

Purcellville and Linden Sister City Opportunity



Think Global Act Local



Monday January 13, 2020
Mayor Kwasi Fraser of Purcellville, Virginia

Purcellville and Linden Sister City Opportunity

- During my visit to Guyana in November, I was able to visit Linden, Guyana's second largest town, and met with the Mayor and Town Council. Linden is also in a Strong Manager form of government but the Mayor is selected by Town Council, following the citizens election of the Town Council.
- The Mayor of Linden and I will like to establish a Sister City relationship to partner and mentor on the following areas:
 - ✓ Comprehensive Planning
 - ✓ Infrastructure Planning
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ Athletics
 - ✓ Maker Space Community Based Technical Training Framework
 - ✓ Trade and Eco Tourism
 - ✓ Arts and Music
 - ✓ Agriculture

The Sister Cities Program is administered by **Sister Cities International** and was initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 to encourage greater friendship and understanding between United States and other nations through direct and personal contact.

Sister City Relationship Explained

- A sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries.
- A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities.
- A city may have any number of sister cities, with community involvement ranging from a half dozen to hundreds of volunteers.
- In addition to volunteers, sister city organizations can include representatives from nonprofits, municipal governments, the private sector, and other civic organizations.
- Each sister city organization is independent and pursues the activities and thematic areas that are important to them and their community including municipal, business, trade, educational, and cultural exchanges and projects with their sister city.

Running a Sister City Organization

- All of Sister Cities International's members are independent organizations and have a number of management structures
- Sister city organizations are run by a group of volunteers, representatives from local institutions, the mayor's office or municipal government, or by some combination of these
- Most municipal contacts for sister city organizations are in the office of the mayor, office of tourism/convention and visitors bureau, office of international affairs, office of protocol, or office of economic development.

Relationship Across Sources

- Preexisting mayoral relationships
- Trade relationships
- Historical connections
- Ancestral/demographic connections
- Expatriate communities
- Shared geographic/sector challenges
- Faith-based groups
- Personal experiences ranging from study/work abroad to marriages.

Profile of Guyana

- Only English speaking country in South America
- Official Oil Producing Nation as of December 20, 2019
- Fastest growing economy in the world according to NASDAQ
- Economy to increase 86% in 2020 per International Monetary Fund
- 6.6 Billion Barrels of Oil Equivalent Reserve
- 83,000 Square Miles and 783,769 Population
- Ethnic groups originating from India, Africa, Europe, and China, as well as indigenous or aboriginal peoples.
- Exports
 - Sugar, gold, bauxite/alumina, rice, shrimp, molasses, rum, timber, citrus fruits
- Imports
 - Manufactured items, machinery, petroleum, food
- Shares the Amazon Jungle with Brazil
 - 900 species of birds; 225 species of mammals; 880 species of reptiles and more than 6,500 different species of trees and plants.

Profile of Linden

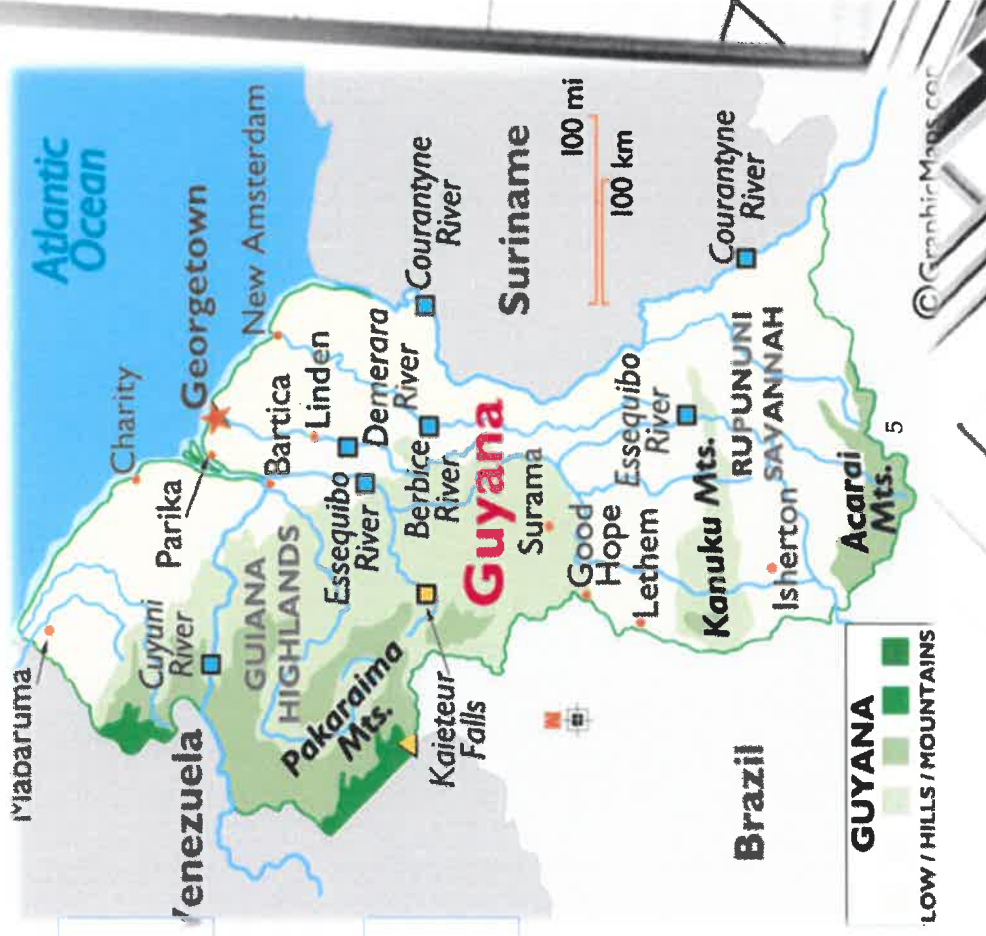
- Second Largest Town in Guyana
- Agriculture and Open Space
- Eco-tourist destination site
- Historic Bauxite Mining Town
- 56 Square Miles and 44,690 Population
- Annual Budget: U\$1.4 Million
- Pursuing Comprehensive Planning and Zoning
- Increasing education and training
 - Science and technology, technical and vocational subjects, business management, and computer sciences

Budget Impact

- No Town Budget dollars will be spent to pay for any trips or room and board in connection with this Sister City initiative

Next Steps

- Mayor's Proclamation Establishing Sister City Relationship Between Purcellville and Linden



Proclamation

OF GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP between Purcellville, Virginia, United State of America and Linden, Guyana, South America

WHEREAS, the Sister City Program, administered by Sister Cities International, initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 to encourage greater friendship and understanding between the United States and other nations through direct and personal contact.

WHEREAS, collaboration for mutual benefits between the two municipalities is a broad-based, long-term partnership.

WHEREAS, each sister city is independent and pursues the activities and thematic areas that are important to them and their community including business, trade, education, technology, cultural exchanges and municipal projects.

WHEREAS, the sister cities have preexisting mayoral relationships, historical connections, ancestral/demographic connections, language commonality, expatriate communities and share optimism and goodwill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Kwasi A. Fraser, Mayor of the Town of Purcellville, Virginia, United State of America, hereby enter into a community friendship to create a positive relationship in activities that drive this global economic network through a sister city partnership with Linden, Guyana, South America on this fourteenth day of January, 2020.

KWASI A. FRASER
Mayor, Town of Purcellville, Virginia
United States of America



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Connect globally. Thrive locally.