



BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER
PENNSYLVANIA

CAROLYN T. COMITTA
MAYOR

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
401 E. GAY STREET
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380
PHONE: (610) 696-1452

April 21, 2016

Dear Sir/Madam:

It gives me great pleasure to endorse our Borough of West Chester, Pennsylvania in its application to continue membership as one of a growing number of municipalities that constitute the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (WHOGNACC). Dr. Tahmaseb-McConatha, who is Professor of Psychology at West Chester University, and Dr. Douglas McConatha, who is a Sociologist and Director of the University-Wide Gerontology Center, continue to lead our efforts. They have worked in aging and gerontology for many years and are scholars and activists working on behalf of our older Americans.

We strongly support WHOGNACC's on-going assessments of the quality of life for residents of all ages, with obvious emphasis placed on safety for our older residents. One very important safety hazard looming in our Borough are long overdue sidewalk changes. Sinking sidewalks and uneven bricks are hazardous to all ages, but most especially to the elderly who maneuver with canes, walkers, and sometimes wheelchairs.

Other current projects emphasize intergenerational communication and contact, with the overall emphasis on promoting civic engagement in later life. Additional programs are planned for this year and include an "Elder Abuse Awareness" Program.

At this time, we would also request that based on WHOGNACC's continuing progress and concentrated focus on aging, they be listed as a member of the AARP Age Friendly Network. We consider this an additionally important tool with respect to their success.

The Mayor's office will continue to provide assistance to this important project in assessing the age-friendliness of our community. We are already very supportive of the growth and development of this rising segment of our population, as is our entire state. Together as a team, we will strengthen our commitment to making West Chester a community where all ages thrive in an environment that is welcoming, safe, and secure for everyone.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Carolyn T. Comitta
Mayor, Borough of West Chester
Pennsylvania, USA