



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 22, 2012

Mr. Wahide Belay
Minister Counselor I
Embassy of Ethiopia
3506 International Drive NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Belay:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and as Mayor of Miami-Dade County, it is my pleasure to extend greetings and respond to correspondence received from Ambassador Tesfaye Yilma Sabo, Deputy Chief of Missions for the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and Ambassador Sabo's proposal of a Sister Cities affiliation between Miami-Dade County and an unspecified city in Ethiopia. Miami-Dade County has an active Sister Cities program consisting of 25 affiliations with communities worldwide. These relationships are used to build stronger international trade ties, municipal relations and cultural projects. I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you some of the traits Miami-Dade County looks for when considering new international partnerships.

The Board established a set of guidelines to insure new partner communities and their affiliates have common community characteristics. A few of these guidelines are: a) being the capital of their country; b) having a population of the approximate size of Miami-Dade County (about 2.5 million residents); c) having a major international airport or seaport; or, d) having an economy based heavily on international trade or tourism. These criteria are reviewed prior to the Board's recommendations to assure the likelihood this friendship will be long standing and productive. In accordance to Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C., the Ethiopian communities of Axum, Bahir Dar, and Gondar currently have Sister Cities affiliation with U.S. communities and may be beneficial to consider a different city in Ethiopia for a partnership with us.

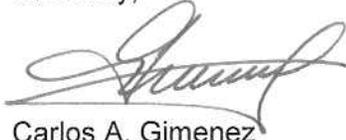
Mr. Sabo mentioned other areas of cooperation to include a possible Memorandum of Understanding regarding cultural exchanges and technical assistance as it relates to public facilities, improving trade, tourism, investment links and other initiatives. Developing stronger relations with Africa is an important priority for Miami-Dade County. In August 2010, the Honorable Ato Kuma Demeksa Tokon, Mayor of Addis Ababa was welcomed to Miami-Dade County and provided a briefing and tour of Miami International Airport, the Port of Miami, as well as, the Mayor met with representatives from other important County offices.

Mr. Wahide Belay
Page 2

I have designated Mario E. Goderich, Assistant Director of the County's Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement (SPEE) Department to coordinate future communications with you. Mr. Goderich may be contacted at 305 375-5952 or via email: mg3836@miamidade.gov.

Lastly, I appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you to develop a friendship between Miami-Dade County and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos A. Gimenez', written over a horizontal line.

Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

c: Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor
Mario E. Goderich, Assistant Director, Economic Enhancement (SPEE)
Dimitros "Jimmy" Nares, Assistant Director, Economic Development
and International Trade