

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

44 OBERY STREET, PLYMOUTH MA 02360

www.plymouthcountyma.gov

JAROD VALANZOLA
CHAIRMAN
ROCKLAND

SANDRA M. WRIGHT
BRIDGEWATER

GREGORY M. HANLEY
PLYMOUTH

For Immediate Release

Date: October 3, 2023

Contact: Frank Basler, County Administrator

Phone: 781.718.9967 Email: fbasler@plymouthcountyma.gov

Plymouth County to Welcome Donegal Ireland Delegation

PLYMOUTH, MA – The Plymouth County Commissioners will host the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Martin Harley, Mayor of Donegal County, Ireland, and several other Donegal dignitaries as the two counties build their relationship, created by the Sister County Agreement signed last November, that will benefit the people of both counties in an exchange of opportunities in economic development, tourism, business, industry, and education.

Last November, the Plymouth County Commissioners saw an opportunity to build a relationship with the County of Donegal, Ireland that would foster sharing of ideas in several critical areas. Commissioner Greg Hanley (Plymouth) led the team as they invited the Donegal County Council to visit Plymouth County. In a highly successful visit, a Sister Agreement was signed by the Plymouth County Commissioners. A follow up visit to Donegal, Ireland by several Plymouth County officials, which was self-funded, in the spring continued to build the momentum. Future visits to expand the relationship are planned.

The Donegal officials will be arriving in Massachusetts on Sunday, October 15 for a fast paced visit and meetings. The group will be guided on a tour of the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail (<https://ssirishtrail.org>) Sunday afternoon. The Trail is a journey into the past through nine scenic towns in coastal Massachusetts. These communities attracted Irish immigrants in large numbers. Their descendants comprise upwards of 40% of the South Shore's population. Planned stops of the tour will include the Easter Rising Monument in Scituate and the Celtic Cross Monument in Cohasset.

An official dinner program at the Hibernian Tavern in Scituate Harbor on Sunday, October 15 at 5 pm will include an old-fashioned Caleigh featuring The Dunleavy-Boyle Academy of Irish Dance, the musical talents of Curragh's Fancy, great food, and fun! The menu will include traditional Irish favorites. Reserve a ticket for dinner or make a donation to the cause at www.Plymouth-Donegal.org. The dinner guests will also include many members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians local chapter.

The highlight of the visit will be Plymouth's Blue Future Conference on October 16 and 17, 2023 (<https://www.plymouth-ma.biz/conference-2023/>). The Blue Future Conference focuses on aquaculture, marine technology, and marine trades with emphasis on entrepreneurship, workforce development, and new markets. Mayor Harley will be a featured speaker at the conference as will a few experts from Donegal's highly developed kelp farming industry.

The Plymouth County Commissioners are thrilled to host this visit. County Commission Chair Jared L. Valanzola (Rockland) stated “The sharing of new ideas and best practices to develop economic opportunities for our blue economy is critical to keep the County growing and thriving.”

County Commissioner Sandra Wright (Bridgewater) stated “Tourism is critical to the County economically and furthering the relationship with Donegal is a keyway to draw visitors to the County from other countries.”

Commissioner Gregory M. Hanley (Plymouth), who worked with the Register of Deeds John Buckley (Scituate) as the primary drivers to create the Sister County relationship, stated that “The Sister Agreement is a great example of pulling the best from the two counties so that everyone benefits in many meaningful ways. This visit is a fantastic way of celebrating our heritage and paving a way to future economic success at the same time.”



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Founded in 1685, the County of Plymouth is a regional government encompassing twenty-seven municipalities in southeastern Massachusetts. In addition to the Registry of Deeds offices in Plymouth, Brockton, and Rockland, the County provides grant management, regional cooperative purchasing services, municipal dredging, parking ticket processing, 4-H programming, an entomologist, regional financial services, courthouses in Brockton, Hingham, and Wareham, and administration of the Plymouth County OPEB Trust (PCOT). See www.PlymouthCountyMA.gov for information about the County and its programs. For additional information, or to schedule a meeting with the Plymouth County Commissioners, please contact Frank Basler at 508.830.9104 or fbasler@plymouthcountyma.gov.



The Plymouth County Commissioners
Cordially invite you to an Evening with

**Cathaoirleach, Councillor Martin Harley,
Mayor of Donegal County, Ireland**

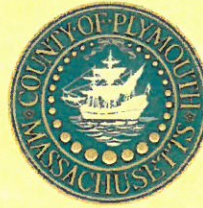
Please join us as we honor our Sister County Commitment in an
exchange of cultural and tourism opportunities for both
communities.

The evening will include an old fashioned Caleigh featuring:
The Dunleavy-Boyle Academy of Irish Dance
& the musical talents of Curragh's Fancy

Sunday October 15th from 5-8pm
at the Hibernian Tavern, 111 Front St Scituate, MA 02066

A menu of traditional Irish favorites will be served.
A donation of \$50 in support of the Donegal project is suggested.

Capacity limited - Reserve a ticket at Plymouth-Donegal.org
Please make checks payable to: Ancient Order of Hibernians Father John Murphy Division



Invitation for the establishment of a Sister County relationship for friendship and cooperation between the County of Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA and Donegal County, Ireland

Whereas, the United States of America and Ireland have a long tradition of friendship and cooperation that favors relationships and exchanges between the peoples of our Counties;

Whereas, many Plymouth County families have emigrated from Ireland, particularly Donegal County.

Whereas, the County of Plymouth and Donegal County share the privileges of wonderful, natural coastal environments, and agriculture, and aquaculture economies;

Whereas western civilization and democratic ideals are deeply rooted in both Counties and represent a rich heritage to share and preserve;

Whereas, the County of Plymouth believes that a Sister County relationship between the County of Plymouth and Donegal County will be beneficial to the people of both Counties at the economic, social, educational, and cultural levels;

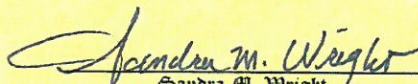
Whereas, partnerships will be nurtured by promoting mutual business development, commercial and professional exchanges, and sharing advances in business, industry, and education;

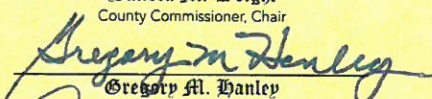
Whereas, we anticipate our relationship will grow through exchanges in agriculture, aquaculture, cultural development, tourism, and other important activities that will be beneficial to our citizens, and

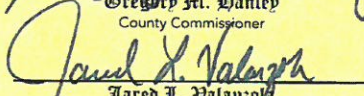
Whereas, this partnership will provide a deeper understanding of each other's lives and traditions, while finding common elements that link our two Counties.

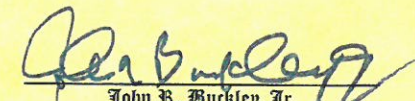
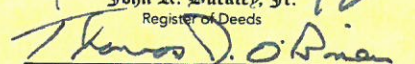
Now, therefore be it enacted that the County of Plymouth officially invites Donegal County to join in a Sister County relationship.

Executed by the following County officials on this the Sixteenth Day of November 2022.


Sandra M. Wright
County Commissioner, Chair


Gregory M. Hanley
County Commissioner


Jared L. Valanzoff
County Commissioner


John R. Buckley, Jr.
Register of Deeds

Thomas J. O'Brien
County Treasurer