



## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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Jack Blalock  
Mayor

May 16, 2018

Todd C. Fahey, J.D.  
State Director  
AARP New Hampshire  
45 South Main Street, Suite 202  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Fahey:

On behalf of the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, I am pleased to offer this letter of commitment and support for Portsmouth's application to AARP's Age-Friendly Communities initiative. Portsmouth has already made many strides to work towards a more age-friendly environment and we are excited to delve further into this project and implement additional services, opportunities and programs.

Our current landscape includes a community population of 21,000 with a 17% ages 65 and older and another 20% of between the ages of 50-65. To support an aging population, the City of Portsmouth has a Senior Services Coordinator to manage the senior center as well as coordinate activities, partnerships, and programs for older people in our community.

- The Portsmouth Senior Activity Center has over 1,000 members and the Recreation Department currently has 1,200 participants ages 50+ at its Indoor Pool and Adult Fitness Center.
- Portsmouth Library offers a wide array of programs attractive to and specially aimed for older adults.
- Portsmouth's recent Bike/Walk Master Plan update specifically targeted feedback from older adults and the Planning Department continues to work with Senior Services to build age-friendliness into their work.
- Senior Transportation is subsidized by the City of Portsmouth and is an additional service to an already established fixed route system in our region.
- Portsmouth Housing Authority owns eight elderly housing properties that are home to 240 adults ages 62+.
- Portsmouth Police are offer "Seniors Walk with a Cop" each summer.

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- City of Portsmouth contributes financial support to Rockingham Nutrition/Meals on Wheels program and is housed via a partnership between Portsmouth Housing and one of the City's recreation facilities.
- Private organizations including Discover Portsmouth, Strawberry Banke, Gundalow Company, Operation Blessing, The Music Hall, and others support a large contingency of older adult volunteers.
- Portsmouth High School and Senior Activity Center have partnered for service learning students to volunteer for day of service projects and for graduation service learning requirement.

As part of the Age-Friendly Community initiative, the City plans to continue to recognize and establish mechanisms that involve older people, conduct a baseline assessment of our age-friendliness, develop an action plan based on those finding, and monitor our progress based on the action plan.

The City of Portsmouth is committed and excited to support and promote an aging population. We look forward to working with AARP to incorporate the 8 Domains of Livability, actively coordinating a community-wide plan, and building a stronger network to improve the quality of life for all ages.

Very truly yours,



Jack Blalock  
Mayor

c. John P. Bohenko, City Manager