



CITY OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 14, 2016

Ms. Gaylene Miller
AARP West Virginia Director
300 Summers Street, Suite 400
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

On behalf of the City of Charleston, we are happy to join AARP West Virginia and the World Health Organization toward becoming an Age Friendly Community. I am hopeful that Charleston might become the first city in West Virginia to achieve this designation because we work every day to make our community attractive and friendly to people of all ages.

Our state has the highest median age of any state and is second only to Florida in percentage of population 65 years of age or older, according to the 2010 Census. With those demographics and with people living longer in retirement than ever before across the nation, we understand the need to make our communities more user friendly to an aging citizenry. Yet we also understand that keeping our community vibrant for the foreseeable future means investing in younger people as well.

In the truest sense of developing an Age Friendly Community, I notice that the eight domains of the Age Friendly designation apply not only to people my age and above, but also to millennials and next generation leaders. So this month, my office will be working with the City's Planning Department, members of City Council and the Strong Neighborhoods Task Force on a plan of action to pursue the Age Friendly designation and secure a resolution of City Council toward that end. Then we plan to examine how much progress we have already made in each of the eight domains for our older citizens and start the conversation about where and how we can make Charleston even more attractive and user friendly for people of all ages.

We look forward to working with AARP West Virginia's leadership and staff not only to achieve the designation but also to improve conditions for older – and younger – people in Charleston for years to come.

Sincerely,


Danny Jones
Mayor