

2015 -- H 6291

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**RECOGNIZING THE PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL AND LASTING
SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TOWN OF JOHNSTON, RHODE ISLAND,
AND THE TOWN OF PANNI, FOGGIA, ITALY**

Introduced By: Representatives Ucci, Carnevale, Costantino, and Fellela

Date Introduced: June 09, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, What began as an informal exchange of cultural proclamations in April of
2 2013, between the Providence Pannese Society and the Italian hilltop "comune" of Panni, was
3 further pursued by the signing of the documents of Invitation & Agreement in September of 2014,
4 which made known the intent to forge a mutual sister city bond between these two towns; and

5 WHEREAS, The partnership will now culminate with the official signing of sister city
6 documents between Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena and Mayor Pasquale Ciruolo of Panni.
7 This historic event will take place on June 29, 2015, in the Town of Johnston with both Mayors,
8 town officials and other Italian dignitaries present; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States sister city program began in 1956, when President
10 Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a people-to-people, citizen diplomacy initiative. Originally a
11 program of the National League of Cities, Sister Cities International became a separate, nonprofit
12 corporation in 1967, due to the growth and popularity of the United States program; and

13 WHEREAS, Currently, more than 2,000 cities, states and counties are partnered in 136
14 countries around the world. The organization "strives to build global cooperation at the municipal
15 level, promote cultural understanding, and stimulate economic development"; and

16 WHEREAS, Sister City relationships begin for a variety of reasons. Generally, sister
17 cities share similar demographics as is the case with the Town of Panni and Rhode Island's Town
18 of Johnston, which according to the United States Census Bureau, claims to have one of the
19 highest percentage ratios of residents of Italian ethnic descent for not only the State of Rhode

1 Island, but also for the entire United States; and

2 WHEREAS, E-mails, Skype, Facebook, and other communications between the two
3 towns, including a visit two years ago from the Assistant Mayor of Panni, have been ongoing
4 over the past several years; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition, members of the Pannese Society visited Panni during which
6 time documents establishing ties between their local church and a local Johnston parish were
7 signed. Furthermore, the two towns accomplished three major goals which focused on tourism,
8 education and communication between both town's middle and high school students, and future
9 municipal and cultural exchanges, with the purpose of keeping Italian culture and this shared
10 heritage alive for present and future generations; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
12 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates the Mayors from the of Towns of Johnston, Rhode
13 Island and Panni, Foggia, for the formal signing of a partnership certifying their agreement to
14 enter into a sister city agreement on June 29, 2015; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mayor Pasquale Ciruolo, Town of Panni,
17 Foggia, Italy, and Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, Johnston, Rhode Island.

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