

**RAMAT-HASHARON
MUNICIPALITY
MAYOR'S OFFICE**



January 2, 2022

Subject: Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express the City of *Ramat-Hasharon's* interest in joining the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Our city is located on Israel's central coastal strip in the south of the *Sharon* region, bordering Tel Aviv to the south. We have been preparing for the ongoing increase in our aging population. Currently, there are 52,046 residents in the city. Among them are 10,886 people over the age of 65 (21% of the total population of the city, and well over the national average of 12%).

In order to improve and better integrate senior citizen services within the city, we have designed a comprehensive strategy and action plan to encourage older people to engage in healthy and active lifestyles and to create a more sustainable society which has become crucial determinant of health after the COVID-19 crisis. We are especially interested in promoting our seniors' awareness of active aging and digital literacy by developing a website to share information and communication.

We appreciate the contribution of our senior citizens to their communities, local neighborhood and family, and their participation in voluntary activities. We are committed to providing them with better services, inclusive activities, and assistive technology in a safe and accessible city. We believe that the more stakeholders there are who are connected across public and private organizations and share our commitments, the better the possibility we have as a city to learn, innovate, and leverage resources.

Our participation in the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities will improve our efforts in raising awareness and obtain resources. We also hope to take part in the exchange of knowledge within this network and share the challenges and innovations in meeting the needs of our senior citizens with other member cities.

I hope that you will consider our request positively.

Sincerely,

Avi Gruber
Mayor