



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

April 4, 2014

Dear Friends:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone gathered to celebrate the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Senegal's Independence.

Hosted this year by the Senegalese Association of Illinois, all in attendance will learn of Senegal's rich tradition and vibrant culture. Residents will have the chance to reflect on past, present and future as they become part of Senegal's living history which dates as far back as the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Impressive and involved programming accented by authentic Senegalese cuisine, gives the Senegalese Association of Illinois the chance to connect with Chicagoans.

During the celebration, all will have the opportunity to learn about the British, French, Portuguese and Muslim influences that have shaped this West African nation. Chicago's Senegalese community has contributed greatly to our city's cultural fabric and demographic landscape through active participation in commerce, the arts, and education in addition to many other areas. I recognize the Senegalese Association of Illinois, and the Senegalese community for their work in bringing the history and cultural traditions of Africa to all of the people of Chicago.

Congratulations on this auspicious occasion and best wishes to all for an enjoyable event, and much continued success.

Sincerely,

Mayor