

Newtown Municipal Center
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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

January 26, 2017

Bill Armbruster, Advisor
AARP Livable Communities Programs/Community, State & National Affairs
601 E. Street NW
Washington, DC 20049

Dear Mr. Armbruster,

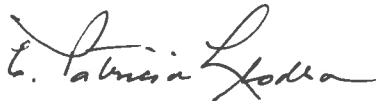
On behalf of the Town of Newtown, I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly community environment. Our Board of Selectmen, the elected leaders of our community, has authorized me to request Newtown's membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Our community of Newtown recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policy development to address changing demographics, enhance independent living, and support aging in place. We are committed to creating a community where persons of all ages, life-style choices, economic status, and social engagement feel welcome, socially comfortable, and are able to thrive. We are committed to a process of continuous improvement in our policies, our programs, and our practices in order to support active and healthy aging and to sustain economic and social vitality for all our citizens.

Newtown has an active Commission on Aging whose mission is to identify needs of the elderly population, coordinate programs to serve those needs, and promote the development of supportive government policies and protocols. The senior services and social services departments coordinate and collaborate with the commission to provide needed programming and other services to our senior population. Recently, an all-volunteer organization called Friends of Newtown Seniors was established to further enhance the quality of life of our aging demographic. The Friends have become a strong and respected voice for senior needs, including bringing forth information about the Age-Friendly Community network. Join the network is enthusiastically supported by Town agencies and organizations. Further, our Town has a local optional tax relief program for seniors. In recent years, funding for that program has increased to more than \$1.6 million annually. Our stated mission for this tax-relief program is that more and more seniors are able to remain in our community throughout their lives. Finally, our housing and community development plans are strongly aligned with concepts that support age-friendly living environments, and inclusive civic, recreational and social opportunities.

Newtown has established a strong framework to build upon in addressing the World Health Organization's eight domains that help influence the health and quality of life of all people, including our older residents. We look forward to joining this global network of communities committed to providing residents the opportunities for rewarding, productive and safe lives.

Thank you for your consideration of membership for Newtown to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "E. Patricia Llodra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman

Enc.



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarpp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 1/27/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Newtown

STATE: Connecticut

POPULATION SIZE: 28,300

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 22%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: E. Patricia Llodra, First Selectman

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 3 Primrose Street Newtown Ct 06470

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

NAME: John s. Boccuzzi Sr..

POSITION: Volunteer

EMAIL ADDRESS: jboccuzzi@yahoo.com

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 203-364-0360

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Mr. John S. Boccuzzi is president of the Friends of Newtown Seniors LLC – a non profit all volunteer organization whose mission states: The mission of the Friends of Newtown Seniors is to provide advocacy and services to Newtown seniors(those 60+ who reside in Newtown). This will be accomplished in two complementary ways:through nee initiatives conceived and eveloped by its board of directors and by partnering with various non-profir, for-profit, governmental, political, and religious organizations serving the Newtown senior population. Mr. Boccuzzi is an active advocate for senior issues. He serves on the town's Commission on Aging and on the board of the regional agency on aging, Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging.

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

Currently the Town of Newtown works through its commission on aging, senior services department, social services department and specifically through the town municipal agent to provide services to seniors in Newtown. The senior services department operates a senior center which provides extensive programming for seniors. In addition the senior services department works with local businesses and the police department in a Triad program which provides education and support in connection with fraud. All of the above named departments and commissions work to provide disparate services including meals on wheels, congregate meal sites, transportation, fuel assistance, housing issues and nutrition support. Newtown is undergoing change as the population shifts toward older age groups. It has become apparent that renewed and more coordinated efforts are needed to meet the needs of a growing senior population. To that end the town is committed to increasing communication and cooperation between, and among, town resources as well as non profit, for profit, general service and religious organizations. The town also has a commitment to senior housing, affordable housing, tax reduction programs and walkable town centers.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

The Friends of Newtown Seniors provides opportunities for all interested seniors to become involved. The organization has actively recruited seniors and formed a number of action committees to directly involve seniors at every level. The Friends of Newtown Seniors, through its work with the Commission on Aging, Senior Services, Social Services and other organizations serving Newtown, has formed the following action committees: Government – to attend meetings and educate seniors on issues that affect their lives; Health and Wellness – to involve seniors directly in programs which promote healthy life styles and to educate seniors on these issues; Finance – to work with existing Triad programs to educate and protect seniors from financial scams and fraud; Publicity and electronic communication – involves seniors in the development of promotional materials and the use of electronic media to communicate with the general community; Activities committee – allows seniors to be directly involved in planning and implementing programs; Volunteer – to connect seniors with opportunities to serve the community.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

During the winter of 2017 a summit is planned which will bring together all the agencies and departments which provide services to seniors with the goal of improving communication and cooperation between and among departments and agencies. Law enforcement, senior services, the commission on aging, service clubs including Lions and Exchange, Visting nurses as well as other health care providers, Friends of Newtown Seniors, social services and the interfaith council will meet to discuss coordination of resources. A plan for ongoing inteatation will be designed and implemented. The goal of this interaction is to maximize the effectiveness of existing programs and develop new approaches to address the needs of the senior population in Newtown.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

It is the goal of Newtown to provide a model for the implementation of age friendly strategies in any town looking to improve its services to seniors. It is our hope that the initiatives and strategies implemented in Newtown can be duplicated by others in any community anywhere. The obvious cultural differences that exist throughout the world often conceal the not so obvious similarities of caring, charity, and cooperation that characterize most world cultures. We hope that our efforts will bring to light some of the positive attributes of humanity concerning age differences and respect for each individual.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The growing concern for the well being of our senior population was of course the major stimulus for our call to action. With the lengthening of life spans and cultural changes related to all aspects of life, we face challenges that previous generations did not know. One of the outward signs of this change is the involuntary emigration of seniors from their long time home to “more affordable” circumstances in another town, state or region. A move should be a voluntary choice based on wants and desires not a forced decision based on need. Our goal is to offer every individual choices in how and where they live. With the proper support mechanisms most seniors can remain in their homes and maintain an involved life style.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >



Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send us your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.