



# RIVER FOREST

*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

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September 24, 2019

AARP Illinois  
State Director Bob Gallo  
222 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 710  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Gallo,

On behalf of the Village of River Forest, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Illinois and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities in the nation, River Forest is committed to promoting policies that recognize the importance and address the needs of its aging population.

In March of this year, the Village Board of Trustees passed a resolution supporting my Pledge to making River Forest a Village for successful aging, and we are proud to be the fifth governmental agency to be recognized by Dementia Friendly America in the state of Illinois. I also have the pleasure to serve as chair of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Age-Friendly Communities Subcommittee, which convenes local leaders to share best practices, build partnerships, and identify resources to better serve our seniors.

The Village collaborates with other agencies to offer much needed services, as well as to provide programs that include older people and promote their engagement in the community. We have already undertaken significant steps towards age-friendly initiatives by establishing the Dementia Friendly River Forest team, which will work with the Center for Gerontology at Concordia University Chicago to track its progress towards the goals of inclusivity and support for those with dementia and to share their findings with the community. We have reviewed the criteria and are committed to the following actions within a five-year planning and implementation process, as identified by AARP:

- Establish mechanisms to involve older people
- Complete a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the community
- Develop a community-wide action plan based on the findings of the assessment
- Identify indicators so progress can be monitored against the action plan

We look forward to joining this network and working with AARP Illinois and the WHO to ensure the Village of River Forest is a welcoming community to age in place and with dignity.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Adduci  
Village President

CC: Village of River Forest Trustee Respicio Vazquez  
Eric Palm, Village Administrator, River Forest  
Village of River Forest Board of Trustees  
Kyle Smith, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus  
Brian Tomkins, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus