



Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce • Commissioner Marilyn Brown • Commissioner John O'Grady  
President

Board of Commissioners  
Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator

February 23, 2018

Barbara Sykes  
State Director  
AARP Ohio  
17 S. High Street, Suite 800  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3467

Bill Armbruster  
Senior Advisor  
AARP Livable Communities  
601 E. St NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Sykes & Mr. Armbruster:

Age-Friendly Columbus (AFC) began in 2016 at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and under the leadership of an Advisory Council, 50+Resident Council, and several topic-specific committees. A year-long research and assessment phase, followed by a year-long strategic planning phase resulted in two publications: [The Age-Friendly Columbus Findings Report](#) and [The Age-Friendly Columbus Strategic Plan](#). In 2018, The Ohio State University College of Social Work launched the Implementation Phase of the Age-Friendly Columbus Strategic Plan. The College of Social Work has a strong reputation in the community for aging research, community engagement, and collaboration.

The implementation phase of AFC will deliver measurable improvements in Columbus while simultaneously sharing best-practices and mentorship support to cities in Franklin County. Franklin County will be able to respond to the demand from neighboring cities interested in initiating this work or expanding on existing work that supports the desire of older residents to age in their communities.

A community-based participatory planning approach will serve as an innovative practice for integrating older adults in the process of community improvement. The prioritization and empowerment of older adults as equal contributors will become ingrained in the planning and improvement process for both City and County.

As we prepare for the increasing older adult population, we are committed to proactive and inclusive assessment, planning and implementation phases across Franklin County. As we build upon and strengthen the work of Age-Friendly Columbus to become an Age-Friendly Franklin County, we ask for your consideration of membership to the World Health Organization and AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth N. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kenneth N. Wilson  
County Administrator

Cc: Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce  
Commissioner Marilyn Brown  
Commissioner John O'Grady