March 31, 2022

Holly Holtzen, PhD.
State Director
AARP Ohio Office
17 S. High Street, Suite 800
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Director Holtzen:

On behalf of Cuyahoga County, I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to create an Age-Friendly environment. We look forward to engaging AARP’s Age-Friendly Community network as we embark on this important journey. Cuyahoga County is committed to making our County a more welcoming and livable community that promotes health and sustainable growth and contributes to the well-being of everyone in all stages of life. We will collaborate with various stakeholders to identify and understand our community needs to foster an inclusive and supportive community.

Our Comprehensive Plan will guide the work to promote successful aging and improve the quality of life for all residents. There is great value in utilizing AARP’s Eight Domains of Livability in establishing an age-friendly county where communities are safe and secure; provide affordable and quality housing; extend a variety of transportation options; and offer meaningful community, health and recreation services, so that all we can live well and age in place with dignity.

As a participant in the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities it is the intent of Cuyahoga County to:

- Pursue active participation of older adults in the planning process through community outreach events, listening sessions, surveys and other activities.
- Partner with churches, civic organizations and leaders, providers of aging services, and AARP.
- Conduct a community needs assessment to understand the demographics and perspective of older adults.
- Develop an implementation plan with specific goals/strategies, measurable outcomes and timelines.
- Keep the public, especially older people, aging-service organizations and other stakeholders informed throughout the Age Friendly process.

We are thrilled to work with AARP’s Ohio staff members and volunteers to make Cuyahoga County Age Friendly.

Sincerely,

Armond Budish
Cuyahoga County Executive