Letter of Intent concerning Designation as an International Safe Community



Leif Svanström, Chair, International Safe Community Certifying Centre Stockholm, Sweden

CC: Guldbrand Skjönberg, General manager, International Safe Community Certifying Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
Joonpil Cho, Chair, International Safe Community Support Center, Ajou University Medical Center, Suwon, Korea

Dear Leif Svanström,

On behalf of the residents of Gangbuk-gu, I, Gyum Soo Park, mayor of Gangbuk-gu, am most delighted to apply once more to become a member of the International Safe Community Network after 5 years of active endeavor. Health and safety are the most basic rights of the residents of the district, and the most basic elements that need to be secured in order to improve the quality of their lives. Since 2008, Gangbuk-gu office has been carrying out Safe Community Project under cooperation with the citizens and the local community in order to prevent accidents and following casualties such as road traffic injuries, suicide, falls, etc. We have enacted the ordinance to institutionalize the project, and have solidified the basis of cooperation with the police force, fire service, the National Rehabilitation Center, and the local community by establishing Safe Community Committee and Commission. Moreover, we have put a great effort in supporting local voluntary activity of community safety promotion by establishing the safety culture for the local community.

As a result, our district has become a member of International Safe Community Network and, surpassing our district's central position in north-eastern Seoul, it is becoming a new competitive residential area. During the 5 years after becoming a member of the Safe Community Network, we have accelerated our project to improve the safety of our citizens.

We have established and strengthened cooperation system with the North Seoul Department of Employment and Labor, and Bukhansan National Park to prevent industrial accidents and improve safety in mountains. Furthermore, Songjoong elementary school has been officially recognized as an International Safe school, and the project is being extended to include other public elementary schools in the district. Our achievements of carrying out safety programs according to international standards under improved mutual cooperation with the local community are included in this application form.

Hence, Gangbuk-gu will further carry out more efficient safety promotion projects based on objective grounds such as surveys of citizens' demands, formation of social consensus, assessments by outside experts, thus promoting the citizens' awareness on safety issues and establishing local community-led model of Safe Community. Such valuable experiences will also be shared domestically and internationally through the active participation in the International Safe Community Network.

The first and foremost objective of Gangbuk-gu in the year of 2017 is to become an 'International Safe Community, guarding the safety of our citizens'. We will cooperate with the local residents to create a safe community of hope, and share our results and achievements through local and International Safe Community Network. We hope to write a new history of Safe Community as a city constantly improving and evolving together with the local community. We ask for your active support for Gangbuk-gu's effort to become a member of the International Safe Community Network, and hope for your good luck and health.

Thank you so much.

Yours sincerely,

Gyum Soo Park

Mayor of Gangbuk-gu