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FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

May 31, 2018

Mr. Doug Dickerson, State Director
AARP of North Carolina
1511 Capital Center Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

On behalf of Forsyth County and as Chair of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, I am pleased to provide this letter of support and commitment to creating an age-friendly community, and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Our county recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address changing demographics to enhance independent living. Additionally, we are committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging and to create a community where people can live their best lives.

A variety of organizational partners, including health care, non-profits, corporate, education, and philanthropic agencies, as well as community members, have spearheaded local planning efforts through the initiative, Age-Friendly Forsyth (AFF). AFF began as a collaborative research process focused on six key areas impacting people aged 60 and older: physical and mental health, financial health, housing and safety, accessibility and mobility, support network, and empowerment and engagement. In order to determine community perspective on how Forsyth County was fairing in these focus areas, a community survey of more than 1,000 residents was conducted, and three World Café-Style Community Conversation events were held. Shortly after, key findings were presented to the community through a Planning Symposium, where more than 100 community members gathered to provide direction on priority focus areas for the initiative moving forward. Our next steps include developing AFF into a collective impact initiative where we will convene key stakeholders to begin building out a shared community plan.

We have developed a strong framework to build upon and are well-aligned with the WHO/AARP's eight domains that help influence the health and quality of life of aging adults. By committing our support, we recognize we are enabling organizations such as Senior Services and other members of AFF, as well as community members and representatives and staff of AARP to continue their work promoting efficient use of available resources and maximizing impact for all.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to join the WHO and AARP's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We look forward to our next steps and the opportunity to partner with your organization.

Sincerely,

David R. Plyler, Chair
Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

DRP/ams