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VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

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March 27, 2019

Stephanie Hunsinger
State Director AARP NJ
303 George Street, Suite 505
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Ms. Hunsinger,

On behalf of the Village of Ridgewood, I am pleased to submit this letter verifying our ongoing commitment to create and sustain an age-friendly community and respectfully request admission into the World Health Organization and AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative. The Village of Ridgewood recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning, policies, and services to address the needs of older adults and to enhance independent living. The Village is committed to the process of continued improvement to support active and healthy aging and sustained economic and social vitality.

In 2016, Age Friendly Ridgewood presented to the Village Council and the community at large valuable data collected from focus groups and an assessment completed by over seven hundred residents age 55 and over. The information compiled identified the needs and perspectives of Ridgewood's older adults and informed the work of Age Friendly Ridgewood. Using the data, a series of projects were designed funded through the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation focused on building and enhancing Ridgewood's efforts to support those older adult residents choosing to age in place with dignity and independence here in Ridgewood.

Age Friendly Ridgewood is using the WHO's Eight Domains as a framework for their dynamic action plan that is currently being implemented. We are committed to advancing public policy and developing a service network directly related to the needs of our older adults within the established domains: making outdoor spaces and buildings more senior friendly, increasing access and affordability of transportation and housing, creating safe pedestrian crosswalks and sidewalks so as to encourage walking and healthy lifestyles, providing important benefit and services information to assist older adults to age in place, and provide an enhanced schedule of activities and inclusive social participation in an effort to keep older adults active and engaged in our community.

In the last three years Age Friendly Ridgewood and the Village of Ridgewood have developed a strong framework on which to build as we address the WHO's eight domains in our efforts to positively influence the health and quality of life for our older residents. Age Friendly Ridgewood and members of our government will continue to meet regularly to monitor our progress against our goals. The Village of Ridgewood looks forward to joining the WHO/AARP global network of Age-Friendly Communities committed to giving older adults the opportunity to live rewarding, engaged, and productive lives in the communities they call home.

Sincerely,

Ramon M. Hache, Sr.
Mayor
The Village of Ridgewood