



12/15/2011 is a great day for Les Cayes' history! We have officially entered into a Sister Cities agreement with Boynton Beach, Florida <http://www.boynton-beach.org/>. With this new relationship, come many opportunities for economic development, cultural, knowledge, experience exchanges between the two cities. Those exchanges began yesterday when the prestigious delegation from Les Cayes visited many key locations in Boynton Beach yesterday and Today.

The delegation from Les Cayes comprise: Les Cayes Mayor Yvon Chery, Chamber of Commerce President Pierry Dennery, Rene Gattereau, Marie Yvette Fenelon, and Jean Fabert Olivier. They visited places such as Boynton Beach's City Hall, Police & Fire Departments, Bethesda Memorial Hospital, the Chamber of Commerce, Bus Tour of the Parks & Recreation, Toussaint L'Ouverture High School, and the Utilities Department. Boynton Beach's officials opened their doors and their hearts to the delegation and the city of Les Cayes. They gave us a warm and dignified welcome which is a reflection of the work done by Sister Cities, Major Bernadel and Jane Marcel. Every official site visited, gave the delegation a detailed overview of how their offices operate and left the door open for future consultation if and when needed.



The Fire Department has even offered to provide fire trucks and technical assistance to Les Cayes in due time. Great first step! The official signing reception was a delightful icing on the cake. Our Cayens Cayennes from South Florida represented our town and they represented it superbly well!!! About 70-75 people showed up for the event. The audience was equally represented by people from both towns. The signing reception, MC'd by Major Bernadel, started with a performance by Dimensional Harmony. Then Haitian Born representative Mac Bernard gave a very eloquent speech on this historic event...followed by Mrs. Chris Francois, Boynton Beach's Sister

Cities Preseindent, who addressed the audience in both French and English (very impressive). The Mayor of Boynton Beach Mayor José Rodriguez gave us a warm welcome. This his very first time

giving the key of the city to another city and you can feel and hear the excitement in his voice. Then a moment that marveled everyone: Les Cayes' very own son Jean-Michel Daudier really charmed the audience with his performance of Haiti and Soley...simply awesome!!! It was so powerful to hear the audience sing along with Jean-Michel Daudier.

To end the event, Mayor Rodriguez offered the key of the city to Mayor Yvon Chery and both Mayors signed the agreements which officially makes Boynton Beach and Les Cayes Sister Cities. Then it was time for good food and wonderful conversations as the audience reflected on what this relationship may bring to both towns. To make a very long story short, I am SO PROUD of Chris Francois, Jeanne Heaviln, Jane Marcel, Major Joseph Bernadel for their tremendous effort to make this agreement a reality. I am equally proud of Mayor Yvon Chery, Pierry Dennery, Rene Gattereau, Marie Yvette Fenelon, and Jean Fabert Olivier for making the trip to Boynton Beach from Les Cayes and for representing our town with so much pride and dignity. Last but not least, I am most proud of our Cayens, Cayennes who took the time out of their busy schedule to REPRESENT LES CAYES, HAITI...Our town is counting on your continued support to help make this relationship and long-term and sustainable success!!!

