



**Protocol Agreement of Friendship  
Between the  
City of Washington, D.C., USA  
and the  
City of Sunderland, United Kingdom**



**Background:**

The City of Washington, D.C. (Hereinafter referred to as "District of Columbia") and the City of Sunderland (hereinafter referred to as "Sunderland") mutually agreed to enter into a Protocol Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement") that will create closer friendship and cooperation between both cities that share historic ties and help to develop programs and relationships mutually beneficial to the citizens of both cities.

Both cities have exchanged information and cooperated on activities in areas of historic ties based on respective interests concerning George Washington and his ancestral home in Sunderland, economic development, tourism promotion, cultural, educational and e-government initiatives.

Under this renewal of the Friendship Agreement, Councillor Paul Watson, Leader of Sunderland City Council and Vincent C. Gray, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, have agreed to further the mutual interests and goals of both cities to benefit the people of Sunderland and the District of Columbia.

**General Demographic Information****Washington, D.C., USA**

The City of Washington, D.C. is comprised of approximately 610,000 people and is the capital city of the United States. The District of Columbia is unique in that it operates as a city and a state, and is the seat of federal government. When the United States Congress granted home rule powers to the present city government in 1973, it retained the power to review legislation passed by the Council of the District of Columbia, and to change policy priorities through a review of the city budget.

**The City of Sunderland, United Kingdom**

The metropolitan district City of Sunderland, in Tyne and Wear, North East, England was created in 1974 by the merger of several districts of the traditional county of Durham. It includes the former borough of Sunderland as well as Washington, Houghton-le-Spring and Hetton-le-Hole. The district has a population of 283,500.

During her 40th anniversary of accession in 1992, Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II bestowed the prestigious 'city' status on the metropolitan district in a Royal ceremony.

HMS Ocean, the Royal Navy's biggest warship, is Sunderland's adopted ship. In March 2004, its crew was granted the Freedom of the City. Sunderland is also proud of its military links with 4th Regiment Royal Artillery (North East Gunners), and 3 Rifles (successors to the badge of the Durham Light Infantry) who both have Freedom of the City.

Under this Agreement, both cities hereby agree to the following:

#### **Article 1**

Both cities agree to exchange ideas and resources related to the location of the ancestral home of George Washington in Sunderland including the provision of copies of relevant documents, the exchange of artifacts on loan for exhibitions, the development of audio-visual presentations and the creation of curriculum or related study materials for educational purposes. Substantive discussions between key educational, civic and historic groups will be encouraged and supported.

#### **Article 2**

Both cities shall continue to exchange ideas and promote joint economic development strategies in the creation of business exchanges and innovation as well as in tourism promotion. Both cities shall maintain timely and close contact between their respective representatives with their economic development entities, and appropriate business and university groups. Strategies for tourism promotion might include meetings between convention and travel industry experts. Strategies to strengthen business relationships between both cities could include working with such entities as the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and the DC Chamber of Commerce together with their counterparts in the City of Sunderland.

#### **Article 3**

Both cities shall exchange and work collaboratively on information technology issues to promote and enhance systems development, e-government programs and related initiatives. Joint discussions on technology applications and systems could include processes for administering government and municipal projects, information sharing on effective policies and procedures for managing geographic information and enhancing our respective cities' communications. Substantive discussions between key private and public information technology experts in Sunderland and the District of Columbia, including the District's Office of the Chief Technology Officer, will be encouraged and supported.

#### **Article 4**

Both cities shall cooperate in other endeavors to increase the quality of life in each respective city. These endeavors may include: cultural exchanges, student exchanges, university level exchanges, scientific exchanges, economic development and commercial exchanges, and sport-related exchanges; or other such exchanges that both parties might recommend that are mutually beneficial to both cities.

## Article 5

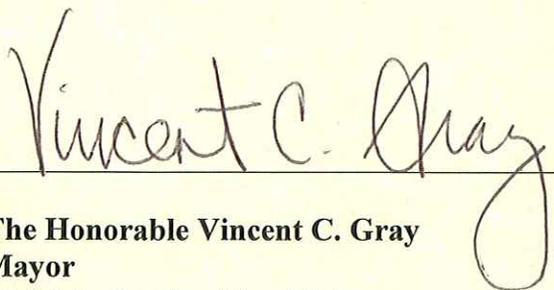
The City of Washington, D.C. designates the Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia, which is located in the Executive Office of the Mayor, to oversee and monitor the progress of this Agreement and to help facilitate all planned and anticipated actions between both Executive offices. Likewise, the City of Sunderland designates the Office of the Chief Executive to fulfill such functions. The above offices shall provide administrative support for implementation of the Agreement. Key individuals and/or offices to contact regarding the Agreement are attached.

## Article 6

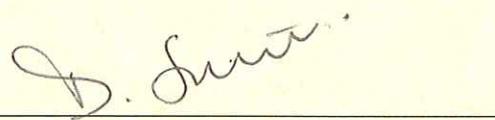
Both cities shall establish a joint Steering Committee under the direction of the offices designated in Article 5 to coordinate, promote and monitor the exchanges of ideas and strategies. This joint Steering Committee will facilitate all planned and anticipated actions between both cities and report directly to the designated offices. Where necessary the Steering Committee shall create subcommittees for specific responsibilities. To the extent possible, representatives from both cities will meet annually and alternately in the City of Sunderland and District of Columbia to report on progress and set new timetables and goals for the coming year. In addition, both cities will also participate periodically in scheduled teleconferences between the respective parties.

This Agreement will take effect on the date of its signature and will be implemented for a period of five years unless one of the parties notifies the other in writing of its desire to continue with the Agreement at which time it will be reassessed.

Signed in Washington, the District of Columbia, USA on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, in two copies, in the English language.



**The Honorable Vincent C. Gray**  
Mayor  
District of Columbia , USA



**Dr Dave Smith**  
Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council  
City of Sunderland, United Kingdom

**Key individuals and/or offices to contact regarding the Cooperation Agreement**

**Cynthia Brock-Smith**

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