CITY OF OAKLAND
News from
Office of the Mayor

PRESS RELEASE
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Mayor Dellums Signs Sister City Agreement with Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

OAKLAND – Mayor Ron Dellums welcomed Mayor Ato Alemayehu Sewagegn of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia to Oakland City Hall today to sign a sister city agreement.

"With the world becoming smaller through technology, tourism and trade, I believe that a Sister City relationship can promote cultural understanding, global education and economic growth for both cities and regions," said Mayor Dellums. "I welcome Mayor Ato Alemayehu Sewagegn to our great city of Oakland to ensure that we can build upon our already tremendous relationship."

Since 1997, Oakland has enjoyed a Friendship City status with Bahir Dar. Last year, members of the Bahir Dar Friendship City Committee approached Mayor Dellums and expressed their desire to elevate the current relationship to a Sister City relationship. While Friendship City status is in informal agreement between two cities, a Sister City relationship will serve as an official agreement between two governments that will allow for continued and improved collaboration, including:

1. Coordinate Trade Missions to Bahir Dar with the support from Oakland's World Trade Center and the United States Office of Private Investment Corporation;
2. When needed, provide humanitarian goods (i.e., clothing, books, and medical supplies) and small packages of medical supplies and other goods;
3. Conduct public educational awareness activities in Oakland and surrounding cities;
4. Promote business, investment and tourism opportunities;
5. Maintain active communication and cooperative working relationships;
6. Explore means to assist Bahir Dar as it works to resolve its flood and drainage problems; and
7. Promote cultural awareness and understanding between the citizens of Bahir Dar and Oakland.

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For more information on Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland, please visit and bookmark the following Web accounts:

YouTube : http://www.youtube.com/ronalddellums

facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ron-Dellums/98961200747

twitter : http://www.twitter.com "Mayor Dellums"

nu Alerts http://www.nualerts.com/clubs/mayordellums/