

Minneapolis Mayor Meets With LMA Members

The City Mayor of Minneapolis, R.T. Rybak, today met the official and members of the Liberian Minister Association (LMA) and other Liberian organizations to explore the possibility of Minneapolis having a sister City in Liberia. The meeting, which was well attended, took place at United Christian Fellowship Church in Minnesota.



City Mayor of Minneapolis, R.T. Rybak

Welcoming the Mayor and his delegation, Rev. Alexander Collins, Board Secretary of the Liberian Ministers Association, US Kakata Sister City Committee Chairman, and Lead Pastor of Redeemed Life Church, Mounds View, MN said, LMA was established primarily to foster unity, fellowship, integrity and accountability amongst pastors.



The Pastor of Ebenezer Community Church Rev. Dr. Francis Tabla

Rev Collins reminded all present that the meeting with Mayor Rybak is a follow up to a meeting held between Mayor 'Rybak and Mayor Eddie Z Murphy of Kakata, Liberian. In that meeting Mayor Murphy and his delegation requested a Sister

City Relationship with Minneapolis and this follow up meeting is intended to explore the possibility.



Members of the Liberian Ministers Association

Responding, Mr. R.T Rybak thanked all those in attendance and stated that Minneapolis is ready for a Sister City in Liberia and now is the time. The Mayor outline the criteria and asked LMA and all present to assist him find a city in Liberia. LMA Board Chairman, Rev Charles Goah of the United Christian Fellowship Church and other ministers informed the Mayor that Kakata is ideally located and is prepared for a United State sister city relationship. Although Mayor Rybak has an idea of a bigger city, he asked LMA and other Liberian organizations to further discuss and come up with a written recommendation.



Dr. Tabla stressing a point

The Issue of the Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) was raised. The Mayor said although, he does not control immigration, he is willing and ready to speak on

behalf of the Liberian people and to contact others who have the power to effect change.



Dr. Josef Howard, Executive Director of LMA

Responding to Star Tribune news article on the Unemployment disparity between white and people of color, in particular African Immigrants, he requested a concerted effort to ensure that the disparity is addressed. He pointed to Minneapolis employment success in the nation and asked that awareness to assist individual get employed be created within communities. For example job fairs, etc. He acknowledged that while there are employment challenges, there are also opportunities that we all can explore.



Members of LMA and Guests

Mayor Rybak also requested an ongoing dialogue between his office, LMA and the

larger Liberian community. He called on the LMA and other Liberian organization to work with his office to ensure that some of the concerns of their community are addressed.



Mayor Rybak making a point

In closing, Rev. Alexander Collins thanked the Mayor and his staff for coming and assured them of a continued working relationship with LMA and other Liberian organizations.

Below are photo from the occasion.



Members of LMA



Hon. R. T. Rybak



R. T. Rybak, Rev. Joe Nelson and Rev. Alexander Collins