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March 8, 2017

World Health Organization, Age-Friendly Communities
c/o AARP
150 Post Street, Suite 450
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear World Health Organization, Age-Friendly Communities,

On behalf of the City of Novato, I am pleased to share our ongoing commitment to being an Age Friendly City. We would like to request membership in the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. A citizen-led task force, named Age-Friendly Novato Task Force, is championing our local efforts and working collaboratively with the City. Consequently, Novato is thrilled to submit our application to become designated as an Age Friendly City.

The City of Novato recognized the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly policies to address changing demographics and to enhance independent living for our older adults. We are committed to a process of continual improvement in support of active and healthy aging and sustaining economic and social vitality.

We have already been named by AARP to the Top 10 small cities in the US in the areas of health, entertainment, culture, and arts access (AARP's Livability Index). We are very fortunate to have a dedicated, welcoming older adult community center, called Margaret Todd Senior Center, with highly skilled staff who support older adults independent living, social and emotional health, and provide opportunities for an active lifestyle. The Center serves thousands of older adults annually. In addition, we provide a Novato Independent Elders Coalition, offering services that include enrichment and fitness courses, multicultural events, game groups, specialty groups, outreach services, and volunteer opportunities for our older adults.

Recently, we completed a survey of 481 Novato older adults to assess their needs and this information will help guide our efforts as we plan continued improvements in all areas, to best meet the needs of our older adults and be increasingly more age-friendly.

We have developed a strong framework to build upon in addressing the WHO eight domains that contribute to the health and quality of life for older adults. We look forward to joining this global network of communities dedicated to giving their older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, productive, active and safe lives.

Sincerely,

Denise Athas

Denise Athas
Mayor, City of Novato