March 14, 2013

Ms. Beth Finkel
NYS Director, AARP
780 Third Avenue, 33rd Floor
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Finkel:

I am writing this letter to express our interest in applying for the World Health Organization Global Network of Age Friendly Communities designation. At our last meeting, the Town Board adopted a sense resolution in support of this initiative.

The Town of Brookhaven has a long history of adopting innovative and forward-thinking policies to attract and keep residents. Brookhaven is on the forefront of developing the modern suburb that embraces livable communities for residents of any age.

The Department of Planning, Environment, and Land Management is following the Age Friendly Communities standards and encourages their use on developments in Brookhaven Town. One such project, Yaphank Meadows, is the quintessential mixed-use age friendly community. With a mix of retail and housing within walking distance of each other, Yaphank Meadows can serve as a model for the region.

Partnering and exchanging ideas with AARP will help enhance our ability to:

- practice sound planning;
- establish an advisory citizens' committee that includes the active engagement of older adults;
- establish a robust and concrete plan of action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community;
- commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

We appreciate your interest in working with Brookhaven and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Romaine
Town Supervisor

EPR:bf

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