

RESOLUTION NO. _____

CITY OF PEORIA

Peoria, Illinois _____ 20 _____

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AYTOU, LEBANON, AS A SISTER CITY TO PEORIA, ILLINOIS, USA

RESOLVED,

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to the citizens of our city to extend the hand of friendship to cities of other countries; and

WHEREAS, there has been a long and active involvement of those of Lebanese ancestry in Peoria; and

WHEREAS, immigration from Lebanon started in 1886, and the present Lebanese population of Peoria is estimated to be about 8,000, many of whom have family roots in Aytou; and

WHEREAS, the Itoo Society, founded as the Itoo Reform and Progress Society in 1914, has strong ties to Aytou and will serve as the support system in this endeavor; and

WHEREAS, at its January 15, 2014 meeting, the Peoria Sister City Commission unanimously recommended the formalization of ties with Aytou; and

WHEREAS, a Sister City relationship will offer opportunities for the citizens of Peoria to be more knowledgeable about Aytou and Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, a Sister City relationship will offer cultural, political, and economic exchanges;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the City Council of the City of Peoria, Illinois, does hereby extend an invitation to Aytou, Lebanon, to become a Sister City, in order to promote a bond of friendship and understanding between our communities.

Adopted this 27th day of May, 2014.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED:

Corporation Counsel