

Resolution No. 1018-2023

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

By Council Member Griffin and Mayor
Bibb

Declaring this Council's desire that Cleveland and Kigali, Rwanda establish a sister city relationship and authorizing the Mayor to enter into such agreement and execute such documents that are necessary to implement the relationship.

WHEREAS, located in the heart of East Africa, Kigali, Rwanda, is a vibrant and rapidly developing city, serving as a major economic, cultural, and technological center with a population of over one million residents; and

WHEREAS, Kigali plays a pivotal role in Rwanda's economy, boasting a thriving business sector that includes banking, manufacturing, insurance, and information technology. The city has attracted significant investments and is home to numerous national and international companies, contributing to its status as a regional economic hub; and

WHEREAS, Kigali's rich cultural heritage and vibrant arts scene make it a center for creativity and expression. The city is known for its diverse range of cultural events, music festivals, museums, and galleries, showcasing Rwanda's artistic talents and fostering a vibrant cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, Kigali has emerged as a symbol of resilience and progress, having worked to overcome a devastating genocide in 1994 and embarked on a remarkable journey of reconciliation and healing. The city has made significant strides in rebuilding its infrastructure, promoting social cohesion, and fostering economic development; and

WHEREAS, Kigali's commitment to reconciliation and unity can serve as an inspiration to Cleveland, Ohio. Cleveland, like Kigali, has faced its own challenges with racial tensions and social divisions. By learning from Kigali's history and experiences, Cleveland can strive towards fostering a culture of reconciliation, promoting dialogue, and addressing systemic issues of inequality and injustice; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a sister city relationship between Cleveland and Kigali will create opportunities for mutually beneficial exchanges, including trade, investment, tourism, and cultural initiatives, further strengthening the bonds between the two cities and promoting global understanding and cooperation.

WHEREAS, Cleveland recognizes the importance of establishing meaningful partnerships that transcend geographical boundaries, and the sister city relationship with Kigali can provide a platform for mutual learning, collaboration, and exchange of best practices in areas such as post-conflict reconciliation, economic development, and cultural understanding; and

WHEREAS, both cities share a common goal of promoting peace and enhancing the well-being of their respective residents, this sister city relationship will further strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between Cleveland, Ohio, and Kigali, Rwanda.

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure providing for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health or safety in that peace in the world can only be assured through a strengthening of relationships among the world's people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council, desiring that the City of Cleveland and Kigali, Rwanda, establish a sister city relationship, authorizes the Mayor to enter into such agreement and execute such documents that are necessary to implement the sister city relationship on such terms and conditions as the Director of Law determines are in the best interest of the general public.

Section 2. That this resolution is declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

JHO:
9-18-2023
For: Councilmember Griffin

