

# **Twinning of St Helier and Mykolaiv, Ukraine**

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For consideration by the St Helier Parish Assembly  
on 22 February 2023 at 7pm

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## **PARISH OF ST HELIER**

**P.01/2023**



## **PROPOSITION**

**PARISHIONERS are asked to take into consideration and if deemed advisable:**

to approve a recommendation of the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public, to agree a twinning memorandum of understanding between St Helier and Mykolaiv, Ukraine.

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## **REPORT**

Following the invasion of Ukraine on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 St Helier parishioners showed their desire to support and show their solidarity for Ukraine in various ways: the Old Magistrate's Court behind the Town Hall became one of the Island's collection centres for aid, a fund raising event in West's Centre by Ukrainians living in Jersey was facilitated, and the Ukrainian flag flown from the Town Hall as soon as one could be obtained. More recently a reception for the local Ukrainian community was held in the Assembly Room while weekly English lessons for Ukrainians in Jersey are taking place in the Town Hall. Parishioners have also supported the Bailiff's Appeal in support of Ukraine and collections by Jersey Side by Side.

In the Spring of last year, it was suggested by some Ukrainians living locally that St Helier might consider entering into a twinning memorandum of understanding with a town in Ukraine, as this would be a valuable expression of support for one particular community during a time of extreme hardship, and Mykolaiv was proposed. Mykolaiv is a major shipbuilding port in Southern Ukraine, with a pre-war population of 470,000. Its digital sector was flourishing before the invasion, it is part of Ukraine's agricultural region, and it has a range of educational and cultural institutions as well as a zoo.

Last November a person who is a native of Mykolaiv, now living in Jersey, arranged a Zoom call between the Constable of St Helier and the Mayor of Mykolaiv, Oleksandr Syenkevych, who has welcomed the proposed twinning enthusiastically. Following an exchange of emails, the local authority has proposed that the twinning memorandum of understanding below is signed by the Mayor of Mykolaiv and the Constable of St Helier.

The proposed Twinning Memorandum of Understanding coincides with Jersey Overseas Aid directing some of the Island's Ukraine support to Mykolaiv over the coming months. This includes vital medical supplies, generators, and mine clearance training. Clearly the kind of mutually beneficial activities which have characterised the Parish's other twinings (Avranches, Bad Wurzach, Funchal and Trenton), including internships at the Town Hall and the General Hospital, Youtheatre exchanges, visits of bands and choirs et cetera, will not be possible until peace has returned to Ukraine.

No budget is being sought as part of this proposition. The Parish Assembly currently allocates a sum each year at the Rates Assembly to support the Parish's twinning activities.

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# **Draft Twinning Memorandum of Understanding between St Helier and Mykolaiv**

The City of Mykolaiv and the Parish of St Helier are united in their wish to develop ties between their people, in the interests and spirit of joint cooperation, tolerance and understanding, through a Twinning Memorandum of Understanding.

## **Aims**

Mykolaiv and St Helier hope to strengthen relations in areas of mutual interest including citizenship, humanity, culture, economy, tourism and sports, as more fully set out below.

## **Areas of activity**

Mykolaiv and St. Helier hereby approve this present Twinning Memorandum of Understanding, which forms the foundation for the development of a long-term friendship between the two places.

It is intended that the Aims above will be achieved through some of the following activities to be subject to further discussion:

- Cultural exchange (exhibitions, theatre, music etc.);
- Partnerships (friendships) between schools;
- Tourism activities;
- Sporting events;
- Reciprocal visits by delegations from the cities, organisations and associations;
- Cooperation in the fields of economic development (including digital development) and urban management;
- Actions and projects in the fields of environment, sustainability and structural change;
- Sharing ideas and learning in relation to areas such as agriculture, fishing and wildlife protection.

## **Final provisions**

The participants accept that this Twinning Memorandum of Understanding between Mykolaiv and St. Helier is a declaration of intent that does not result in legal or financial commitments, consequences or obligations for either of them.

This Twinning Memorandum of Understanding between Mykolaiv and St. Helier comes into effect on the day of its signing.

The Twinning Memorandum of Understanding can be amended through informing the other participant in writing and then by mutual agreement and can be ended by either participant by giving one month's written notice.

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