

AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

Kingsport, Tennessee Membership Application



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Introduction

Kingsport, Tennessee

Population 53,296

Percentage of residents over the age of 60: 29%

Name and title of the elected official signing the
official commitment:

John Clark, Mayor

Office address of the signer:

225 W. Center Street

Kingsport, Tennessee 37660



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September 9, 2016

Mr. William Armbruster
AARP Livable Communities Programs
601 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20049



Dear Mr. Armbruster:

Kingsport is excited about the opportunity to be considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an age-friendly community through the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative. Our population is comprised of over 29% of residents over the age of 60 and we benefit from the members of this age demographic by providing opportunities for public feedback to guide policy change, infrastructure improvements, and services to older adults. A recent example is the 2015 ONEKingsport Mayor's Summit that included plenary sessions with breakout brain storming activities, focus work groups that spent weeks crafting recommendations, and a continuing Advisory Group guiding implementation. Each of these progressions were, and continue to be, successful with strong representation from participants 60 years old and older giving direct input.

The Age-Friendly Network designation would build on Kingsport's heritage of AARP support and older adult considerations that include being an AARP Walkable City, hosting a Dan Burden Walkability Workshop, and being the first city in Tennessee to adopt Complete Street design criteria. Going forward, the Age-Friendly Community recognition would fuel Kingsport's desire to serve its entire citizenry acknowledging that Baby Boomers and Millennials alike prefer livable and amenitized communities that offer choice options, safety, and convenience.

Kingsport looks forward to sharing new and exciting concepts of age-friendly community successes with the entire AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Clark".

John Clark
Mayor
City of Kingsport

Community Contact for AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

Margot Seay serves as the National Volunteer Director of AARP, working in partnership with Megan Hookey, Vice-President, in the Office of Volunteer Engagement.

Both in her current role and formerly, as the Tennessee State President, Margot works to promote her community's livability. She began leading the Enhanced Community work in Kingsport, TN in 2008. Building on the 2010 AARP survey: ***A Livable Community Survey of the Greater Kingsport , TN Area: A Place to Live, Work and Play for a Lifetime*** and with the support of the AARP Tennessee State office, she worked to increase Kingsport's livability by introducing many outstanding programs to her community, including AARP's Cities of Service Program, The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Livability Task Force, The Dan Burden Walkability Survey, the collaborative formation of the Harvest of Hope Community Garden and SeniorConnectKpt.org, an on-line resource for caregivers.



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Question 1

Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

- ONEKingsport Summit held in October of 2015 focused on increasing livability in our community by forming seven city-wide work groups* to develop innovative work plans

* See Index 2

- Kingsport was the first city in state to adopt complete streets concept
- Kingsport conducted a Dan Burden Workshop in October 2012 and continue to build on insights through 2016
- Kingsport original concept of Active Transportation Rest Area (ATRA) supports multimodal and car free transportation



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Question 2

How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

- ONEKingsport Summit involved over 200 citizen volunteers in development and implementation of initiatives
- Appointed ONEKingsport Advisory Board representing all demographics of the city
- Integration of generations in community representation
- Eight Domains of Livability as described by the World Health Organization's Global Network Age-Friendly Cities and Communities* are integrated with ONEKingsport Summit initiatives**

* See Index 1

** See Index 2



Question 3

Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

- ONEKingsport Summit initiatives implementation
- Development Services, Planning, Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO), and Public Works providing livability enhancements
- Outdoor spaces and buildings planned for livability enhancements
- Eight Domains of Livability as described by the World Health Organization's Global Network Age-Friendly Cities and Communities* integrated with ONEKingsport Summit initiatives**

* See Index 1

** See Index 2



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Question 4

How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

- By sharing innovation in sustainable transferrable ideas throughout AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities
- Providing resources for Complete Street design successes
- Contribute vision for policy and infrastructure to improve future livability.
- Contributing a vision for policy and infrastructure initiatives to increase livability throughout our city and region



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Question 5

What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

- The opportunity to build on existing success of age-friendly programming such as complete streets policy adaption and partnering with AARP as a walkable city.
- The opportunity to share Kingsport's current support and active pursuit of innovative new ways to sustain the eight domains of livability*
- The opportunity to have ONEKingsport Summit initiatives** reenergize emphasis on communication and information using traditional and innovative measures

* See Index 1

** See Index 2



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Question 6

Please provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.



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Index 1

World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Eight Domains of Livability

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Communication and Information
- Community and Health Services



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Index 2

ONEKingsport Mayor's Summit Focus Areas

- Higher education innovation
- Health and wellness
- Job creation and entrepreneurship
- Housing
- Destination city investments
- Downtown revitalization
- Arts and entertainment



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