

## **Raleigh formalizes Sister City partnership with Gibraltar**

**RALEIGH, NC (December 2, 2021)** -- Raleigh Sister Cities is delighted to announce its newest official partnership with the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar. Raleigh Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin formalized the agreement on November 9th, 2021, during a signing ceremony at Raleigh City Hall alongside the City of Raleigh Parks Director Oscar Carmona, City of Raleigh Administrator for Historic Resources and Museums Troy Burton, Raleigh Sister Cities President Cody Charland and Raleigh Sister Cities Gibraltar Ambassador Mary Clare Freeman.

Traditionally, Sister Cities signing ceremonies like this take place in person; however, due to Covid-19, the agreement was first signed by Gibraltar Deputy Chief Minister, the Honorable Dr. Joseph Garcia, in Gibraltar before being sent by courier to Raleigh.

The formal agreement between Raleigh and Gibraltar comes after two years of partnership building. This Sister Cities agreement with Gibraltar connects Raleigh to a region rich in history, culture, and diversity, and a local population that, like Raleigh, is diverse, educated, and globally focused. Gibraltar, located at the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea, is recognized for its iconic landmark the Rock of Gibraltar, and as the World War II home to General Eisenhower, who later began the Sister Cities program in 1956.

The mission of Raleigh Sister Cities is to "celebrate global cultures in Raleigh through long-term partnerships and programs through city-to-city and person-to-person diplomacy." A 35-year member of Sister Cities International, Raleigh is part of the global initiative to promote peace through mutual understanding by connecting communities, citizens, and officials around the world. Passionate volunteers work with City of Raleigh staff, leaders, and key stakeholders to maintain these critical global relationships.

"As a Raleigh-native and strong advocate for Gibraltar, I'm very honored to assist with this meaningful relationship. We have so much to learn from one another and our future is tied together. The next ten years are absolutely critical for our world," reports Gibraltar Ambassador, Mary Clare Freeman.

Gibraltar strives to build meaningful partnerships with Raleigh and its citizens, highlighting each location's commitment to education, innovation, sustainability, and diversity. This is Gibraltar's first Sister City relationship.

"Gibraltar is delighted to be paired with Raleigh, which is a city that excels in its human capital, its education and technology; elements that Gibraltar values highly. I look forward to working together with our colleagues in Raleigh to further cultural, educational and cultural ties between us," states Gibraltar-American Chamber of Commerce President, James Lasry.

A formal exchange of the signed agreements will take place when a delegation from Gibraltar visits Raleigh in 2022.

Raleigh Sister Cities was founded in 1986. The addition of Gibraltar brings the number of Raleigh Sister Cities to five. The other Sister Cities include: Hull, England; Rostock, Germany; Compiègne, France; and Nairobi, Kenya. For more information on Raleigh Sister Cities, its activities and upcoming events, please visit [raleighsistercities.org](http://raleighsistercities.org).