



Office of the Mayor
2100 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201
T 847.866.2979
F 847.859.7814
etisdahl@cityofevanston.org
www.cityofevanston.org

Elizabeth B. Tisdahl
Mayor

May 5, 2014

FCH/ALC Main Building
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the City of Evanston, please accept this correspondence indicating my commitment to the *World Health Organization Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities* cycle of continual improvement.

The City of Evanston is currently working on a 5-year initiative to make our city more livable and an accessible place for older adults and people of all ages. As part of the *Global Network*, we have begun preparing to better meet the needs of our seniors, particularly in the areas of outdoor spaces & buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect & social inclusion, civic participation & employment, communication & information and community & health services.

Currently, 12% of Evanston's population is over the age 65; this number is expected to reach 25% within the next decade. This population is a diverse and vibrant group that includes people of all races, cultures, and income levels. Helping these seniors retain their independence is an important priority for the City of Evanston, one of which will require coordination of information and effort across multiple departments and nonprofit organizations to address challenges like housing, transportation, etc.

City staff has held community meetings and collected feedback from residents regarding senior services. I have appointed a task force of nine older adult residents to oversee this initiative we have named "Age Friendly Evanston!". One member will chair the task force and each of the remaining eight will oversee one of the domains. All members will assist in assembling information and developing a three-year citywide action plan for ongoing improvement of "age friendliness". I am confident that addressing these challenges will make Evanston a better place not only for our older residents but for people of all ages.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Tisdahl
Mayor