

RESOLUTION NO. 200900**March 4, 2021**

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Gainesville, Florida recognizing the City of Duhok, Republic of Iraq, Kurdistan Region as a Sister City of the City of Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A.; and providing an immediate effective date.

WHEREAS, the people of the City of Gainesville, Florida, desire to begin a long standing friendship and association with the citizens of the City of Duhok, Republic of Iraq, Kurdistan Region; and

WHEREAS, a group has formed an organization, under the auspices of the Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc., a not-for-profit Florida corporation (hereinafter the "Gainesville Sister City Program"), called the Gainesville/Duhok Sister City Program; and

WHEREAS, the Gainesville/Duhok Sister City Program has the support of the Gainesville Sister City Program and other Gainesville community leaders; and

WHEREAS, The City of Gainesville, formally recognized the City of Duhok as a Sister City by adoption of Resolution No. 060507 on September 25, 2006 and execution of an Agreement for the Establishment of Sister Cities Relationship between the City of Duhok and the City of Gainesville; however, the Governor of the City of Duhok in recent communications with the Mayor of the City of Gainesville now requests that their respective cities again recognize and renew their Sister Cities relationship by adoption of another Resolution and execution of another agreement; and

WHEREAS, to formally implement the Gainesville/Duhok Sister City Program, the City of Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A. desires to especially recognize the City of Duhok, Republic Of Iraq, Kurdistan Region, as a Sister City of Gainesville so that people of both cities will communicate with one another and aid in the development of mutual friendships and understanding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The Gainesville City Commission hereby recognizes the City of Duhok, Republic of Iraq, Kurdistan Region, as a Sister City of the City of Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A. under a program to be administered by the Gainesville Sister City Program.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized to execute the Agreement for the Sister City Relationship between the City of Duhok, Republic of Iraq, Kurdistan Region and the City of Gainesville, Florida, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 'A'.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of March 2021.

Lauren Poe

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Nicolle M. Shalley
City Attorney

ATTEST:

Omichele D. Gainey
City Clerk

EXHIBIT 'A'

**AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN
THE CITY OF DUHOK, REPUBLIC OF IRAQ, KURDISTAN REGION
AND
THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, USA.**

The Sister City Program, administered by Sister Cities International, was originally initiated by the President of the United States of America in 1956 to encourage greater friendship and understanding between the United States and other nations through direct personal contact; and

The City of Gainesville, Florida enjoys a Sister City program under the auspices of the Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc., a not-for-profit Florida corporation; and

In order to foster those goals the people of the City of Duhok and the City of Gainesville, in a gesture of friendship and goodwill, agree to collaborate for the mutual benefit of their communities by exploring education, economic, and cultural opportunities.

The City of Duhok and the City of Gainesville, sharing a common interest in economic development, healthcare, sustainable reconstruction, municipal cooperation and the desire to promote mutual understanding among our citizens, and in cooperation with the Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc., a not-for-profit Florida corporation, do hereby proclaim themselves Sister Cities effective upon the execution of the agreement.

Signed on this day of March 8, 2021 by both cities.

Dr. Ali Tatar
Governor of Duhok
Republic of Iraq/ Kurdistan

Mr. Lauren Poe
Mayor of Gainesville
City of Gainesville, Florida