April 26, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Hunsinger,

On behalf of the Borough of New Providence I am very pleased to submit our application to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We recognize that the needs of our older residents are changing as they age, and we want New Providence to remain a Lifelong Town.

New Providence is proud to bring an age-friendly lens to planning our future. We want to support our older resident’s desire to remain in New Providence, as shown in the Livability Survey conducted by the NP Our Community For All, last October. Our age-friendly initiatives already engage stakeholders including municipal employees, religious leaders, schools, healthcare systems representatives, business and nonprofit leaders, and our older residents.

We will:

- Continue to engage and encourage adults of all ages, and particularly older adults, to join in our mission
- Establish plans of action that support active aging in place
- Develop means to measure our success - showing progress on our age-friendly goals
- Remain learning partners and share our successes with other age-friendly towns in the Network of Age Friendly Communities

We look forward to continuing to work with AARP New Jersey to make our town a great place to age in place, as well as a great place to grow up.

Sincerely,

Allen Morgan  
Mayor

360 Elkwood Avenue ♦ New Providence ♦ NJ ♦ 07974  
908-665-1400 ♦ 908-665-9272 (Fax)  
www.newprov.org
Membership Application
To join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 4/13/2021

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Borough of New Providence

STATE: NJ

POPULATION SIZE: 12,171 (2010 Census)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: (20.8% 2010 Census)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Al Morgan, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 360 Elkwood Ave, New Providence NJ, 07974

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES
The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

NAME: Bernadette Cuccaro

POSITION: Borough Administrator

Please describe the named person’s role in the city or community’s age-friendly initiative:

Interest in work on age-friendliness in New Providence arose from the Economic Development and Community Enhancement Committee of New Providence in 2019. In March 2020, the Grotta Fund for Senior Care, an advisory fund of The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Metrowest, NJ, funded a newly formed nonprofit in New Providence—Our Community For All (NP-OCFA), A Lifelong Town to begin the age-friendly work for the town. This group created 6 cross-departmental and cross-organizational projects, conducted a very successful townwide Livability Survey, and held an Asset Mapping session. For the future of the town’s age-friendly initiative, the efforts will be under the direction of the Borough Administrator and facilitated by Allison Smith, the Director of Community Activities, as the Age Friendly Coordinator. Using the results of these efforts, Allison is now engaged in involving supportive community stakeholders in outlining age friendly initiatives for New Providence, for execution in coming months and years. She will be the point person coordinating efforts including age-friendly work by all New Providence departments, including Public Safety, Public Health, Recreation, Planning and the Senior Center.
Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

New Providence has established programming to support older adults over the years, including the formation of The DeCorso Senior Center two decades ago, with programming for older adults available onsite, a Senior Fair every year, and a general inclusion of older adults on boards and committees in town. During the pandemic the nonprofit New Providence - Our Community For All ran several projects specifically aimed at supporting older adults, including a free grocery shopping service, a mailing project where older adults received important town information in a hard copy at home. The work included two intergenerational projects, one involving artwork made at home that was then shared publicly in a combined format, and an oral history project where younger town residents listen to and record town stories from older, long-tenured residents. Project goals included supporting the physical and communication needs of our older adults, and engaging them with respect in civic life. In response to a phone survey of older adults in June, 2020, a Volunteer Connection webpage was published to help people find ways to volunteer during the pandemic in New Providence. This fall the NP Police Department partnered with NP-OCFA to undertake Operation Blue Angel, a program where free lockboxes are provided to older adults living alone to facilitate emergency access to their homes is they cannot get to the door. In October 2020 NP-OCFA, with support from many New Providence Borough departments, conducted a town-wide Livability Survey, achieving participation equal to more than 9% of the registered voters in New Providence. This information is now being shared with all town departments and will be used to add an age-friendly lens to policies and planning throughout the municipality.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

The existing Community Activities Advisory Board added a subcommittee, comprised of older adults in the community, to help facilitate activities/programs that will make aging in place more desirable. The Community Activities Advisory Board, CAAB, will look at the information that was gathered through a town-wide survey, completed last year by New Providence - Our Community For All, and use this information along with expanded outreach in the community and the DeCorso Senior Center to educate residents, local businesses and agencies regarding what it means to “age in place” and what an “age friendly” community looks like.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.
The Senior Division of the Community Activities Advisory Board will be comprised of members in the community that have a vested interest in our Senior population. This group along with Borough Council liaisons will continue to update the Mayor & Council on the needs of our vibrant senior community. This group will work side-by-side with the Borough Planning Board, Library, Police Department, Senior Housing, The Senior Citizens Club of New Providence as well as various other community groups to create lasting relationships that will help to make New Providence a more "age-friendly" community.
Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

New Providence has a very enthusiastic citizenry who are very committed to keeping our town a great place to live. It is obvious by the participation (almost 10% of adult registered voters) in our Livability Survey that the people who live here are invested in New Providence. We can share our successful survey process with any town who wants to complete this part of an age-friendly initiative. We hope to create new programming in adult education, civic involvement and volunteerism that will work as models for other towns, as well. In coming years we would like to participate in new models of older adult housing and possibly transporation initiatives to make life in New Providence easy for our older adults.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

So many of our older adults contribute to civic life in New Providence, we are motivated by a strong desire to keep their participation in our town, for everyone’s sake. We value our relationships. Our town’s official slogan in “Nice town, nice people” and it was cited in our survey comments over and over again. People feel at home here. We want our residents to feel comfortable choosing to remain in New Providence, lifelong. We cannot dramatically affect the cost of living in this part of New Jersey, but we can make other aspects of life in New Providence welcoming and accessible for all our citizens. We want to do that.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here’s ours: