



Office of the Mayor

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TOWN OF AJAX

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October 13, 2020

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus:

Please accept this letter requesting membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities on behalf of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax.

Ajax has become known to many as being a place where people are welcomed, feel a sense of belonging, and are fully engaged to participate. We take pride in our capacity to be innovative and keep up with the ever changing demands of a growing municipality. The older adult population in Ajax is the fastest growing, creating an emerging need to anticipate and plan for the challenges associated with an aging population. The Town of Ajax and Ajax Council are committed to building a thriving, inclusive community for all.

In 2017, Ajax Council endorsed the Older Adults and Seniors Recreational Services Strategy that established recommendations guiding recreational programs and spaces for older adults and seniors. This was the first step in preparing for the changing demographic, positioning ourselves towards an age-friendly community planning initiative.

In April 2019, the Town of Ajax formed the Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee. Made up of community organizations, senior residents, advocates, and key Town departmental leads, this committee has been engaged in creating the Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan using the WHO age-friendly framework. In June 2020, the plan was unanimously endorsed by Ajax Council. Consisting of 20 goals and 82 recommendations, the Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan has created a clear path forward to enhance programs, services, and infrastructure that will address the diverse needs of Ajax's older population.

Membership in the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities will help us to realize our vision of Ajax being a vibrant, innovative and connected community where all residents feel engaged, included, respected, and empowered to age well, live with purpose and have opportunities to reach their full potential. We are excited for the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from a global community who have shared goals and priorities in creating age-friendly environments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Collier', written in a cursive style.

Shaun Collier
Mayor & CEO - Town of Ajax