



To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Mayoral Visit to New York, USA-3rd-6th March 2023

Background

An invitation was received by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, to attend the Annual St Patricks Day Parade in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York on Saturday 4th March, 2023. This is the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York and is held in early March, where it gains significant exposure prior to the other large St. Patrick's Day parades held around St. Patrick's Day itself.

At the January 2023 Meeting, approval was given by the Council to this proposed visit, in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Delegation & Trip

As the Mayor was also invited to attend the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York later in March 2023, I was nominated as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to lead the delegation that visited Rockaway Beach, Queens for this Annual St Patricks Day Parade.

On Saturday 4th March, the delegation travelled out to Rockaway Beach and attended the Mass for Peace and Justice at St Francis de Sales Church, Rockaway where Michael Benn, President of the Parade and a Limerick native, introduced the delegation to the congregation.

After mass, the Delegation attended a St Patricks Day Breakfast Brunch Event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Rockaway where the delegation met with members of the Irish American Community, along with local elected and business representatives and officials.

At this function, there were discussions amongst those present on the developments and progress in Limerick in terms of investment and tourism, and the importance of further developing linkages between Limerick, the Mid West, and Ireland with the United States.

Following on from this, the Delegation participated in the St Patricks Day Parade, which commenced from Beach 130th St and Newport Ave, Rockaway.

This was led by Grand Marshal, Michael O'Toole, Vice President of the Teamsters Local 282, along with the Parade Honouree's which included Michael O'Reilly; Terri Tobin, NYPD; Bobby McGuire FDNY; Brendan Mullany, NYS Courts and other Honouree's. Other parade participants including Letitia James, New York Attorney General, and Joseph P. Addabo Jr., New York State Senator.

Discussions also took place with Michael Benn regarding plans and preparations for the New York St Patricks Day Parade.

On Sunday 5th March, the Delegation met with representatives of Limerick GAA, New York in Yonkers, New York and a presentation was made to them in recognition of their efforts in fostering and retaining the connection with the Limerick diaspora and for developing possible economic opportunities and contacts.

Signed: *Olivia O'Sullivan*

Cllr Olivia O'Sullivan,

Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick,

24th March 2023.



To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

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Context:

An invitation was received by Mayor Francis Foley to attend the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia on the 17th March 2023. Deputy Mayor Kieran O'Hanlon led the delegation on behalf of Mayor Foley. It would be the 198th parade in Savannah and it has grown to be one of the largest St. Patrick's Parade in the world, attracting crowds of in excess of half million people.

Introduction:

At the January 2023 Council meeting, approval was given for a delegation to represent the Council in Savannah, Georgia from Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th March 2022 to include participation at the St Patrick's Day Parade on the 17th of March.

The visit represented a great opportunity to continue the economic, social and cultural links between Savannah and Limerick. Savannah has very rich Irish Heritage and ancestry dating back to the mid-18th Century once colonisation commenced there. Around the 1840's the influx increased dramatically as a large employment boom in Savannah attracted the Irish before and after the Potato Famine. Accordingly, recent census information states that 1 in 4 Savannahians claim to have Irish origin.

Savannah has many similarities with Limerick as it has similar population size and is built on an Estuary linking the Savannah River to the Atlantic Ocean. They have regular flooding events annually similar to those experienced in both the city and various locations in the county in Limerick.

With this in mind, several meetings were arranged with key players in Savannah to build on existing linkages and forge new contacts for our mutual benefit in the future.

These meetings are summarised as follows:

Meeting with Mayor Van Johnson City Hall

The delegation visited City Hall to meet Mayor Van Johnson. The delegation were delighted to share learnings in relation to commonalities between Limerick and the City of Savannah. Mayor Van Johnson shared his experience and outlined the city's focus on poverty and economic inequality, as well as improving public safety and infrastructure. The delegation were also delighted to meet Alderwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter. Elected Members were delighted to confirm the announcement that Limerick would host the Association of Film

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Commissioners International Cineposium Conference in September and extended an invitation to Mayor Van Johnson and the Savannah Economic Development Authority to visit Limerick.

[Tour of Savannah Technical College](#)

The delegation travelled to Savannah Technical College and met with Dr. Kathy Love, President of Savannah Tech and Robert Grant, Executive Director, Advancement and Communications. The College offers courses in healthcare, aircraft technology, culinary arts and dental hygiene and more. The delegation toured the campus and noted some of the initiatives in place promoting accessibility for all students. The College also places focus on providing returning service members with skills and qualifications.

[Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus Greed Road Concert](#)

The delegation attended a fundraising concert of traditional Irish music.

[Presentation on and Tour of Georgia Ports Authority](#)

The tour got a wonderful insight into the scale and workings of one of the biggest Sea Ports in the USA. John Petrino, Director of Business Development and International Marketing of Georgia Ports Authority gave the delegation a presentation and a bus tour of the 2mile long dock.

[Tour of Creative Coast Innovation Hub](#)

The delegation met with Jen Bonnett, Executive Director and received a tour of the innovation hub situated in downtown Savannah.

[Savannah Affordable Housing Tour](#)

Mayor Van Johnson established the Housing Savannah Task Force to assess local housing needs and opportunities, and develop a comprehensive plan to improve housing availability, accessibility and affordability for all who choose to make Savannah their home. The Task Force was organised into six committees – three population focused and three technical focused. The delegation was delighted to meet Anita Smith-Dixon, Executive Director of the Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. and Martin Fretty, Director, Housing and Neighbourhood Services to gain an insight into how the Task Force operates. The delegation were fortunate to tour some of the different social housing schemes across the city.

[Jasper Parade](#)

The Council delegation took part in the ceremonial parade from Johnson Square to Madison Square where ceremonial remarks were made by the hosts. This parade is a formal ceremony honouring Sgt. William Jasper Green and all military personnel with or without Irish decent. The ceremony was also addressed by the Minister for Justice, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD.

[Mass of St. Patrick](#)

The delegation attended mass celebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, Bishop Stephen Parkes in the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The delegation marched in the 3 hour parade from Forsyth Park on Abercorn Street through the Historic District, the riverfront and finishing at the junction of Bull Street and Harris St. Over 280 entries participated in the parade in front of approx. 500,000 people under the warm Savannah sun.

Kieran O'Hanlon

**Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon,
Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.**

25th April 2023



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Context:

An invitation was received by Mayor Francis Foley to attend the Opening Ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of Hohenlohekreis. Deputy Mayor O'Hanlon accompanied Mayor Foley.

Introduction:

The Councils of Limerick County and Hohenlohekreis have had a twinning partnership in place since 1990. Respective delegations from each of the Authorities alternate visits between Hohenlohe and Limerick. There has been a very successful school exchange programme between Schlossgymnasium in Kuenzelsau and schools in Limerick. The visit represented a great opportunity to continue the economic, social and cultural links between Hohenlohekreis and Limerick. After the Covid Pandemic several meetings have taken place with a view to reviving the partnership. Limerick City and County Council worked with Hohenlohekreis to submit an application for funding to the Walter-Hallstein-Programme for Ukrainian Refugees. The proposal was successful and funding was received to setup a project.

In September 2022, Limerick City and County Council welcomed an Agricultural Group from Hohenlohekreis.

As part of the 50 year Jubilee of the County of Hohenlohe Limerick were invited to the opening ceremony of the celebrations on 21 April 2023.

The meetings are summarised as follows:

Meeting with Mr. Michael Schellmann, Head of Department of Finance and Service.

The delegation were delighted to meet Mr. Schellmann to share experience and insights.

Museum Wurth 2

The delegation received a guided tour of the David Hockney exhibition. A year in Normandie and Sammlung Wurth. The delegation met County President Dr. Neth during the visit to the museum. Mayor Foley formally invited a delegation from Hohenlohekreis to visit Limerick for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in 2024.

Church Service Stiftkirche Ohringen

The delegation attended a traditional church service to launch the opening of the Jubilee celebrations.

Opening Ceremony

The delegation were delighted to attend the formal opening ceremony of 50th anniversary of Hohenlohekreis. The ceremony included performances from some of the local stars.

Hohenlohekreis has invited a delegation from Limerick City and County Council to attend their International Partnership Days celebration in August 2023.

Francis Foley

Councillor Francis Foley,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

25th April 2023

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) AND (fa) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Baltic Conferences

Name of Conference Modular Housing in Ireland

Location of Conference Four Seasons Hotel Carlingford

Date of Conference 3rd - 5th Feb '23

Summary of Conference Content

I attended Baltic Conference on 'Modular Housing in Ireland' in the Four Seasons Hotel Carlingford on 3rd/5th Feb. I attended Presentations on Modular Housing - Advantages, Problems, Design, Early days of 'modular Bldgs', Bluffe of mid-at market, Costs, Faster delivery. Discussion on modular housing v Standard Build, lifespan of Mod. Build.

Signature: B. Teeffy

Print Name: B. Teeffy

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SUBSISTENCE

