



July 15, 2016

Mr. Chris Lee
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI

Re: Galway, Ireland Sister City 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports

The Board of Directors of CelticMKE (Home of Milwaukee Irish Fest) respectfully encourage the City of Milwaukee to maintain the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland. We continue to have a close relationship with our friends in Galway. Keith Finnegan, of Galway Bay Radio, is our primary contact with the Spirit of Galway. This very active organization dedicated to promoting Galway sends a delegation to Irish Fest annually. In 2015, the delegation comprised of over twenty people, including the Galway Mayor, City Manager and business leaders.

Our relationship with Alderman Michael Murphy has been extremely helpful in maintaining our ties with Galway. An annual reception held in the Common Council Chambers has become a tradition as well as an opportunity to develop contacts between the two cities.

CelticMKE Board members visit Galway on every trip to Ireland. They meet with Keith Finnegan, are interviewed on Galway Bay FM, and renew relationships with business and community leaders.

We have already made two visits to Galway in 2016. In January, our current Board President, Linda Clark Klibowitz and past president, Cathy Ward were guests on the Keith Finnigan show on Galway Bay FM and met with both the County Mayor and the City Mayor.

Ireland, and particularly the West Coast of Ireland, was overwhelmed with many violent storms and extensive flooding this past year. Ireland is struggling with solutions to flooding problems and we discussed opportunities that perhaps Milwaukee officials could help with.



Later in 2016, Past President Colleen Kennedy and Cathy Ward again traveled to Galway and met with the new Galway City Mayor Noel Larkin to give him a better understanding of our organization. They also discussed ways to further build on our sister city relationship. He will be coming to Milwaukee with the Galway contingent that comes annually to Milwaukee Irish Fest and also meet business and government leaders in Milwaukee. Later on the visit, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Ward were also interviewed on the popular Keith Finnegan show on Galway Bay FM. They also met with officials and there will be a high ranking Irish politician coming to Milwaukee Irish Fest as well. This will be announced at a later date.

We continue our outreach to Ireland with a continued focus on our relationship with the City of Galway. Thank you for allowing this sister city partnership to continue. We value this relationship and appreciate your support. We are very willing to help provide any assistance to City of Milwaukee officials or representatives traveling to Galway, or anywhere in Ireland, and would be happy to make introductions to Galway business leaders as well as elected officials.

Sincerely,



Patrick Boyle
Executive Director
CelitcMKE

(Home of Milwaukee Irish Fest)