July 25, 2018

AARP
601 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20049

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the City of Westerville, we are excited about the opportunity to join with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community. Along with other age-friendly communities in the nation, Westerville is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to aging populations.

Westerville is the second largest suburban city in central Ohio with approximately 39,000 residents and a median age of 41.2; older than other comparable suburbs in the region. A growing number of our residents are now at, or approaching, retirement age. The fastest growing age cohort between 2000 and 2010 was 55 to 65 year olds, which increased more than 100% during this timeframe. Roughly 18% of our residents are 60 or older.

While the City of Westerville has exemplary facilities, services, programing and transportation for older adults; our community is in the process of convening an Age-Friendly Task Force to review how changing demographics impact city services and infrastructure. The task force will be comprised of a diverse group of residents, city staff, policy makers, non-profits, business leaders, and academia with the goal of ensuring our aging neighbors have the resources to be healthy, independent and integrated into the community.

As a participant in the national network of age-friendly communities, it is the intent of the City of Westerville to:

- Include older adults in the task force.
- Perform a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of our community.
- Establish a community-wide action plan responding to the needs identified by older adults.
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

We look forward to working with AARP and WHO to ensure our community has the appropriate services and infrastructure so everyone can age with dignity. Please see the attached Resolution and membership application for additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
David Collinsworth
City Manager

attachments: Resolution No. 2018-12
Age-Friendly Community Membership Application
RESOLUTION NO. 2018-12

TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP AN AGE-FRIENDLY WESTERVILLE PLAN AND TO ENGAGE IN A NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, the global population and the population of the United States, people aged 65 and over is expected to grow from 12 percent in 2000 to 20 percent of the total population in 2050; and to over 35% of the population in the City of Westerville in the same time frame; and

WHEREAS, research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age; and

WHEREAS, access to quality health care, nutritious meals, socialization, transportation services, recreational services and long-term support services is essential for individuals to age in place in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, of the 80 percent of adults 65 and older living in metropolitan areas, 64 percent live outside the principal cities of these areas in suburban locations that tend to be auto-dependent, creating challenges for residents who do not drive; and

WHEREAS, 21 percent of adults age 65 and older do not drive, and more than half of these non-drivers do not leave home on a given day, in part because they lack transportation options; and

WHEREAS, reduced mobility for older non-drivers leads to 15 percent fewer trips to the doctor, 59 percent fewer shopping trips and visits to restaurants, and 65 percent fewer trips for social, family and religious activities; and

WHEREAS, a network of Age-Friendly cities and communities has been developed throughout the United States to encourage and promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older Americans; and

WHEREAS, active aging is a life-long process whereby an age-friendly community is not just "elder-friendly" but also intended to be friendly for all ages; and
WHEREAS, eight basic topics will be covered in an Age Friendly Westerville Plan:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings - accessibility to and availability of clean, safe community centers, parks, and other recreational facilities;

2. Transportation - safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation, "Complete Streets" types of initiatives, hospitable built environments;

3. Housing - wide range of housing options for older residents, aging in place and other home modification programs, housing that is accessible to transportation and community and health services;

4. Social participation - access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for older residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people;

5. Respect and social inclusion - programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity, programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue, programs to combat loneliness and isolation among older residents;

6. Civic participation and employment - promotion of paid work and volunteer opportunities for older residents; opportunities for older residents to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives;

7. Communication and information - promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far; and

8. Community support and health services - access to homecare services, clinics, programs to promote active aging (physical exercise and healthy habits); and

WHEREAS, each city and community has different needs, resources, and varying capacities to engage their resources to take action to facilitate active aging, and the Age Friendly Westerville Plan will be unique to this particular community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Westerville, state of Ohio:

Section 1. That Council does hereby support the initiatives and opportunities to engage in the network of Age-Friendly Communities, at no cost to the City.
Resolution 2018-12

Section 2. That a staff designee(s) of the City of Westerville is hereby authorized to submit an application to join the network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Section 3. That a staff designee(s) shall hereby convene the Age-Friendly Westerville Initiative to evaluate current and potential age-friendly initiatives, services and programming in our community and actively seek input from diverse stakeholders including older residents; developing an action plan specific for the City of Westerville.

PASSED July 2, 2018

Michael Heyeck
Chairman of Council

APPROVED:

Bruce E. Bailey
Director of Law

Mary J. Johnston
Clerk of Council
Membership Application
To join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the
World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 7/25/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Westerville

STATE: Ohio

POPULATION SIZE: 39,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 18%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:
Michael Heyeck, Chair of Council

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City of Westerville, 21 South State Street, Westerville, Ohio 43018

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES
The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

NAME: Chelsea Nichols and Laura Horton

POSITION: City Planner and Senior Center Manager

EMAIL ADDRESS: Chelsea.Nichols@westerville.org and Laura.Horton@westerville.org

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 614-901-6662 and 614-901-6512

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Mrs. Nichols is a life long resident of the community and employed as a Planner for the City of Westerville. She is responsible for a full spectrum of planning activities including but not limited to performing research, analyzing data, making presentations to members of the public and boards, reviewing/approving permits, and administering special projects. Mrs. Nichols has a Bachelor’s of Science in Sociology from Otterbein University. Mrs. Horton is a 30-year employee of the Westerville Parks & Recreation Department and responsible for the overall management of the Westerville Senior Center, older adult programing, older adult events, and older adult transportation services. The Westerville Parks & Recreation Department’s motto is a “City within a Park.” The department is nationally accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRO) and is a four time recipient of the national gold medal for excellence in parks and recreation administration. Mrs. Horton has a bachelor's degree in Education from The Ohio State University.
Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

The City of Westerville strives to be a leader in the Central Ohio area as a place that celebrates its history, diversity, culture and educational opportunities. People choose Westerville as a place to live because of its caring neighbors, healthy lifestyle opportunities and access to health care, housing and employment choices. Westerville recognizes the importance of incorporating age-friendly components into existing and future planning and city services. The Westerville Senior Center currently offers exclusive programing, nutritious meals, socialization, transportation services and numerous recreational opportunities for older adults ages 55 and up. With the projected 14.5% increase in 55+ population over the next ten years, the City of Westerville understands the importance in providing additional healthy and active lifestyle opportunities for older adults. Westerville is currently expanding the current 96,660 square-foot community center including the construction of a new state-of-the art and spacious senior center.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

Utilizing the livability domains outlined by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in partnership with World Health Organization (WHO), the City of Westerville will perform an “Age-Friendly Westerville” assessment of the community in order to evaluate the age-friendliness of the community and set forth an action plan to strengthen the quality of life for Westerville’s older adults. The Age-Friendly Westerville Initiative will outline where we are now and the vision for establishing an age-friendly Westerville in the future. Through public meetings and public outreach, the City will use feedback to establish goals & strategies to become a more age-friendly community.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

The Age-Friendly Westerville Initiative will be a collaboration between several different agencies and departments including but not limited to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), Otterbein University, Westerville Senior Association (WSA), the Parks and Recreational Advisory Board, Westerville City Council, City of Westerville Parks and Recreation Department, City of Westerville Planning and Development Department and others. Through public meetings and public outreach, the City will use community feedback to establish goals & strategies to become a more age-friendly community.
Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP
Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The City of Westerville hopes to leverage the successes of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities to strengthen the age-friendliness of our community. Westerville also hopes to share information about our award winning facilities, programing and city services with the network of age-friendly communities throughout the United States. The City of Westerville has been the recipient of several national and local awards including the #1 Suburb in America (Movoto Real Estate, 2013), #7 Happiest City in America (Movoto Real Estate, 2014), Best Places to Live in America (Money Magazine, 2007-2009), Health Community Award (Ohio Department of Health, 2006-2011), Best Recreation Center (Columbus Parent Magazine, 2010-2014) and many others!

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The City of Westerville understands the importance of providing a thoughtfully planned and livable community that promotes healthy lifestyles for community members of all ages. As the baby boomer generation continues to age, the City of Westerville will need to continue providing award winning services while at the same time promoting a variety of affordable housing options, health services, aging in-place options and related support programs in order to maintain a high quality of life for older adults. The City of Westerville views the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities as an excellent opportunity to assess and improve the services in our community.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours:

www.westerville.org