

Reginald A. Spinello
Mayor

Phone: (516) 676-2000
Fax: (516) 676-0108



City Hall
9 Glen Street
Glen Cove, NY 11542-4106

November 8, 2017

Ms. Beth Finkel
AARP New York State Director
One Commerce Plaza Suite 706
Albany, NY 12260

Dear Ms. Finkel,

On behalf of the City of Glen Cove, we, through a recommendation from the Glen Cove Senior Advisory Council to the Mayor, would like to request an opportunity to join with AARP New York and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities in the nation, Glen Cove is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to aging populations.

The Glen Cove metropolitan area has a total population of approximately 27,400. Our 65 and older population is approximately 16.6% - close to 5,000 residents within the City, and our age 60-64 population is on the rise.

The Glen Cove Senior Center, which is the senior heart of the City, currently has over 1,800 members and continues to grow monthly. The Senior Center is accessible to all Nassau County residents age 60 and older but is housed in the City of Glen Cove, and is a vital support for community seniors. The Center has a dedicated Advocacy representative and a police liaison who visits the Center each week to get to know the seniors, answer any questions, and address any issues they may have. The Center offers a wide array of programming including a full time social worker, health and wellness classes, trips, lectures, a radio show called, "Senior Moments", a Friendly Visiting Program, and a Virtual Senior Center which, through technology, outreaches to homebound seniors offering talks, classes, and trips to museums and other areas of interest. As well, the Glen Cove Senior Center has been an active member of the Inter-Agency Council for many years, meeting with educational, religious, and social service agencies who also have an interest in providing a better quality of life for the entire community.

The Glen Cove Senior Advisory Council to the Mayor was created, almost forty years ago, to address the multiple needs of an aging population. It is made up of professionals from all disciplines, including representatives from civic organizations, religious organizations, not for profit organizations, the healthcare industry, and education. The Council meets on a monthly basis to discuss various needs and solutions that can be implemented to promote a healthy, independent, and integrated community lifestyle amongst our elders.

Within the City of Glen Cove, there are already a number of age-friendly initiatives in place. Glen Cove supports a medical transportation program that picks up and drops off residents to medical appointments. Glen Cove also has its own hospital which is particularly helpful to an aging population as patients and visitors. As well, through the Hospital Auxiliary, the ROSE (Reaching Out to Seniors Everyday) Program makes a well check call each day to seniors who request extra assistance. The City has an EMS component connected to its Fire Department and a Family Practice facility for lower income residents. During the winter months, the City offers a homeless shelter for men providing a hot shower, a hot meal, nursing assistance, and socialization and uses the Senior Center as a warming center, a cooling center, and an emergency shelter as needed.

Each year, Glen Cove holds a Senior Day event to recognize not only its seniors, but especially its centenarians. As well, Glen Cove hosts the National Night Out event to promote safety within the City, and through the Senior Center and the Police Department, Glen Cove now has an active Scam Prevention Task Force which involves the community banks and shops. In addition, our two taxi companies offer discounted rides to our seniors and many of our stores offer senior discounts on a weekly basis.

As a participant in the national network of communities, we, along with the Glen Cove Senior Advisory Council to the Mayor and the entire City of Glen Cove will look to:

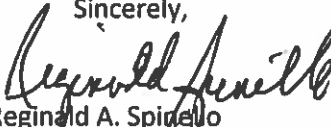
- *Secure a City Council resolution to work toward becoming an AARP Age-Friendly Community;
- *Establish a plan of action that responds positively to the additional needs of our elders; and
- *Continue to work toward making Glen Cove the best community it can be so that we are all able to age with dignity

We have already begun the process of establishing an action plan for the initiative. This includes creating an advisory board composed of approximately 30 community leaders that encompass all of the eight initiatives. They will work closely with the Senior Advisory Council to the Mayor and the Glen Cove Senior Center. We have also conducted focus groups and distributed the AARP Age-Friendly survey to seniors in Glen Cove for each initiative to gain insight on the issues seniors notice and what improvements we can make to ensure their wellbeing and the wellbeing of all residents in the community.

The City of Glen Cove is a city with a very small town feel. It offers its residents many amenities and is particularly conscious of its more vulnerable residents. Because of this, the City is always seeking projects, events, and other ways to support and protect its seniors, so they continue to thrive.

It would be a privilege to be considered for this status and to be given the opportunity to share resources that it would afford.

Cindy Rogers, President
Senior Advisory Council
To the Mayor

Sincerely,

Reginald A. Spigelio
Mayor

Carol Waldman
Executive Director
Glen Cove Senior Center