

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**CITY OF NEW ORLEANS (United States)**

**AND**

**CITY OF CAPE COAST (Ghana)**

The origins of this relationship and shared history can be traced back to the most traumatic interruption that ever occurred in the natural evolution of African societies – The Transatlantic Slave Trade. While New Orleans had a completely different slave pattern than that of the 13 colonies, the first documented arrival of enslaved Africans to the English colonies in the New World can be traced to 1619. After the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, an influx of Free People of African descent occurred to the State of Louisiana.

Thus, 2019 marks 400 years since this documented subjugation. We now celebrate the tremendous contributions of Africans to the prosperity of the New World and more importantly the reunification of both societies and the African family beyond time and distance.

In 2013, when LaToya Cantrell was a City Councilmember, she visited the Slave Castles in Cape Coast, Ghana in Africa. She realized that something needed to be done in order for us to remember and connect with our history. This led to the creation of the Sister City Project with Cape Coast.

In order to strengthen relations and provide mutual benefit to their communities, The Honorable LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of the City of New Orleans and The Honorable Ernest Arthur, Mayor of the City of Cape Coast, do hereby join their respective cities as “Sister Cities”.

With the goals of prosperity, cultural understanding and exchange, the two parties shall explore opportunities to cultivate closer relations with one another through cooperative activities in the areas of economic development, cultural exchanges, educational opportunities and technical exchanges, such as:

* academic cooperation between our respective universities and other educational institutions;
* cooperation and exchange between local development agencies, chambers of commerce, and tourism departments;
* support for exchanges of art and cultural products between our respective museums, galleries and other cultural institutions; and
* opportunities for municipal exchanges including Economic Development in the areas of Tourism, Agriculture, Infrastructure, City Management, Waste and Water Management as well as Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management and Climate Change.

Each party shall seek to identify other areas for collaboration and, in all activities, work for the benefit of both communities. The aforementioned activities are to be facilitated by a joint New Orleans-Cape Coast Sister Cities Committee through which both cities shall participate towards the fulfillment of this Agreement. Both cities will endeavor to formulate the structure and membership of this Committee and ensure that it convenes at least once a year, or whenever necessary, for the purposes of collaboration, representation and evaluation of the respective city’s contributions toward this Agreement.

Recognizing the importance of strong and diverse economies, the parties will encourage their respective chambers of commerce and business communities to foster exchanges of entrepreneurs and business enterprises in areas such as tourism, commerce and trade assistance.

By this Agreement, we celebrate a common heritage and seek to reinforce strong ties and secure a relationship that will persist into our futures.

Signed in Cape Coast, Ghana on the ­­­­­­­­­30th day of December, 2019.

City of New Orleans City of Cape Coast

**LaToya Cantrell Ernest Arthur**

**Mayor Mayor**



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City of Cape Coast City of New Orleans

**Ernest Arthur LaToya Cantrell**

**Mayor Mayor**