

## PANHELLENIC FEDERATION OF FLORIDA INC



Honorable George Cretekos Mayor, city of Clearwater 112 S. Osceola Ave. Clearwater, Florida 33756 Received

Protocol No: 2143 October 04, 2016

OCT 12 2016

City Council's Office

**Dear Mayor Cretekos** 

Clearwater Florida is known around the nation as a great destination with a diverse population, where visitors always feel welcome and can enjoy sightseeing, the nightlife, and the beaches. The PanHellenic Federation of Florida, on behalf of the tens of thousands of Greek Americans in the state of Florida invites the Clearwater Sister Cities Committee to add the island of Kastellorizo Greece as its newest sister city member.

Kastellorizo is a member of the Dodecanese island group, from where many residents of Pinellas county and of Clearwater have roots, and is located in the southeastern Aegean sea. Though small in size, the island has a rich history dating back to the Homeric times. In the past, the island had a population exceeding 10,000, but during World War II the British removed most of the population leaving only a few hundred. Even so, the island, just like Clearwater, sprawls with life during the tourist season, with visitors from throughout Europe and around the world.

The affiliation would benefit both Clearwater and Kastellorizo through the promotion of the two to each others tourist populations but also to the local residents. Also the exchange programs would promote Clearwater throughout Greece and also in Europe through the media reports of the event and benefit children that would participate in an exchange program.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your positive reply and are ready to assist in any way we can to bring this worthy endeavor to fruition.

Sincerely,

Maria Poullas,

President

Tassos Bogdanos

Chairman, National Affairs