



Municipality of Hersonissos



Address of the Mayor of Hersonissos at the Lightening Ceremony during the Torch Relay for the Olympic Games òLondon 2012ö in Hersonissos, Greece,

11.05.2012

Today in Hersonissos we welcome, with great emotion and excitement the Team of the International Olympic Torch Relay for the Olympic Games òLondon 2012ö.

The journey of the flame started yesterday at the Ancient Olympia the birthplace of the Ancient Olympics, in order to transport the holy symbol of the Olympic Spirit, the spirit of emulation, of voluntarism and solidarity, the spirit of friendship and of peaceful coexistence between the people of the Earth. The Olympic flame is one of the most powerful symbols of Hellenism and it is on its way to London in the U.K. where the Olympic Games will be hosted this year.

It is a great honor to have among us the representatives of the Hellenic Olympic Committee Mr. Emmanouil Katsiadakis.

The volunteer athletes, the torchbearers who carried the flame for the Municipality of Hersonissos, are:

**The Greek Olympic gold medalist Nikolas Kaklamanakis,
The athlete with a disability Manolis Marakis, the local athletes
Aristeidis Lyronis, Emmanuelle Hamilou, Stefanos Veneris
and Vangelis Stefanakis.**

I thank these torchbearers from the bottom of my heart because they honor our home city, they honor the Olympic ideals and with their voluntary participation they highlight the dignity of the altruistic contribution and solidarity.

The struggle of this mission is honored and holy, like the Olympic flame that burns in the cauldron and illuminate the spirit and the hearts of all people. It burns in order to give hope to all those who struggle in their daily lives for those values and try to make this world a better place.

Only a world that embraces and supports those values, who fights for them, is worth living and promises a better future.

The journey of the flame inspires us with courage and faith.

For this admirable journey, we wish to all participants the strength to carry on, because the journey does not end with the Opening ceremony, but continues and inspires all of us to bring the Olympic

values in our daily lives, to love and support each other, to compete with dignity and grace.

We wish to the representatives of this year's Host Country the UK great Games!!

Greece and the United Kingdom have very strong bonds of solidarity, cooperation and friendship that go back in history.

We thank you deeply for these unique moments that you are offering us! We feel very proud and lucky to share our vision for a better world with you!