



CITY OF ATLANTA

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SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

July 25, 2005

Dear Friends:

Welcome to Atlanta! I am delighted that you have chosen the City of Atlanta as the location for this year's Flavors of Africa Expo.


The City of Atlanta is proud of its rich diversity and we take pride in the people and organizations that help to make our city one of global caliber and stature. The African community, numbering well over 40,000 residents in the Atlanta area, shares a mutually beneficial partnership with the city involving trade, academics, and cultural exchange. Atlanta is proud to have the presence of the Consulates of Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Tanzania as well as vibrant sister-city relationships with Lagos, Nigeria and Cotonou, Benin.

I commend you highly in your efforts to promote harmony, pride and understanding. By recognizing the efforts of Africans, as well as other ethnic groups, we can encourage the importance of inclusion in building a bright future for everyone. As our city becomes more global, recognizing the diverse heritages of our residents will not only promote better understanding and appreciation, but also strengthen the bonds of friendship and equality.

While you are in Atlanta, I hope that you will take time to experience the numerous cultural attractions our city has to offer. Please avail yourselves of the diversity and excitement of a major city with southern hospitality. After your visit I am sure that you will agree that Atlanta is both home to tradition as well as opportunities for the future.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful and an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,



Shirley Franklin