

January 15, 2015

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

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

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

Dear Mr. Festa,

On behalf of the City of North Adams, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Massachusetts and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities across the Commonwealth, and the nation, Berkshire County is committed to promoting policies and practices to make our cities and towns friendly to aging populations. This countywide effort will be led by municipal leadership, Boards of Health, Councils on Aging, and interested older adults in Berkshire County.

Berkshire County is one of the Commonwealths' fastest growing community of people aged 65 and older. Across Berkshire County, there are approximately 57,000 boomers moving towards retirement. While the countywide population is expected to remain at about 130,000 over the next 10-20 years, the number of older adults will increase dramatically. Berkshire County needs a plan to address this transformational and permanent shift in our population.

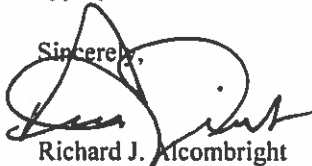
To address this changing demographics, our community convened a countywide Age Friendly Vision 2020 Task Force in September of 2014. The group is comprised of Boards of Health, Councils on Aging, senior community and home care experts, along with regional planning and government leaders from across the county. The Task Force represents executives from non-profit providers, policy makers, and the business community at large. Our goal is to ensure that our aging neighbors have the resources to be healthy, independent, and integrated into community life.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the City of North Adams to support a countywide effort that will:

- Include the active engagement of older adults in the Advisory Council.
- Secure municipal resolutions to work towards becoming age-friendly.
- Establish a Plan of Action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the county.
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes, and reporting on them publicly.

We look forward to working with AARP Massachusetts staff and volunteers to ensure that our community has the appropriate infrastructure in place so that we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DANIEL L. BIANCHI**

CITY OF PITTSFIELD, 70 ALLEN STREET, PITTSFIELD, MA 01201, PHONE: 413-499-9321

January 8, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Festa,

On behalf of the City of Pittsfield, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Massachusetts and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities across the Commonwealth and the nation, Berkshire County is committed to promoting policies and practices to make our cities and towns friendly to aging populations. This countywide effort will be led by municipal leadership, Boards of Health, Councils on Aging, and interested older adults in Berkshire County.

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Sincerely,



Daniel Bianchi
Mayor, City of Pittsfield
City Hall, 70 Allen Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201