



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA
Office of the Mayor

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October 1, 2013

Dear Mayor Noda,

I sincerely apologize for not responding to you sooner. However, I wanted to accomplish some related tasks before I responded to you. I'm an engineer, by training, and learned during my career to always study all aspects of an item so that I would feel confident in what I would ultimately write.

First of all, I would like you to know my personal feelings about the "Comfort Women Statue". On television, I stated that I would not vote for the statue until the City developed a master plan for Central Park. To representatives of the Japanese news media, both the press and television I added additional reasons that I would have had to state if I thought I had any chance of persuading my colleagues to change their vote. One reason is that I believe this matter is an international one between Japan and South Korea and the City of Glendale should not be involved on either side. Another reason is because this statue was being placed in a public park, not a private piece of property. We never asked the public to weigh in on their opinion of this statue or any other statue to be placed in a Glendale public park.

I really need to clarify a point that has stimulated much debate between your Country and City and ours. The Los Angeles Times was incorrect in their reporting about the Glendale City Council's actions on July 9. Their journalists interpreted our report to state that all sister cities would maintain the statue. The wording in our report reads: "... This fund will ensure that all maintenance costs related to sister cities monuments/memorials are covered by our sister city partners." The press concluded, wrongly, that all sister cities would help pay for maintenance. That was absolutely wrong and I have to apologize to you, your city and all the people of Japan for this egregious error by our press. I cannot tell you the number of times in my 17 years on council that I have seen incorrect statements uttered or printed for public consumption.

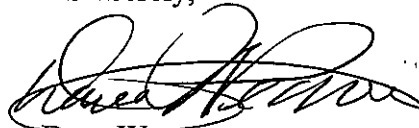
To be clear, each sister city is responsible for their own statue, if indeed any more may be built in the future.

I have told the Japanese people with whom I have spoken how I much I regret the decision of my colleagues who voted for the placement of the statue in our Central Park. I regret how this issue has created a deep divide between your city and country and Glendale. I would do anything to change that, but I don't possess that power.

I have the greatest of respect for the Japanese who have visited me, including the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles, Jun Niimi, and their desire and willingness to meet with me.

Glendale has historically had a great relationship with your city. I hope that this critical wound can heal itself in time. I send my most sincere wishes to you and to the people of Higashiosaka City. I wish everyone a bright and fruitful future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Weaver", with a stylized, cursive script.

Dave Weaver
Mayor of Glendale, California

Mayor Noda,

I will be emailing a copy of this letter to each Japanese person I have spoken with if I have their email addresses.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.