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Dear Charlottesville City Councilors,

This proposal is designed to encourage the City Officials of Charlottesville, Virginia to fund a sister-city program located in Winneba, Ghana in West Africa.

Sister city programs require a unique partnership between productive communities on many different levels. These programs involve a wide diversity of exchanges and projects.

The purpose of this arrangement is to encourage Charlottesville residents to reach beyond their own city, and share their international experiences with communities through a valuable community partner.

There are several reasons why the City of Charlottesville would benefit from partnering with the town of Winneba:

1. To develop a way for the different elements of each community to come together and enjoy and profit from this type of interaction.
2. To develop an understanding of your own community by interpreting your way of life to people of a different culture.
3. To establish an identity as members of a global family involved in fostering world peace.

Currently, the City of Charlottesville has not yet partnered with an African nation. Africa is the cradle of civilization. It is a place rich in history and diversity, and I am sure that you will find Winneba to be a place that the City of Charlottesville would acquire knowledge and insight from if it is chosen as Charlottesville's sister city. Winneba is a rich and beautiful land waiting for partners. To assist in considering this proposal, I have included a disk of Winneba so you have a visual picture of Winneba itself.

Sincerely,


Mr. Nana Akyeampong-Ghartey

*CC : President, Charlottesville Chambers of Commerce.
Ghana Embassy, Washington DC.*

Winneba

Ghana, Africa

A Proposal for the Recognition of Winneba, Ghana, Africa
as a Sister City to Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

August 2005

Presented By:

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Winneba, Ghana, Africa

Proposal for the Recognition of Winneba, Ghana, Africa as a Sister City to
Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

About the People of Winneba

- A. Population
- B. Languages — Queen's English and Local Dialects
- C. Lifestyle and Housing
- D. Role of the Church
- E. Holidays and Work Week
- F. Recreation and Leisure Activities

About the Community of Winneba

- A. Location
- B. Beaches Winneba, The Cradle of Education

About the Country of Ghana

- A. Home of the University of Ghana's College of Education
- B. Home of Ghana's Institution of Languages
- C. Home to the National Academy of Music
- D. Home to the National Sports College Training Institute
- E. Home to the Ghana Police Academy

Winneba, Ghana, Africa

Industries

- A. Fishing and Ceramics
- B. Exports
- C. Annual Deer Festival

Judicial System

- A. British Court System and Tribal Law
- B. Crime and Punishment

Winneba, Ghana, Africa

About The People of Winneba

Population

Winneba has a population of approximately 80,000 people. This is twice the size of Charlottesville. In our count, however, are the many citizens and visitors who attend our many academies, colleges, and institutes of learning. Like Charlottesville, we welcome numerous students yearly to our bustling 'university community'. The size of our population is more a recognition of our love for learning and the high regard we place on education than a growth rate.

Languages — Queen's English and Local Languages

The Queen's English is our major language. For many generations we were under British rule and with it came the adoption of the British dialect. Even though we sound like the English, we don't have tea and scones at 4:00pm. Within our country there are over 200 local languages, with which we retain our own customs. In Winneba, Effutu and Fante are the two native languages that maintain our connection to our history and the traditions of our fathers.

Lifestyle and Housing

Our lifestyle is very similar to that of those here in Charlottesville. We eat breakfast, lunch, and supper (not dinner). Our children go to school nine months out of each year with three months off between grades. Our homes are very similar to those in the U.S. that are near the beaches.

Role of the Church

Religious life is very important to every Ghanaian. Our constitution guarantees the Freedom to Worship. Having just recently (47 years ago) thrown off the shackles of British rule, the majority of Ghanaians thank God for blessing us with our own country. Winneba is no exception. Approximately 84% of our country's citizens attend a Christian church, another 15% worship through local African traditions and about 1% are Muslim. The Christian church has as many denominations as are found in the U.S. Probably the only difference is the non-competitiveness found among the denominations which is fostered by all pastors working together within our Council of Churches.

Work Week and Holidays

Most working Americans seem to receive a one or two week vacation along with ten holidays per year. The average Winneba worker enjoys a four-week vacation plus holidays. Like Charlottesville, we have an Independence Day from England, which we celebrate not on July 4th but on March 6th. We have religious holidays like those here in Charlottesville where we celebrate Christmas on December 25th and Easter.

Recreation and Leisure Activities

Musical concerts, dances, and masquerading groups are an important part of the leisure activities in Winneba. Concerts and dances are held most often on the weekends and holidays. We have four Masquerading groups that perform dances and entertain the public at both holidays and sports events. They hold competitions every January 1st to bring in the new year.. All three provide our community with the socialization that binds a people, young and old.

Our main pastime in Winneba is Soccer. It is our national pastime and the love of every Ghanaian man and boy. There are about eleven teams in town. They form the basis of our local soccer league. People of all ages come out in the evening to watch these teams play. It is the dream of our youth to become good enough to represent our country in international play.

Ghanaian soccer teams are some of the best soccer teams in the world. Our "under age 17" team has won the World Cup three times. Our "under age 20" team won nine years ago and placed 2^d this-year, losing to Argentina in the finals that took place in Argentina. We encourage your youth soccer teams to consider traveling to Winneba and around Ghana for competition one year.