

RESOLUTION NO.

PASSED _____

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Gainesville, Florida, inviting the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon, to become a sister city of the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, USA, authorizing execution of a Sister City agreement and providing an immediate effective date.

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville, Florida, desire to begin a long-standing friendship and association with the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, an organization called the Gainesville/Mejdlaya Sister City Program (hereinafter "GAMEESC") has been created under the auspices of Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc., a not-for-profit Florida corporation (hereinafter "Gainesville Sister City Program"); and

WHEREAS, informal discussions have already been held between the GAMEESC and the Mayor of the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon, who has affirmed his city's interest in having a sister city relationship with Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, GAMEESC has the support of the Gainesville Sister City Program and many Gainesville community leaders; and

WHEREAS, to formally implement the Gainesville/Mejdlaya Sister City Program, the City of Gainesville, Florida, USA, desires to officially invite the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon, as a Sister City of Gainesville, so that people of both cities will connect with one another, sharing knowledge and interests to aid in the development of mutual friendships, understanding and cultural opportunities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:**

Section 1. The Gainesville City Commission hereby invites the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon, to become a Sister City of the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, USA, under a program to be administered by the Gainesville Sister City Program.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized to execute a Sister City Agreement between the City of Mejdlaya, Lebanon and the City of Gainesville, Florida.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2015.

Edward Braddy, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY:

....., Clerk of the Commission

....., City Attorney

**Agreement Establishing a Sister City Program
Between the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, USA,
and the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon**

Whereas, the cities of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, USA, and the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon, share similar goals of international cooperation, prosperity and peace; and

Whereas, citizens of both cities have shown genuine interest in creating a long-term friendship and cooperative relationship between the two cities; and

Whereas, both cities believe it to be in their mutual interest to broaden and strengthen ties between the two cities; and

Whereas, the City of Gainesville, Florida, Alachua County, USA, represented by The Honorable Edward Braddy, Mayor of the City of Gainesville, and the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon, represented by The Honorable Ebrahim E. Harfoush, Mayor of the City of Mejdlaya, are willing to establish and conduct friendly exchanges and cooperation; and

Whereas, both cities place similar values on cultural understanding and advances in technology innovation, medical programs, renewable energies, tourism, transportation management, youth programs and leadership, environmental stewardship and other areas;

Now, therefore, the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, USA, and the City of Mejdlaya, Zgharta District, Lebanon, agree as follows:

§ 1

1. Both cities will endeavor to create mutually beneficial economic, cultural and educational opportunities by connecting counterpart individuals, organizations and institutions in areas of technology, healthcare, sports, renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, tourism, education and the environment;
2. Both cities will endeavor to identify new initiatives to further nurture economic, social, and cultural relationships; and
3. Both cities are committed to mutual support for organizing and developing the experiences, common activities and future programs of the Sister City relationship on the basis of mutual cooperation and directions set forth by this declaration.

§ 2

These activities will be carried out by the designated entities or organizations in the cities of Gainesville, Florida, and Mejdlaya, Lebanon, which will compile information about the activities undertaken within the framework of the partnership.

§ 3

The agreement is based on the resolutions of both municipalities.

§ 4

This agreement has been drawn up in four copies: two in English and two in Arabic languages. Texts in both language versions are equally valid.

§ 5

This Agreement is effective on the day of signature.

Therefore, We, the mayors of Gainesville, Florida, and Mejdlaya, Lebanon, in the belief that this Agreement will contribute to the cause of world peace and to the development of friendly relations between the peoples of Lebanon and the United States and our two cities, do hereby affix our signatures and our city seals on this declaration to establish our relationship as Sister Cities.

.....
Edward Braddy
Mayor of the City of Gainesville

.....
Ebrahim E. Harfoush
Mayor of the City of Mejdlaya

Dated.....

Dated.....