



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

Mayor Mary Clare Higgins

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23 December 2005

The Honorable Mayor Mamadou Ba
Guinaw Rail South
Dakar
SENEGAL

Dear Mayor Ba,

Salamalekum! Greetings!

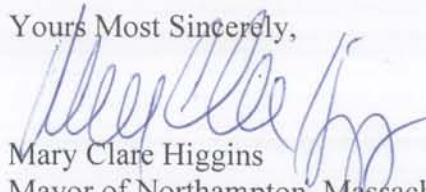
It is my honor to send greetings to you and to the good people of Guinaw Rail on behalf of the people of Northampton, Massachusetts. Mr. Massamba Diop and Mr. Tony Vacca have agreed to carry this message to you on this, their most recent trip to your beautiful country.

The partnership that Mr. Diop and Mr. Vacca have created through the Senegal-America Project is a wonderful example of the kind of program that can change the world, one person at a time. It is very exciting to know that educators, artists and musicians from our area will be collaborating with their Senegalese counterparts over the next few weeks. I cannot imagine that anyone making this trip will return unchanged, and I am sure they will be generous in sharing their stories and experiences when they return here. As a former educator, I am particularly excited by the prospect of developing sister school relationships between our two communities. How can the world fail to be changed if our children begin to know and understand each other as friends?

As a member of the international organization Mayors For Peace, I am grateful for the opportunity to officially introduce these representatives of our community to you. I thank you and the people of Guinaw Rail for your kind hospitality and for welcoming them so warmly. Please know that this visit is emblematic of the genuine wishes of the people of Northampton to know the world more fully, in all its diversity and richness, and to learn from one another in order to secure a peace that is lasting and prosperity that uplifts all. May this connection between our two communities be one step toward that goal. *Jamm ag jamm.*

With every good wish for you, your family, and your community, I remain

Yours Most Sincerely,


Mary Clare Higgins
Mayor of Northampton, Massachusetts
United States of America

