



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

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**MAYOR EMANUEL WELCOMES AMBASSADOR RACHAD BOUHLAL FROM THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO CHICAGO**

*Meeting with Moroccan Ambassador Rachad Bouhlal highlights City's strong partnership with Sister City Casablanca*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel welcomed Ambassador Rachad Bouhlal from the Kingdom of Morocco to Chicago today, to convey the City's steadfast commitment towards maintaining strong Chicago-Morocco business relationships and furthering collaboration on innovative water infrastructure projects.

"I am pleased to welcome Ambassador Bouhlal to Chicago," said Mayor Emanuel. "Since 1982, Chicago and Morocco have had one of the more active Sister City relationships in the world, working together to strengthen the bonds between the two cities through cultural, educational, humanitarian and economic projects," said Mayor Emanuel. "Today's meeting marks yet another step in supporting this important relationship and helping the world view Chicago as a world-class city with world-class people."

Mayor Emanuel and Ambassador Bouhlal also discussed a possible exchange between Chicago students and Casablanca students in connection with the City of Learning Digital Badging System, as well as the educational work done at the Center for Arabic Language and Culture – housed at Lindblom Math and Science Academy in the South Side's West Englewood neighborhood. In addition to his meeting with Mayor Emanuel, during his visit to Chicago Ambassador Bouhlal also met with the MacArthur Foundation, toured digital start-up hub 1871, and spoke at a program hosted at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

In 2013, total trade with Morocco totaled over \$66 million. Currently, several Chicago-based companies operate in Morocco: Baker & McKenzie, Grant Thornton, Hyatt Regency, JLL, Leo Burnett, and QST industries.

Today's meeting was another example of frequent exchange between Morocco and Chicago. Since taking office in 2011, Mayor Emanuel has committed to improving Chicago's international

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relationships, meeting with dignitaries from Britain, Germany, Mexico, India, China and Poland among many other nations.

**Photo Credit:** Brooke Collins // City of Chicago

**Photo Caption:** Mayor Emanuel welcomes Ambassador Rachad Bouhlal from the Kingdom of Morocco to Chicago.

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