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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Mr. Craig Eichelman
Missouri State Director, AARP
9200 Ward Parkway, Suite 350
Kansas City, MO 64114

June 12, 2013

Dear Mr. Eichelman,

On behalf of St. Louis County, I am pleased to write you today to express interest in pursuing membership into the World Health Organization's and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities. I am proud of St. Louis County's network of dedicated professionals working to enhance the quality of independent living for our seniors, and want to express my personal commitment to creating an age-friendly environment through policy and action.

With the largest population over age 65 in the state of Missouri, a population that will significantly grow and change over the next decade, it is imperative that we actively address the challenges and opportunities that come with such a large and dynamic population. With seniors as one of the key demographic drivers influencing the creation of our *2013 St. Louis County Strategic Plan*, we articulated a four-pronged strategy to support a thriving aging community:

- Promote wellbeing through health and social services
- Create housing and neighborhood options that support aging in place
- Provide an array of mobility options for varying levels of independence
- Encourage social, civic and economic engagement

Through this strategy we identified policies and actions that impact all facets of service delivery and infrastructure investment. We also identified and engaged the network of community leaders necessary to make sustainable change. With this foundation of planning and partnership, St. Louis County is poised to make meaningful progress in support of active and healthy aging of its residents.

We see participation in the Network of Age-Friendly Communities as an integral next step for the success of St. Louis County's strategic planning. As I stated, we have already engaged the network of professionals working towards an age-friendly community, and through that network

we will meaningfully engage our senior population in future planning and implementation. A baseline assessment will build on our knowledge base and help us pinpoint areas for action. All of this will help refine our strategic agenda for creating an age-friendly community and chart a course of implementation over the next three to five years. With the guidance from St. Louis County's Department of Human Services' County Older Resident Programs and support from the Department of Planning, we will be able to monitor our successful implementation of the plan. Through our strategic planning process, we have created a groundswell of interest and enthusiasm that will help launch our efforts should we be accepted into the Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Thank you for your consideration of St. Louis County's membership into the Network of Age-Friendly Communities. We look forward to working with AARP Missouri in charting a course and taking action to make St. Louis County a place we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie A. Dooley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlie A. Dooley

St. Louis County Executive