February 28, 2019

Hank Greenberg, State Director
AARP Maryland
200 St Paul Place, Suite 2510
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mr. Greenberg,

It is with great pleasure that I write to express my interest in pursuing admission into the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly Communities Initiative. Baltimore County has a long standing commitment to assuring quality of life for all of our citizens with a special interest in our older adults who comprise more than 20% of our population.

I have recently taken office but as a lifelong resident of Baltimore County and prior state delegate, I have seen the hard work put into the services of our county to assure a quality of life for our older adults. Throughout my campaign and as I have taken office as the County Executive, I hear from many of our citizens that they wish to age in their communities and continue to actively participate and contribute in their neighborhoods.

We recently undertook an inclusive, transition process that connected more than 100 respected thought-leaders, practitioners, community leaders and policy advocates from both the public and private sector to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations that provide a blueprint for our work over the next four years. Additionally, we have convened diverse groups of stakeholders, including labor leaders, education advocates, business leaders and environmental advocates for productive dialogues about the most pressing issues facing our County.

Among these priorities were many recommendations that included our older citizens ranging from greater accessibility to our public spaces and facilities to exploration of more transportation options. Coordination of services for seniors with health care plans and exploration of creative housing solutions for older adults are also highlighted. Most closely aligned with the Age-Friendly Communities initiative is the recommendation to assess the changing needs of aging consumers and develop resource and service delivery models that address these changing needs.
We, at Baltimore County look forward to working with AARP Maryland to move forward on the Age-Friendly Communities Initiative as we move our blueprint forward to serve our citizens with purpose and dignity.

Sincerely,

John A. Olzsewski, Jr.
County Executive

Enclosure