

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SISTER CITIES TRUST

The City of Portsmouth, a New Hampshire municipal corporation with a principal place of business at 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire 03801 (hereinafter, "City") and its Trustees of Trust Funds, Charter Officers of the City with a principal place of business at the same address (hereinafter "Trustees") enter this Trust Agreement for the purposes and under the terms and conditions herein.

WHEREAS, the City desires to encourage, develop and maintain Sister City relationships for the economic, social and educational benefits which mutually flow from those relationships; and

WHEREAS, a source of funding that is necessary on an ongoing basis for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees of Trust Funds are established by the Charter of the City of Portsmouth for the purpose of administering Trust Funds of the City.

NOW THEN, the City and Trustees agree as follows:

1. There is hereby established a Trust to be held by the Trustees and entitled the "City of Portsmouth New Hampshire Sister Cities Trust" (hereinafter Trust).
2. The Trustees shall accept any funds from any source allocated and paid to the Trust for the purpose described above and shall hold, invest, reinvest and

expend such funds in accordance with the terms and conditions established herein.

3. The funds in the Trust shall be held by the Trustees of Trust Funds of the City of Portsmouth to be invested and reinvested by the Trustees without restrictions against pooling the assets of this Trust with any other trust funds held by the Trustees or the City, so long as the funds are subject of separate accounting.
4. The Trustees shall expend any funds held in the Trust, regardless of whether designated as principle, income or otherwise, on receipt of written certification provided by the City Manager of the City of Portsmouth requesting payment of such funds and certifying that the funds to be paid from the Trust are for the purpose of encouraging, developing and maintaining relationships with other cities located anywhere in the world.
5. Specific purposes for which the Trust funds may be expended include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Communication with municipalities for the purposes authorized for the Trust.
  - b. Paying for travel expenses for individuals for the purposes authorized for the Trust.
  - c. Gifts for visitors from sister cities or to be taken to our sister cities
  - d. Reception or activities for visitors from our sister cities
  - e. matching funds for grants relating to sister city activities

6. This Trust may be dissolved at any time upon a written finding by the City Council of the City of Portsmouth that it is not longer necessary to accomplish the purposes for which it has been established. Upon such dissolution by the City Council, any funds remaining in the Trust shall be distributed in accordance with the direction of the City Council.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen S. Conard, City Manager  
Pursuant to vote of the City Council on  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS

\_\_\_\_\_  
, Chair

**The items in the display cases in the lobby of Portsmouth's City Hall were presented to Mayors of the City of Portsmouth by delegations from Sister and Friendship Cities and other special guests.**

**Sister Cities International** was created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House Summit on Citizen Diplomacy to give a national focus to affiliations between cities in the United States and those in other countries. The goal of the program is to promote deeper cultural understanding, international visitation and hospitality that leads to long-lasting relationships. In Portsmouth, Sister City relationships are expressions of our motto, "The City of the Open Door."

The City of Portsmouth is a member of Sister Cities International and has forged formal agreements with the following cities based on the interest and international connections of Portsmouth residents:

Portsmouth's Sister Cities include:

- Nichinan, Japan (1985)
- Parnu, Estonia (1990)
- East Antrim, Ireland (1992)
- Agadir, Morocco (1995)
- Severodvinsk, Russia (1995)
- Kitase (Greater Accra), Ghana (2004)

Friendship Cities include:

- Szolnok, Hungary (1992)
- Portsmouth, UK (1993)
- Santarcangelo di Romagna, Italy (2019)

## NICHINAN, JAPAN

The dolls in these cases, presented by Portsmouth's Sister City of Nichinan, recall the extensive, traditional collection of figures displayed in the Samurai House Museum in Nichinan's oldest section, Obi Town. This is where Baron Jutaro Komura – lead Japanese delegate to the 1905 peace conference to end the Russo-Japanese War and signer of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty – was born.

The figure in the distinctive hat represents a traditional Obi Town dance (the Taihei-Odori peace-dance) dating back to the 1700s. Performed every year in Nichinan, Japan at the Obi Jouka Matsuri, dancers dress in colorful kimono, half in commoner's garments and the other in samurai garments, and large straw hats with long red strings.

Japanese dolls are based on different forms of Japanese traditional entertainment such as Noh, Kabuki and traditional dance. Gifts include many different kinds of dolls. Some dolls represent dates called "Sekku" that mark the change of seasons. Today parents or grandparents give their daughters a *Hina* doll on March 3 ("Momo no Sekku") and their sons or grandsons a *Gogatsu* doll on May 5 ("Tango no Sekku") to wish them happiness.

The book is a biography, in Japanese, of Baron Jutaro Komura, the diplomat who led the Japanese delegation to Portsmouth in 1905 for the peace conference to end the Russo-Japanese War. Komura was the son of a samurai from Obi Town – the oldest section of Nichinan – and is the reason for Portsmouth's Sister City and Sister School relationships. Baron Komura and his Russian counterpart Sergius Witte signed the Portsmouth Peace Treaty at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on September 5, 1905 and that event is commemorated each year as Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day.

Many gifts from Nichinan – including this pin with a portrait of Baron Komura are crafted from Obi cedar, a distinctive wood that is a major export for the city. The cedar trees in Obi grow quickly in the area's humid climate making them light and elastic. These characteristics made them ideal for shipbuilding and famous throughout Japan. By 1800, the mountains within the domain of Obi had been transformed into cedar forests through reforestation efforts that gave Obi cedar a crucial role in supporting the area's economy.

In addition to many types of Japanese dolls, gifts from Nichinan include such traditional Japanese crafts (using folk art good luck symbols like rabbits and cherry blossoms) in lacquerware, porcelain, paper goods with calligraphy, painted silk, embroidery and enamel work, turning everyday items like chopsticks and fans into works of art.

The domed black lacquer hats are replicas of “jingasa” formerly worn by samurai – such as Baron Komura’s father – when traveling.

Sister City gifts to Mayor Robert Lister include lacquerware, a large fan and raku pottery cup from Nichinan, Japan.

### **SZOLNOK, HUNGARY**

The Seal of the City of Szolnok, Hungary presented by Mayor Attila Varhegyi.

### **KITASE (GREATER ACCRA), GHANA**

Gold sandals are a traditional mark of royalty, the equivalent to the European crown when identifying a ruler in the Akan states in Africa. The colorful Kente items are Ghanaian textiles made by hand-weaving strips of silk and cotton.

Wood carving, done throughout Ghana, has centered in the Ashanti region, just north of Portsmouth’s Sister City Kitase in the Accra region, for centuries. Carved wood figures are an important part of the ethnic culture of the Akan people there and to Ghana’s export economy.

### **CARRICKFERGUS, IRELAND**

Items presented to Mayor Evelyn Sirrell from Carrickfergus, Ireland include the seal of the City, traditional Belleek porcelain and a medallion worn by the Aldermen of the City.

## **SEVERODVINSK, RUSSIA**

Items presented to Mayor Evelyn Sirrell from Portsmouth's Sister City of Severodvinsk, Russia, include several representations of the historic port and shipyard city, traditional carving and painted folk art, lacquerware, nested matryoshka dolls, a landscape 'painted' in chips of amber and a replica of the 279-foot tall statue in Volograd, Russia -- "The Motherland Calls" -- celebrating "the heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad" in 1943.

## **PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND**

Gifts to Mayor Bob Lister from Portsmouth, England celebrating the Friendship City agreement include artwork, a pewter replica of the City Seal and carved boat.