

OLD NORTH BRIDGE

TOWN OF CONCORD

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February 27, 2018

Mr. Michael Festa
Massachusetts State Director
One Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Membership in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

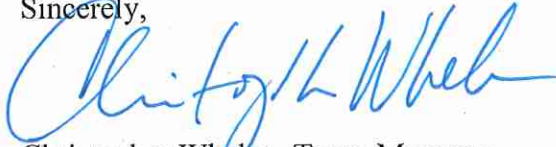
On behalf of the Town of Concord, I am pleased to offer this letter for our ongoing commitment to creating an Age-Friendly Community and Region, and I respectfully request membership to the AARP/WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Concord is submitting this letter and its application as a part of a 14-town collaborative effortⁱ of the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordinationⁱⁱ (MAGIC) to advance regional age-friendly planning.

Older adults are increasingly a larger part of our community, a trend we are also seeing in our neighboring towns. Currently 9-20% of residents in the region are 65 years and older and in 2030 this range will jump to 14-36%.ⁱⁱⁱ The unique needs of a growing older adult population will influence housing, transportation, and health care, among other services and systems. These facts compel us to be proactive, to ensure that current efforts and planning address these issues so that older residents are supported in leading stable, engaged, and healthy lives, both now and in the future.

Through the 14-town collaborative effort, Concord will seek to advance age-friendly regional planning and solutions for two particularly pressing issues: housing and transportation. In the MAGIC region, the available housing stock may not meet the needs of adults as they age and as their households get smaller. Housing solutions to allow older adults to remain in the community must be responsive to residents over their lifetime, and must include adequate affordable options to ensure that residents may continue to age in their hometown. Also, where this region has limited public transit and is largely automobile-dependent, transportation solutions must address needs for older adult mobility, particularly for those who no longer drive, and include solutions that support active and healthy lifestyles. Where these are issues in which individual towns are currently engaged, by working across towns we have the opportunity to share ideas and information that builds on our successes. Additionally, by working together we may be able to identify and implement regional housing and transportation solutions for older adults that better meet the needs in a more robust and effective manner.

Thank you for your consideration of our membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We look forward to our partnership in building age-friendly communities.

Sincerely,



Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

ⁱ The regional age-friendly effort is a collaboration between Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, Sudbury and Westford.

ⁱⁱ MAGIC is a subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and is the convener of the regional Age-Friendly initiatives. More information: www.mapc.org/magic

ⁱⁱⁱ Census 2010 and MAPC MetroFuture Projections for participating towns