March 17, 2021

Stephanie Hunsinger
State Director
AARP New Jersey
303 George Street
Suite 505
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Ms. Hunsinger:

On behalf of the City of Summit, New Jersey, I am pleased to affirm our ongoing commitment to sustain and expand our efforts to be a livable community for all ages, promoting the health and well-being of our citizens at all stages of life, and especially as our residents grow older. It is our intent to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities Initiative.

The City of Summit recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting the idea of age-friendly planning, policies and services so that each resident has the ability to plan for a long future right here at home. To that end, Summit has a robust Master Plan that addresses the various components that enrich the quality of life for all residents. It also recognizes that our population is aging, and that older adults have much to offer our community. The Silver Summit Senior Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in the fall of 2020 to bring together various community stakeholders to advance a shared vision of what aging in Summit could look like. We aim to use AARP’s Eight Domains of Livability as a framework to expand our efforts to ensure our city is a great place to live and age in community.

While Summit already offers wonderful resources to our seniors including a Senior Bus, Senior Housing, a Senior Citizens’ Club, and various non-profit organizations and houses of worship that engage older citizens including SAGE Eldercare, the Connection, the YMCA and more, we recognize that there is always room for growth and improvement. Using an age-friendly lens, Summit intends to evaluate and, if needed, improve our communication and information conduits, outdoor spaces, accessible and affordable transportation and housing options, opportunities for social participation and inclusion, options for work and volunteerism, all while ensuring that health and support services create an environment where aging in place is the happy norm.

As a member of the AARP Age-Friendly States and Communities Network, it is our intent to:

- Survey our community to uncover both the positive attributes and the issues and concerns with living in Summit as the aging process unfolds.
- Establish a plan of action that responds to the needs identified by our community.
• Pursue ongoing outreach to our senior community through various local organizations including nonprofits, social services organizations, community gathering places, and houses of worship in an effort to develop initiatives designed with an age-friendly lens.
• Expand the opportunities for active engagement by older members of our community with each other and via intergenerational initiatives.
• Develop a means to measure our success, reviewing outcomes and ensuring we are meeting our work plan goals.
• Use various methods of communication to keep the community -- especially our senior community -- apprised of opportunities for both engagement and input.

We look forward to working with AARP to ensure that the City of Summit is not only a great place to grow up, but one where our residents will want to stay and grow older.

Sincerely,

Nora G. Radest
Mayor of Summit, NJ