

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 261

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

WHEREAS, the Omaha Sister Cities Association has a long and storied history of fostering meaningful relationships between Omaha, Nebraska, and cities around the world, promoting cultural understanding, educational exchanges, and economic cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the city of Accra, Ghana, with its rich cultural history and identity, including the historic Jamestown district, has been identified as an ideal candidate to be Omaha's first sister city in Africa, thereby bridging communities across continents and fostering global connections; and

WHEREAS, the collaborative efforts between Black Men United, Nebraska state senators, local government officials, educational institutions, and business organizations in both Omaha and Accra have shown dedication and commitment to connecting these two cities; and

WHEREAS, over sixty thousand Africans and seventy thousand African Americans reside in the greater Omaha area creating a unique opportunity for cultural exchange, understanding, and the development of strong ties between Omaha and Accra with an emphasis on the Jamestown district; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a sister city relationship between Omaha and Accra would promote economic cooperation and business opportunities for both cities, leading to mutual growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the potential for agricultural partnerships between Nebraska and Accra such as the exchange of knowledge and technology in conservation agriculture, could contribute significantly to sustainable agricultural practices and food security in both regions; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of this sister city relationship would contribute to Omaha's continued work in creating a more inclusive and diverse

community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature acknowledges the efforts made by all parties involved in establishing a sister city relationship between Omaha, Nebraska, and Accra, Ghana, recognizing the potential for mutual growth, cultural exchange, economic development, and agricultural cooperation.

2. That the Legislature commends the perseverance and vision of the individuals that have worked tirelessly to make this Sister City relationship a reality, recognizing the importance of fostering international connections for the people of Omaha and the residents of Accra, particularly those in the Jamestown district.

3. That the Legislature encourages continued cooperation and communication between Omaha and Accra in order to facilitate a lasting and meaningful partnership that benefits both cities and the residents of both cities.

4. That the Legislature wishes both Omaha and Accra success and growth through this sister city relationship and looks forward to the positive impact that it will have on both communities, particularly in the areas of cultural, economic, and agricultural collaboration.

5. That copies of this resolution be sent to the Omaha Sister Cities Association, Black Men United, and other key stakeholders in Omaha, Nebraska, and Accra, Ghana, including representatives from the Jamestown district.