



VINCENT C. GRAY  
MAYOR

October 3, 2012

Louis Davis, Jr.  
Senior State Director  
AARP District of Columbia  
601 E Street, NW Suite A1-200  
Washington, DC 20049

Dear Mr. Davis,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to express my interest in pursuing admission into the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative. Throughout my career of public service, I have fought to preserve the independence of aging District residents and improve the lives of persons 50 years of age and older. The District of Columbia has a long-standing history of ensuring the aging community has access to necessary services, is valued and able to contribute to civic life, and has a suitable environment with strong supports in which they can remain healthy and age safely, with purpose and dignity.

My administration is based on the idea that we must come together and build a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for all. For two years, the District has been pursuing a vision for "One City." The goals and principles of this vision – Grow and Diversify the District's Economy, Educate and Prepare the Workforce for the New Economy, and Improve the Quality of Life for All – have a clear overlap with the goals of WHO's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. As part of this vision, we recently kicked off Sustainable DC, an initiative that seeks to enhance the natural and built environment to make the District one of the healthiest, greenest, and most livable cities in the United States.

Therefore, I see great value in the AARP Network and am excited to begin establishing the District of Columbia as an Age-Friendly City. In preparing for the rapidly growing aging population, my Administration is committed to advancing public and aging policy goals within the World Health Organization's eight established domains: making outdoor spaces and buildings more senior friendly; increasing the accessibility and affordability of transportation and housing; creating jobs to help supplement fixed incomes; ensuring adequate medical and long-term care services and supports to help seniors stay healthy and age in place; protecting against abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation; and providing activities to ensure social participation and inclusion in an effort to keep seniors active and engaged in the community.

I look forward to working with the AARP District of Columbia State Office, its members and volunteers, and other stakeholders to establish an advisory committee and create a plan of action that responds to needs in the community. I have no doubt that the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital, can be a shining example of Age-Friendliness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor, District of Columbia