

Milwaukee Irish Fest

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

October 25, 2012

Mr. Chris Lee
200 E. Wells Street
Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Galway, Ireland Sister City Annual Report

Dear Mr. Lee,

On behalf of Milwaukee Irish Fest and the Board of Directors, we respectfully encourage the City of Milwaukee to maintain the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland. Our primary contact with Galway has been Keith Finnegan of Galway Bay Radio. Our Sister City Relationship has been growing for nearly 15 years. In fact, each year, the City of Galway sends a 10-15 person delegation to not only Milwaukee Irish Fest, but to meet with area Business leaders and elected officials. Alderman Michael Murphy has been instrumental in growing this relationship. Each year, in addition to a welcome reception, the Alderman and Mayor often have the opportunity to meet with their representatives outside of the festival. In fact this year, Alderman Murphy included representatives from Milwaukee Lutheran College at the reception in City Hall. Milwaukee Irish Fest connected Keith Finnegan with the President of the College in order to prepare for a visit the College's Choir is making next spring.

Irish Fest representatives have visited Galway countless times over the years and we have visited with area elected officials, representatives from tourism and area businesses. In fact, a group from Irish Fest visited representatives from Galway in May, 2012, and as a result, Galway sent two different businesses to the festival this year. We plan a return visit in 2013 to strengthen those new relationships.


The partnership, between Galway and Milwaukee Irish Fest has allowed us to attract many government leaders, vendors, and guests from Galway and other places in Ireland to come to Milwaukee to sell their tourist packages, goods and services. The City of Milwaukee clearly benefits from this by having our Galway guests stay in Milwaukee, visit our many attractions and spend their tourist dollars right here in the city.

In a growing global economy, there are many opportunities for Milwaukee and Galway to support each other as our partnership continues to grow and we are grateful for the support of the City of Milwaukee and Alderman Murphy, Alderman Donovan and Mayor Barrett.

Milwaukee Irish Fest

Milwaukee Irish Fest is a year round organization. We are known in the city for our annual festival; in 2013 we will be celebrating our 33rd anniversary. In addition to the festival, we have many beneficial ties with Ireland; North and South. We would be happy to provide assistance to anyone traveling to Ireland and would be happy to make introductions for business leaders and elected officials as well. Please keep us in mind as opportunities present themselves. Thank you for maintaining this exciting international program. If we can help provide any additional leadership to develop this partnership please let us know.

Sincerely,



Donna Brady
President of Milwaukee Irish Fest