



County Board of Commissioners

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July 25, 2017

Mr. Doug Dickerson
AARP State Director
1511 Capital Center Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

On behalf of Buncombe County, I'm pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly environment and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Buncombe County recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address the changing demographics and to enhance independent living; it is committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging and sustain economic and social vitality.

Buncombe County continues to support the creation and active implementation of an aging plan, and has done so since 2007. Buncombe County's support includes funding to support a project coordinator and the dedication of County human resources to participate in the implementation of planning efforts. Over the past decade, this investment has yielded multiple results such as: (1) a committee dedicated to the implementation of the aging plan; (2) coordinated education and systems to reduce incidences of fraud and financial exploitation; (3) outreach to enlighten the community about resources for financial security; and (4) education for consumers and suppliers about how to live and age in community. These are but a few examples of the foundation we have built in cultivating a community for all ages and ability levels.

This is a strong framework to build upon in addressing the World Health Organization's eight domains that help to influence the health and quality of life that of people as they age in our community. We look forward to joining the global network of communities committed to giving all residents the opportunity to age with opportunities for rewards, productivity and safety. Thank you for considering Buncombe County's membership in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Sincerely,

Brownie Newman
Chairman

