

# TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY



VICTOR DE LUCA  
MAYOR

July 16, 2018

Stephanie Hunsinger  
State Director AARP NJ  
303 George St., Suite 505  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Ms. Hunsinger,

On behalf of the Township of Maplewood, I am pleased to submit this application for admission to the World Health Organization's and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative.

Recognizing the increasing number of residents over 60 and the desire to keep long-term residents in our community, Maplewood joined forces with our neighbor, South Orange, to launch a joint program "SOMA Two Towns for All Ages." Through this initiative, we are taking a proactive approach to foster healthy aging and enable residents to age in place. This age-friendly initiative engages all stakeholders in the community - government, businesses, schools, non-profits and faith-based organizations - to build a community that serves the needs of residents of all ages. To ensure programs and services in our two towns meet these important goals we have made a commitment to be responsive to the needs of older residents; to combine the resources and interests of both towns to promote and support healthy, engaged and vibrant aging; to recognize the role older adults play in our communities and their contributions to the fabric of our diverse community; and to realize that improvements that benefit the older population also benefit the rest of our community.

Maplewood prides itself on being a diverse and inclusive community that attracts people of all backgrounds. We recognize that we are a desirable community to live in because of the hard work that many of our older residents put into building it, and want to keep them as part of the important social fabric that binds our town together.

We have developed a strong framework to build upon in addressing the World Health Organization's eight domains of healthy aging. We look forward to joining this global network of communities that share our commitment to giving older residents the opportunity to age in place as active, respected and engaged members of their communities. With our partners, we will contribute to the network and look forward to the challenges and the examples set by being part of this growing endeavor.

Sincerely,

Victor DeLuca  
Mayor,  
Maplewood. NJ