**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CORDIALLY WELCOME TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA THE HONORABLE MADAM MAYOR ELIZABETH SACKEY, THE FIRST FEMALE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ACCRA, GHANA; AND TO WELCOME A DELEGATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA AS THE CITY OF COLUMBIA AND THE COLUMBIA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL CELEBRATES ELEVEN YEARS OF THE COLUMBIA‑ACCRA SISTER CITY PARTNERSHIP.

Whereas, Sister Cities of Columbia, South Carolina, is a global citizen diplomacy program. It is dedicated to furthering understanding among the citizens of Columbia, South Carolina, by encouraging and assisting the city and its citizens to link with similar communities throughout the world. Communities who are involved can then learn more about each other and develop lasting and meaningful exchanges in the fields of business, education, medicine, religion, and culture; and

Whereas, the Columbia World Affairs Council has administered the Sister Cities program on behalf of the City of Columbia since April of 1996; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to announce that from May 8, 2022 through May 17, 2022, the City of Columbia and the Columbia World Affairs Council will be hosting the newly elected Mayor of Accra, the Honorable Elizabeth Sackey, as well as a delegation representing every branch of government from the Republic of Ghana for a celebration of eleven years of partnership between the Sister Cities of Accra and Columbia; and

Whereas, it is a pleasure to host Madam Mayor Elizabeth Sackey, who recently became the first woman to be named Chief Executive of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly when she was unanimously confirmed in an election conducted by the Electoral Commission at the Accra City Hall in October of 2021; and

Whereas, the partnership between the cities of Accra and Columbia provide both cities with the opportunity to enjoy economic growth, cultural and artistic exchanges, and to raise awareness about the importance of global tolerance and understanding; and

Whereas, the celebration of this partnership will include several events, including the Columbia – Accra Sister City Anniversary Ball on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at the Columbia Convention Center; as well as additional auxiliary events such as an economic forum and education forum which will explore ways sister cities can effectively collaborate and develop business, as well as discuss best practices to elevate our school systems; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives welcome the opportunity to celebrate this close partnership with the City of Accra and the Republic of Ghana and hope that this friendship continues to encourage business, educational, cultural, and people‑to‑people exchanges between the citizens of both cities and nations. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and cordially welcome to the State of South Carolina the Honorable Madam Mayor Elizabeth Sackey, the first female mayor of the City of Accra, Ghana; and to welcome a delegation from the Republic of Ghana as the city of Columbia and the Columbia World Affairs Council celebrates eleven years of the Columbia‑Accra Sister City partnership.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Madam Mayor Elizabeth Sackey.

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