March 8, 2022

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

Dear Ms. Hunsinger,

On behalf of the County of Bergen, it is with great pleasure that I offer this letter of our commitment to creating an age-friendly county and respectfully request to become a part of the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The County of Bergen recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies and is committed to ensuring that the aging community is able to contribute to civic life, have access to necessary services, and successfully age in place.

The County of Bergen has always been committed to supporting the needs of our aging population since the establishment of our Bergen County Division of Senior Services in 1966 as well as becoming one of the first Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in New Jersey. Most recently, the County of Bergen has become home to the largest population of seniors in New Jersey, proving that our County is a great place to live and age in place. To address this exponential growth of seniors in our County, my administration sees great value in the becoming a member of the AARP network. In moving forward in becoming a designated age-friendly county we are committed to:

- Working with our Division of Senior Services, Parks Department, Department of Transportation, Housing Authority, Health Department, and County-owned hospital to advance the World Health Organization’s eight domains through a comprehensive administrative approach in which all departments and divisions work together with the purpose and mindset of moving towards a stronger age-friendly Bergen; and

- Establishing mechanisms to involve older people by supporting our Division of Senior Services in the vast initiatives and services they provide, including but not limited to, maintaining successful senior centers that help promote senior inclusion and activity, becoming SAGE Platinum Certified to help our growing LGBTQ seniors, and providing financial counseling as one of the only physical HUD certified agencies in Bergen County; and

- Creating and distributing various assessments that will assist us in developing a community-wide action plan and allow us to identify key indicators that will us measure our progress in implementing this plan.

www.co.bergen.nj.us
Thank you for your consideration of membership for the County of Bergen to the World Health Organization and AARP’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We look forward to working with the AARP’s New Jersey State Office, its members, network, providers, and stakeholders to ensure our community continues to be a great place to grow up and grow old.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James J. Tedesco, III
Bergen County Executive