



# Baghdad-Denver Region Partnership

a program of Sister Cities International  
active since 2003

between the Denver Regional Council of Governments  
(DRCOG) and the Province of Baghdad

The Partnership is a citizen diplomacy program whose purpose is to facilitate cultural, professional, and educational understanding between people and groups in the Denver Region and people and groups in the Province of Baghdad.

The Partnership is completely non-political. Participants on both sides hold varying views on the war and the situation in Iraq. The only requirement for participation in the Partnership is a desire to participate in mutually respectful cultural, professional, and educational exchange.

The Partnership's origins date to 2003 when several former Denver area local government officials served as advisers to the first post-Saddam Baghdad City Council. As the new Baghdad officials began asking questions about how to establish a democratic civil society, they began to make email and telephone contact with a number of local government, business, non-profit, and education officials in Colorado. These relationships flourished and multiplied, and eventually grew into a formal Partnership program.



For more information about the  
Baghdad-Denver Region Partnership:

Joe Rice, Partnership Coordinator

[joerice@aol.com](mailto:joerice@aol.com)

303-667-5555

[www.drcog.org/bdrp](http://www.drcog.org/bdrp)



## Formal Partnership Declaration



### Get Active in the Partnership!

People and groups in the Denver Region are in regular contact by email and telephone with people and groups in Iraq. If this interests you, or if you just want to participate occasionally, simply contact us to get involved!

Every individual or group is invited to participate. Simply contact us to get on our email list if you are interested.

Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about the Partnership or in making a tax-deductible contribution.

Joe Rice, [joerice@aol.com](mailto:joerice@aol.com), 303-667-5555

## Other Activities of the Partnership

- **Boxes for Baghdad:** The Partnership has sent over 2,500 school supply kits that were collected by local Boy Scouts or donated by [www.EZSchoolSupplies.com](http://www.EZSchoolSupplies.com)
- **Bears for Baghdad:** The Lakewood Kiwanis Club shipped over 400 teddy bears and other stuffed animals to children in the Karada and Sadr City Districts of Baghdad.
- **Easter Benefit:** Over 100 pounds of clothing and personal items were shipped to the Baghdad Christian Orphanage by Trinity United Methodist Church, Saint Elias Orthodox Christian Church, and a variety of individual donors.
- **General Humanitarian Supplies:** Several organizations and individuals shipped clothing, toys, and personal items for distribution to a variety of needy people in Baghdad.
- **Possible Future Activity:** Officials in Baghdad have requested the Partnership host seminars, exercises, and recurring exchanges for first responders (police, fire, medical).

Partnership activities are funded by grants and donations. We'd like to thank the following major contributors for their assistance:



... and numerous individual contributors!



## To: Denver Regional Council of Governments

Kind Regards,  
Baghdad Provincial Council and on behalf of Baghdad citizen would like to announce renewing the support to the partnership between Baghdad and Denver as it holds wide benefit and importance in areas of knowledge and experience transfer and sharing of experiences to both sides which will enhance the capacity of local governments and help find solution for local challenges.

Our hope is to expand the partnership by implementing development programs in working and daily life field like health, education, local police, civil defense, civil society organization, services, construction and other fields. We also look forward to conduct exchange visits to achieve benefit exchange and deepen friendship bonds between our councils and citizens of both Baghdad and Denver.

Kindly accept our highest respect and appreciation.

**Kamil N. Alzaydi,**  
**Chairman of the Baghdad Provincial Council**  
27 March 2011



## To: Denver Regional Council of Governments

On behalf of the citizens of Baghdad and myself we would like to send you best regards and kind wishes.

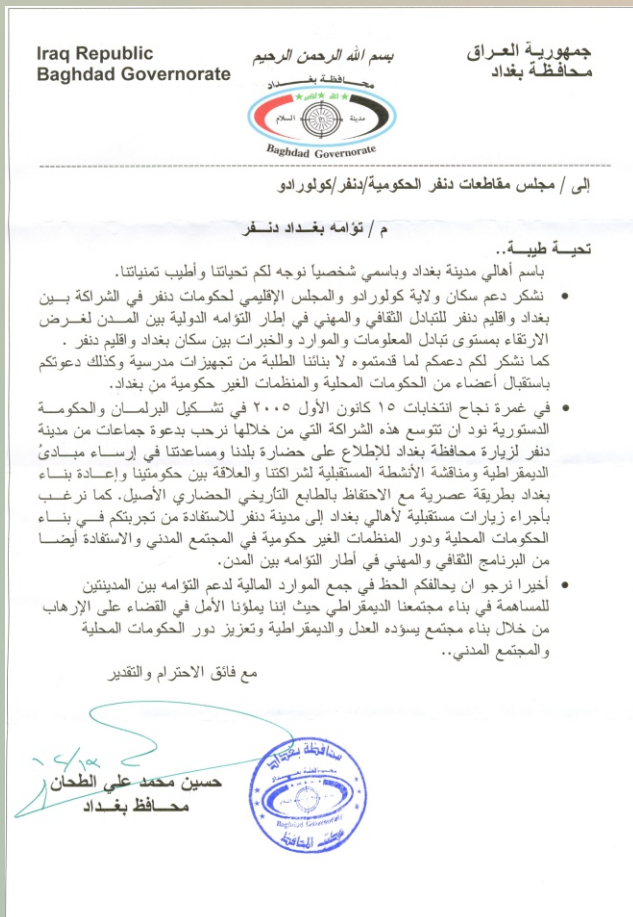
Baghdad Province would like to express great gratitude to Colorado and DRCOG for their support to our Partnership. This Partnership would lead to cultural and professional exchange and promote the level of information, resources and knowledge exchange between the citizens thru Sister Cities International.

On the occasion of the success of 15 December 2005 election to establish the Iraqi Parliament and the constitutional government, we would like to expand this Partnership. We would like to invite groups from Denver to visit Baghdad in order to see closely our culture, help us establish the foundation of democracy principles, discuss future activities of this Partnership, discuss the relationship between our governments, and modernly rebuilding Baghdad with its cultural and historical style kept the same. We look forward to future visits by Baghdad citizens to Colorado to gain the benefits from your experience in building local governments, nongovernmental organizations roles in civil society, and cultural and professional program for sister cities.

Finally we hope that you will be successful in raising money to support this partnership in order to participate in building our democratic society as we are full of hope to uproot the terrorists by building a society based on justice and democracy and enhance the role of local governments and civil society.

With Highest Respect and Appreciation

**Hussain Mohammed Ali Altahan**  
**Governor of Baghdad Province**  
19 December 2005



## Delegation Visits Arranged through the Baghdad-Denver Region Partnership

The Partnership has been involved with more than 15 delegations from Iraq and two delegations to the Middle East since 2003. The first Partnership visit to Baghdad itself occurred in 2007.

December 2003	<b>First visit of members of the Baghdad City Council to Colorado</b>
May 2004	A delegation from Mile High United Way meets with Iraqi government officials and non-profit representatives at a conference in Amman, Jordan
August 2004	A Baghdad University professor visits the University of Denver
October 2004	<b>Official Partnership Declaration is signed</b> during a visit of Baghdad Council Members to the Denver Regional Council of Governments
April 2005	18 Iraqi government, business, education, and non-profit officials visit
May 2006	Women's Delegation from Iraq attends United Way Conference in Denver
Summer 2006	An Iraqi Fulbright Scholar completes internship with the City of Arvada
Summer 2007	A delegation of Iraqi high school youth visits Colorado
November 2007	<b>First delegation to Baghdad.</b> Mile High United Way meets with a number of ministerial officials as well as Iraqi non-profit representatives.
Winter 2008	The Partnership participated in two delegation visits of Iraqis to Colorado
Summer 2009 and Summer 2010	The Partnership hosted two delegations of Iraqi youth to Colorado
May 2011	Hosted nine members of the Baghdad Provincial Council
October 2012	Hosted a delegation of telecommunications officials from Iraq
February 2014	Hosted discussion with women officials from Iraq
August 2014	Hosted a member of the Karadah District Council of Baghdad Province



The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a **regional association** of municipal and county governments in the Denver metropolitan region.