



TOSHIMA CITY OFFICE

1-18-1 Higashi-ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 170-0013 Japan
Tel: +81-3-3981-1111 Fax: +81-3-3981-4333

11, March 2010

Professor Leif Svanström
Chair of Division of Social Medicine &
World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion
Department of Public Health Sciences
Karolinska Institutet
SE-171 77 Stockholm, Sweden

Dear Professor Leif Svanström:

In November 2009, Toshima City began looking into the issue of community safety and initiated activities to address this subject. On behalf of the residents of Toshima City, I am proud to announce that we are officially hereby making community safety a prime concern.

With a population of 263,000 people, Toshima City, one of the specially designated municipalities of Tokyo, is the most densely populated area of Japan. Ikebukuro, the central area of Toshima, is concentrated with commercial and industrial outlets. As a consequence, 2,630,000 pass through the area's train station. This poses a hazard to the many elderly people living alone in the residential areas of the city.

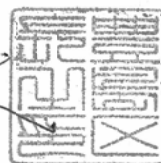
Therefore, we have made particular efforts to keep safety and citizen's peace of mind at the forefront of the city planning agenda. Evidenced in 2000, by the establishment of our Safe Living Ordinance, and continues in 2006 when Toshima City established the basic ordinance for the promotion the municipal government. We continue to work on city planning while expanding collaborative alliances with public institutions, city residents and volunteer groups. In addition to our regular municipal activities, we have established new centers of the community called Regional Residents' Squares. There is now a Regional Residents' Square in each local elementary school district.

We continually work with city residents to develop various programs which improve the level of safety for all citizens from children to the elderly. In addition to the measures previously established to ensure traffic safety, prevent crime and violence, we are expanding our programs to include suicide prevention and protection against abuse, as well as programs to guarantee safety at work and when using public facilities.

Toshima City is working hard to not only be a place where people want to settle down, but also a cultural and tourist hot spot that will attract many visitors. As we continue to work on becoming and being a safe community, we request that you add Toshima City as a city preparing for certification as an International Safe Community. Furthermore, because we wish to effectively promote community safety activities and join the global movement, we look forward to your guidance in the future.

Sincerely,

高野之史



Yukio Takano
Mayor, Toshima City



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Professor JoonPil Cho
Chair
Certifying Center for Safe Community
Ajou University School of Medicine

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