September 2, 2021

Michael Festa
AARP Massachusetts State Director
One Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Festa,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you on behalf of the City of Framingham to request membership into the AARP and World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Designation as an Age-Friendly city is an important step in advancing Framingham’s efforts to support its residents to age in place and with dignity as valued and connected members of our community.

As the largest community in MetroWest Boston, the City of Framingham is a multi-cultural hub home to over 72,000 residents. With wide variations in racial and ethnic composition, language preference, health outcomes, income levels, and educational attainment, Framingham has experienced a rapidly changing demography including an expanding older adult population. Between 2000 and 2018 Framingham saw a 40% increase in residents aged 60-84 and a 41% increase in residents 85 and older, outpacing both the regional and state rates for older adult population growth. The City of Framingham is eager to invest resources towards working collaboratively with our community partners to ensure equitable support of our older adult population as they age in place.

Framingham has already made great strides towards becoming a more livable community for its older adult residents. A number of programs and services are run through our local senior center, which in 2011 became the 9th Senior Center in Massachusetts and 200th in the nation to receive accreditation by the National Council on Aging/National Institute of Senior Centers (NCOA/NISC).
In 2018, with leadership from our Public Health Department, Framingham established an Age and Dementia Friendly Coalition with representation from elder service providers, social service and nonprofit organizations, healthcare and housing sectors, community volunteers and advocacy groups. This multi-stakeholder collaborative conducted a community-wide needs assessment using the 8 Domains of Livability Framework, and is currently engaged in strategic planning to develop and implement a city-wide action plan that will promote age friendly initiatives throughout the community.

Thank you for consideration of Framingham’s membership to the World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We look forward to collaborating with AARP Massachusetts and the existing network of communities as Framingham becomes a designated Age-Friendly city.

Sincerely,

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor
City of Framingham, Massachusetts