

Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose St., Newtown, CT 06470
Tel. 203-270-4201
Fax 203-270-4205



E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman
203-270-4202
pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov

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, appearing to read "E. Patricia Llodra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "L".

E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman

Enc.