

September 9, 2016

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

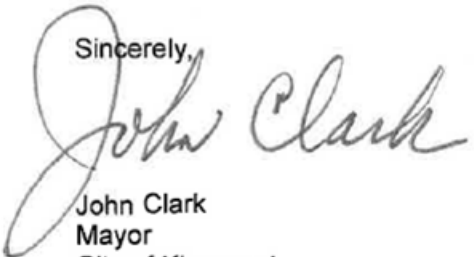
Dear Mr. Armbruster:

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,



John Clark  
Mayor  
City of Kingsport