

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



BACKGROUND

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

Both cities will exchange information and cooperate on activities in areas of historic ties based on the ancestral home of George Washington being located in Sunderland, economic development with a focus on tourism promotion, cultural and educational institutions, social inclusion and e-government initiatives to promote citizen participation.

Under this Agreement, Councillor Robert Symonds, Leader of Sunderland City Council and Anthony A. Williams, 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 570,000 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 the seat of federal government. When the U.S. Congress chartered the present city government in 1973, it retained the power to review legislation passed by the Council of the District of Columbia, to control policy through a review of the budget and reserved its own authority to legislate for the District.

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

The metropolitan district 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 280,807.

In 1992, on the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's accession, she visited Sunderland and bestowed on it the prestigious "city" status in a Royal ceremony.

HMS Ocean, the Royal Navy's biggest warship, is Sunderland's adopted ship. In March 2004 its officers and ratings were granted the 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 exchange ideas and promote joint economic development strategies for increasing tourism between Sunderland and the District of Columbia. Promotion strategies might include meetings between convention and tourism officials and travel industry experts, and business representatives that promote tourism and cultural exchanges. Both cities shall maintain timely and close contact between their respective representatives, and their chambers of commerce and appropriate business and university groups. Both Cities shall exchange information and promotional materials for the above-referenced partners in the District of Columbia and the City of Sunderland, for increasing overall tourism, business opportunities and other activities by citizens of both cities.

ARTICLE 3

Both cities shall exchange and work collaboratively on information technology issues to promote and enhance systems development and e-government programs and related initiatives. Joint discussions on technology applications and systems would include processes for administering government and municipal projects, information sharing on effective policies and procedures for managing geographic information and enhancing the 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 exchange, scientific exchange, economic development and commercial exchange and sport exchange; or in accordance with other interests, which both parties might recommend.

ARTICLE 5

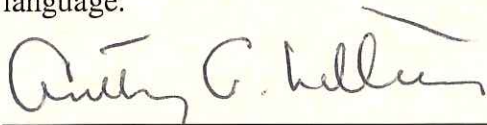
The City of Washington, D.C. designates the Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia, which is located in the Executive Office of the Mayor, to oversee and monitor the progress of this Agreement and to help facilitate all planned and anticipated actions between both Executive offices. Likewise, the City of Sunderland will designate the Office of the Chief Executive of Sunderland City Council to fulfil 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

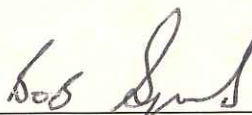
Both Cities shall establish a joint Steering Committee under the direction of the offices designated in Article 5 to coordinate, promote and monitor the exchanges of ideas and strategies. This joint Steering Committee will facilitate all planned and anticipated actions between both cities and report directly to the designated offices. Where necessary the Steering Committee shall create sub-committees 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 be implemented for a period of five years and will be automatically renewable and will take effect on the date of its signature.

Signed in Washington, D.C., USA on Tuesday 20th June 2006, in two copies, in the English language.



The Honorable Anthony A. Williams
Mayor
District of Columbia, USA



Councillor Robert Symonds
Leader of the City Council
Sunderland, United Kingdom

