

## **“Gillum named international delegate”**

By Samaria Bailey  
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City Commissioner Andrew Gillum was selected as one of six delegates to travel to the Middle East for a two-week political study program beginning June 15.

“I am honored to represent (American Council of Young Political Leaders) and the City of Tallahassee in Egypt and Jordan,” Gillum said.

The ACYPL, an organization that “promotes awareness and understanding of the common problems, opportunities, and challenges that face the international community, selected Gillum out of a pool of several hundred candidates.

The program will give Gillum the chance to study Egypt’s and Jordan’s political systems, travel within the countries and take part in discussions about international issues.

“I hope to gain deeper insight into the issues from the Mid-East,” Gillum said. “It is the heart of a lot of conflict. I’ve been to Israel and it will be interesting to compare the Jewish [nation] with the Arab [nation].”

City Commissioner Allan Katz views the trip as a chance for Gillum to study ways that other countries address their own issues.

“This will add to his understanding, in terms of helping the community,” Katz said.

Gillum, along with the other delegates, will also have the chance to interact “with rising local, municipal and national leaders, business communities and civic groups.

Gillum said, “If leaders from different countries never interact, they will continue to get what they have always gotten.” He added that he hopes to influence the impression that foreign leaders hold about locally elected leaders in the United States.

“They only see the presidential side. This is a unique opportunity to introduce leaders to what it means to be a local leader.”

Since Florida is notorious for the “election debacle” of 2000, Gillum hopes to portray another side of his city and state.

“This opportunity will also be an investment in the future of international relations for the City of Tallahassee,” Gillum said.

Mayor John Marks said reaching out to other countries enhances the city. “Anytime you have a cultural or economic exchange, it enhances ties and has a benefit to all countries,”

Marks said. "He will be an outstanding representative for the City of Tallahassee," Marks added

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