



CITY OF LAWRENCE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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DANIEL RIVERA
MAYOR & CEO

August 9, 2017

Mr. Michael Festa
AARP MA State Director
1 Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02103

Dear Mr. Festa:

It is with great enthusiasm that the City of Lawrence, MA submits this application to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

The City of Lawrence is a majority minority immigrant community with the highest Latino population in New England (75.7%). We are a city with a strong history of collaborative community partnerships as exemplified by the Mayor's Health Task Force (MHTF), a highly developed network of over 80 partners from all sectors of the community whose mission is to promote health equity for all through advocacy, education, capacity-building, and networking. The collaborative efforts of the City and its partners to integrate health in all policies have earned us the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health prize in 2015. To expand upon this work, I executed a proclamation on June 15, 2017, to develop and initiate a City Action Plan to advance age-friendly systems, policies, and practices in Lawrence. Age Friendly Lawrence builds upon the MHTF structure and initiatives but intentionally includes elders' voices in decision-making, community engagement, and planning.

The Age Friendly Lawrence initiative will be led by Lawrence's Council on Aging and MHTF. The multi-stakeholder workgroup convened will include elders and will actively assess the eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life of older people and develop strategies to support active aging in Lawrence based on these findings. The City-wide action plan developed will include measurable, attainable action items so progress can be monitored and outcomes reported.

We look forward to the benefits of learning from the network of AARP's Age Friendly Cities and being a contributing partner. As a majority minority community, Lawrence has a unique contribution to make to the age-friendly city network. Our strategies can inform other minority/newly immigrant cities. I thank you for your consideration of our membership and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel Rivera
Mayor & CEO