



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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JAMES F. KENNEY
Mayor

January 16, 2016

Josh Onishi, Chairman
Hyogo-Kenjinkai, North East USA
1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 725
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Onishi,

It is my great pleasure to send you and the members of Hyogo-Kenjinkai, North East USA my warmest regards, as well as my enduring respect for the citizens of Kobe, Japan, Philadelphia's esteemed Sister City.

We join the citizens of Kobe and the Kobe community in the United States in commemorating the 21st anniversary of the tragic Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake of January 17, 1995. We honor the memories of those who lost their lives during this devastating earthquake and praise the resilience of the people of Kobe, who have worked tirelessly to recover and rebuild after such a terrible disaster.

In 2011, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Kobe. That year gave us further cause to admire the people of Kobe when, in the face of the great tsunami that struck eastern Japan, they raised relief funds to deliver aid to the disaster-stricken area. We Philadelphians were proud to join in that endeavor, working through the efforts of the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia and the Japanese communities of our City.

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary as Sister Cities this year, we look forward to strengthening our long-standing ties by having Kobe officials come to Philadelphia through the Sister Cities Fellowship program.

Philadelphia has flourished as a culturally-diverse, globally conscious city, enhanced by the cultural, educational, and social contributions of the world's great cities and their people. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate the three decades that have been enriched by our friendship and the Sister City bond with Kobe, Japan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James F. Kenney'.

James F. Kenney
Mayor