



**James West**  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
P.O. Box 550 Raleigh, NC 27602

Tel 919 856 5573  
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August 22, 2016

Doug Dickerson  
State Director, AARP North Carolina  
1511 Sunday Drive, Suite 312  
Raleigh, NC 27607

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

On behalf of the County of Wake, North Carolina, I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly environment and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative. Wake County has long prided itself on promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address rapidly changing demographics. Our County is committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging and sustain economic and social vitality.

In 2008, the Wake County Human Services Board recognized that Wake County was facing a significant challenge in the coming years in the form of a rapidly growing senior population, many of whom were also economically disadvantaged. In response to that trend, an Aging Services Committee was established. The committee, consisting of representatives from the government, nonprofit, business and consumer sectors, developed an Aging Services Plan. Over time, the committee evolved into the GOLD (Growing Older Living with Dignity) Coalition and was charged with the responsibility of amplifying, implementing and monitoring the progress of recommendations made in the plan.

Most recently, the GOLD Coalition published an updated Action Plan for Aging Adults and Adults with Disabilities 2015 – 2019. This new plan provides an expanded emphasis on supporting adults with disabilities and further addresses the increasingly significant challenges Wake County faces as the second fastest growing county of over one million residents in the United States. Wake County averages 25,000 new residents every year and over the next twenty years, the projected growth of the population over age 75 is 203% and for people 85 and older, the estimate is 181%. Clearly, the work of the GOLD Coalition is of vital importance.

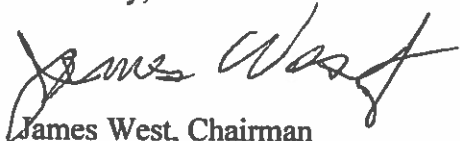
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In applying for membership to the AARP/WHO Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, it is our intent to build upon the framework we already have in place using the 8 Domains of Livability to guide our work. By working with AARP North Carolina staff and with access to the additional resources available to age-friendly community designees, we can further enhance our ability to ensure that our older residents have the opportunity to live rewarding, productive and safe lives.

Thank you for your consideration of membership for Wake County to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "West" clearly legible.

James West, Chairman  
Wake County Board of Commissioners

cc: Jim Hartmann, County Manager  
David Ellis, Deputy County Manager  
Regina Petteway, Director, Human Services