keena, Mayor of Athlone

Jo-Ann Ryan
Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan, President

Aengus O'Rourke
Cllr. Aengus O'Rourke, Twinning Committee Chairman

Patrick Griffin
Patrick Griffin, Vice President, Secretary Liaison

John Henson
John Henson, Twinning Committee Secretary Liaison

Rep Mary Duffy Messier
State Representative Mary Duffy Messier, Secretary

Paul Hogan
Cllr. Paul Hogan, Twinning Committee Treasurer

Scott Slater
State Representative Scott Slater, Treasurer

Pat Murtagh
Pat Murtagh, Westmeath Co-Council Executive Member