

February 16, 2017

102 North Neil Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820-4042
Telephone (217) 403-8720
Fax (217) 403-8725
www.champaignil.gov

Mr. Bill Armbruster
Advisor, AARP Livable Communities Program
AARP
601 E. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20049

RE: Age-Friendly Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Dear Mr. Armbruster,

The purpose of this letter is to provide support for the City of Champaign joining with AARP and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community.

One of Champaign City Council goals is *Our City Promotes Quality of Life for all Citizens*, www.champaignil.gov/city-council/city-council-goals, so I was enthused upon hearing the intent of this organization to further engage elder citizens in our city. Champaign, located in east central Illinois, is a rich and diverse representation of America. Along with other selected communities in the nation, Champaign is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to aging populations.

The Cities of Champaign-Urbana have formed a Steering Committee to further this goal, and one of the Champaign's own City Planners, Ben LeRoy, is Co-Chair of the Committee. The Age-Friendly Steering Committee, in cooperation with the University of Illinois Extension Office, and the Center on Health, Aging and Disability, developed and distributed a community-wide survey. This initiative has appeared in various print, online, and radio media outlets, and has been responded to by nearly five-hundred older adults. The Committee has also partnered with local retirement facilities, home-care agencies, as well as transportation and family service agencies to host bi-monthly informational events for seniors entitled, "Connections Café". These events provide free resource information, technology assistance, blood pressure screenings and information sharing in a relaxed social environment.

The best way for us to promote an inclusive, open-minded and progressive community is to continue to engage a diverse representation of citizenry, and that includes tapping into the resource that is our senior citizens.

I hope you consider and accept the application.

Sincerely,



Deborah Frank Feinen
Mayor