



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

WHEREAS, the cities of Gainesville, Florida, USA, and Duhok, Kurdistan, Iraq, signed an agreement in 2006 for the establishment of a “sister city” relationship; and

WHEREAS, the cities agreed to collaborate for their mutual benefit by exploring educational, economic and cultural opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the cities recognized that they shared common interests in economic development, health care, sustainable construction, municipal cooperation and mutual understanding; and

WHEREAS, the cities currently desire to create opportunities for collaboration between counterpart institutions, organizations and individuals;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree to:

1. Stimulate environments for cultural understanding, sharing experiences and addressing challenges through reciprocal visits of citizens, business leaders and officials from both cities;
2. Create an atmosphere in which economic and community development can be implemented and strengthened with special emphasis on sustainable environment and basic and fundamental societal needs;
3. Develop areas of collaboration between the cities of Gainesville and Duhok in the areas of tourism, agriculture, health, education and business; and
4. Create the opportunities for collaboration among businesses and educational and health institutions in Gainesville and Duhok.

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Mayor Lauren Poe  
Gainesville, Florida, USA

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Governor Farhad Ameen  
Duhok, Kurdistan, Iraq