



and

WHEREAS, the Governorate of Erbil sent a delegation to Nashville in May of 2022, during which visit Council members were able to meet with members of that delegation and to hear from the Governor of the Governorate of Erbil; and

WHEREAS, a delegation from Nashville, including Mayor John Cooper, Councilmembers Joy Styles and Robert Swope, former Mayor Bill Purcell, and other officials as well as members of the Board of Sister Cities of Nashville, made an official visit to Erbil to explore potential connections in areas such as health care, law, higher education, arts and culture, tourism, and governance in May of 2023; and

WHEREAS, Nashville is home to the largest Kurdish population in the country, with an estimate of more than 20,000 Kurds, who have made great contributions to our community; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Sister Cities of Nashville, Inc., has formally recommended the nomination of the Governorate of Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, to be Nashville's sister city; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, through the Metropolitan Council, does hereby approve this recommendation, finding that the proposed relationship will be of great benefit to the citizens of Nashville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Council, on behalf of the people of Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America, does hereby extend an invitation to the government and the people of the Governorate of Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, to partner with Nashville, Tennessee as its Sister City for the purpose of creating greater mutual understanding and to promote a future of liberty and peace by creating a world of friendship and further authorizes the Mayor to execute a Sister City Agreement.

Section 2. That the Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to Mayor John Cooper and to the Governor of the Governorate of Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Section 3. The Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.