July 1, 2015

Mr. Michael Festa
AARP Massachusetts State Director
1 Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Festa:

As Mayor of the City of Salem, I am excited about the opportunity to join the AARP/World Health Organization’s Age Friendly Cities Network. We are fully committed to making sure that all of Salem’s older residents can lead rich and fulfilling lives.

Salem is a small city steeped in rich history and well-known for the infamous Witchcraft Trials of 1692. But Salem has also developed into a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly City where our residents enjoy historic architecture, unique attractions, world-famous museums and an eclectic mix of shops and dining options.

In Salem, we are fortunate to have easy access to public transportation, first-class health care and a higher education institution and a diverse housing stock. And we have focused on ensuring safe, complete streets; fostering an engaged, active citizenry; and have plans to build a new, state-of-the-art Community Life Center to serve all of our residents.

The AARP/WHO’s Age Friendly Cities Network is aligned with our vision for Salem. While we’ve accomplished a lot over recent years, we can still do more. Through this important community initiative, we strive to make Salem a more thriving and inclusive City for all.

As a participant in the Age Friendly Cities Network, Salem makes a commitment to:

- Convene a Working Group representing our residents age 50 and older consisting of city departments, community organizations and other partners
- Assess the needs of residents over 50 years old and create a plan of action with measurable outcomes, and implement the action plan
- Measure progress and report outcomes publicly

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with AARP Massachusetts and our residents on this important project.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Driscoll
Mayor