



16th January 2025

TO: THE MAYOR AND EACH MEMBER OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Re: Savannah / Limerick Friendship City Agreement

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

A delegation from the City of Savannah will travel to Limerick on 17th February 2025, led by Mayor Van Johnson, with the intention of establishing a Friendship City Agreement with Limerick.

Savannah has a very rich Irish Heritage and ancestry dating back to the mid-18th Century. Around the 1840's the influx increased dramatically as a large employment boom in Savannah attracted the Irish before and after the 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.

There are currently no formal agreements in place between the two cities, however there are active members of the Limerick based Diaspora based in Savannah who often invite officials from Limerick City and County Council to participate in their annual St. Patricks Day Parade. The Savannah parade is the second largest in the world, after New York City. Representatives from Savannah visited Limerick in 2023 and 2024 as part of ongoing efforts to develop trade and investment links between the two cities.

Formal endorsement of a Friendship City relationship will encourage further collaboration in business, education and culture. It will bring opportunities for exchanges between business and community. The partnership is about building friendships, business networks, strengthening ties and fostering mutual understanding for the benefit of both cities. A Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of Friendship Status between the two cities is attached at Appendix A. The City of Savannah administration have reviewed this document and are happy to move forward on this basis.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council approve the formal establishment of Friendship Cities between Limerick and Savannah, Georgia.

Brendan Troy
Head of Trade and Investment
Finance, Economic Development and Digital Services

**Limerick
Logo**

**Savannah
Logo**

**DECLARATION OF FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
LIMERICK, IRELAND
AND
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

17TH FEBRUARY, 2025

Mayor John Moran, Mayor of Limerick, Ireland and Mayor Van R. Johnson II, Mayor of Savannah, Georgia, United States of America, herewith sign this Friendship Agreement, so as to confirm and strengthen the established bonds of friendship between Limerick and Savannah, and to affirm a mutual aspiration to work together in unison for the benefit of both.

Both agree, on the basis of co-operation, equality and mutual benefit, to continue to develop and cultivate relationships in order to promote and broaden their economic partnerships and cultural exchanges.

Both will work together to examine issues of common interest and to look for areas of future co-operation.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that Limerick, Ireland and Savannah, Georgia, United States of America, do hereby acknowledge and affirm a Friendship Agreement between the two Counties, executed this 17th day of February, 2025.

**John Moran
Mayor of Limerick**

**Van R. Johnson II
Mayor of Savannah**

Ireland Flag

USA Flag