

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 5, 2016

FCH/ACL

Main Building – World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly City and Communities Administrators,

On behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, I am submitting this letter to express the Board's interest in having Sonoma County join the worldwide WHO Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We applaud WHO for forming this association to help address the challenges and opportunities that aging populations around the globe present to local cities and communities and to thus improve livability for older adults.

In Sonoma County more than 23% of residents are age 60 years and older. Our Board is committed to providing the necessary structures and systems to ensure older adults enjoy a high quality of life. Helping older adults helps our entire community flourish.

WHO's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities' eight domains and policy framework on "active aging" align with the visions and goals of an established local initiative: Aging Together Sonoma County. This initiative provides a solid foundation on which Age-Friendly Sonoma County will build upon and leverage work that has already been done to help older people age actively in the county.

Aging Together envisions Sonoma County as a healthy place to live, work and play; a place that supports all people to thrive across the lifespan and achieve their life potential. In a collective impact model, the County of Sonoma provides the backbone for the initiative and will do the same for Age-Friendly Sonoma County.

The Aging Together Leadership Committee will lead the Sonoma County Age-Friendly Community assessment, action plan, measurement and reporting. This committee has already shown impressive determination and accomplishments in coalescing individuals and organizations around improving the quality of life for all older residents. In addition, this team will serve as leaders for cities throughout Sonoma County in applying for and fulfilling the requirements of membership.

Thank you very much from the entire Board for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Efren Carrillo
Chair