



City of Austin

Marc Anthony Ott, City Manager

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October 2, 2015

Mr. Peter Scargill
Acting Chief Executive Officer
City of Adelaide
25 Pirie Street, GPO Box 2252
South Australia 5001

VIA EMAIL to P.Scargill@adelaidecitycouncil.com

Dear Mr. Scargill:

This is in response to a letter sent to me by Mr. Stephen Hains from the City of Adelaide. It is my understanding that you succeeded him as Acting Chief Executive Officer.

First, let me apologize for not responding sooner to Mr. Hains' May 10th letter regarding the Adelaide Opal. My office has no record of receiving it. In fact, I only learned of Mr. Hains' correspondence a few days ago when it was brought to my attention by Austin Councilmember Leslie Pool. I can assure you it was an honest mistake that I hope you can excuse.

After reading the letter, I can certainly understand Adelaide's interest to have the opal returned. When Austin accepted it back in 1983, we were not aware of its significance beyond a symbol of our Sister City relationship. Clearly, it has a lot of meaning to your city as an important cultural and historic artifact.

It is my understanding that Councilmember Pool, whom the City of Adelaide may have already been in contact with, intends to seek adoption of a resolution in the coming weeks, calling for the return of the opal to Adelaide. At that time, the City Council will determine its intent regarding the opal.

Following that action, I will be sure to personally reach out to you regarding the outcome. Additionally, on behalf of the City of Austin, we would be honored to accept a piece of local Aboriginal art from your community.

Again, the City of Austin appreciates the Sister City relationship it shares with Adelaide, and looks forward to future opportunities to grow as like-minded communities.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Ott
City Manager

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Dear Mr Ott

The City of Adelaide and the City of Austin have a well-established connection as Sister Cities. We are both known throughout the world as performing and visual arts centres of excellence, we have a strong innovation culture and are also both home to the V8 Supercar Series!

Adelaide was very proud to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Sister City relationship in 2013 with an Austin themed community event held right in the heart of Adelaide and the Deputy Lord Mayor of the time Michael Llewelyn-Smith also visited your city during this important year. More recently we have been actively exploring and exchanging information with key stakeholders in Austin about ways to strengthen Adelaide's entrepreneurial culture based on the experiences of your city.

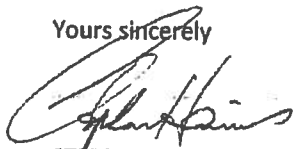
This year is the 175th anniversary of the City of Adelaide and as part of the celebrations of this important milestone it has been brought to the attention of the Adelaide City Council that the gift that was exchanged with the City of Austin back in 1983 when our Sister City relationship was formalised is of historical significance to our city.

I understand that the City of Adelaide presented a mounted opal to the City of Austin to mark the formation of our Sister City relationship. It seems that the mounted opal was removed from a chain at the request of the City of Adelaide Lady Mayoress at the time.

In our 175th anniversary year it would be a tremendous gesture if the City of Austin was in a position to return this important historical artefact to the City of Adelaide so the Lady Mayoress Chain, currently on display as part of our Civic Collection, could be displayed in the manner it was originally designed and created. In exchange the City of Adelaide would be most pleased to gift the City of Austin with a significant piece of local Aboriginal art in recognition of our Sister City relationship. We would of course meet any costs incurred with return of the opal.

I appreciate your consideration of this very important matter.

Yours sincerely



STEPHEN HAINS
Acting Chief Executive Officer

26/5/15