



Office of the Mayor, Liz Lempert

Princeton Municipal Building

400 Witherspoon Street

Princeton, NJ 08540

April 21, 2014

Jane Anthony
AARP Age Friendly Communities
601 E St NW
Washington DC 20049

Dear Ms. Anthony:

I am writing this letter of intent on behalf of the Municipality of Princeton, NJ to express our eagerness to become a part of the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Communities.

In February 2014, New Jersey Future identified Princeton as one of four communities in the state that met the criteria for an age friendly community. We would like to build on that recognition by engaging in the process outlined by the WHO for acceptance into the Global Network of Age Friendly Communities and for continuous attention to aging issues. We have begun by including older adults, representatives from the municipal government, non-profit organizations, and Princeton University in a collaborative effort to undertake this process.

The 2010 census indicated that over 35% of the population of Princeton is age 55+. People are attracted to work, live, visit and engage in recreation in Princeton. Residents have successfully advocated for many features that support aging here through the lifespan. These include the Princeton Senior Resource Center (PSRC), a vibrant non-profit providing programs and services to older adults and family caregivers, including activities that address physical, social, cognitive, emotional, spiritual wellbeing with purpose and dignity. It serves over 1300 people per week from Princeton and the surrounding communities with activities and support services. In addition, Princeton has a Crosstown door-to-door senior car service and FreeB jitney service available to everyone without cost six days a week; low income senior housing; Community Without Walls, a virtual peer support community; a nationally-recognized public library; Princeton Healthcare System's new medical center with specialized services for the elderly; a regional theater and many arts destinations; and more. Princeton prides itself on

adopting innovative and progressive policies for the long-term benefit of all residents, such as designated “sharrow” bicycle lanes, bus transportation for several local educational institutions, community composting and other sustainable practices, numerous neighborhood parks, intergenerational volunteer activities, programs that connect “town and gown,” abundant access to technology, support for those in need, and outreach to the diversity of this community.

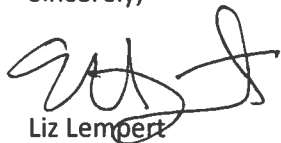
As a participant in the WHO network, it is the intent of the municipality of Princeton to:

- Engage older adults in both the assessment of current community strengths and areas for improvement, and in working on the solutions.
- Conduct a base-line assessment of the age-friendliness of the community.
- Develop a Plan of Action based on the findings of the assessment.
- Identify indicators so progress on the plan can be measured, reviewing action plan outcomes, and reporting on them publicly.

PSRC will take a lead role in this process, engaging participants who come to the Center as well as reaching out to the hidden vulnerable populations that staff visit in the community. Using a senior leadership model, they will involve older adults in all stages of assessment, plan and implementation.

We look forward to working with AARP and the community on this exciting venture to have Princeton recognized as an Age Friendly Community and engage in continuous improvement as our understanding of aging in place evolves with a new generation of aging adults. We know we can demonstrate leadership in New Jersey for creating age friendly communities.

Sincerely,



Liz Lempert
Mayor