

October 8, 2019

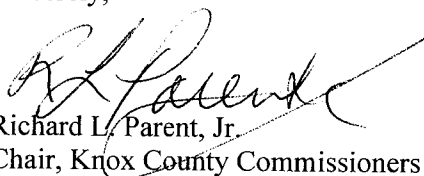
Ms. Lori Parham  
AARP Maine State Director  
53 Baster Blvd  
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Ms. Parham:

On behalf of the Knox County Commissioners, I am pleased to submit this letter of interest in and commitment to the AARP and World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities. We recognize the importance of working with the cities and towns of Knox County as we all plan for and address the needs of the people of all ages, including the growing number of older residents who wish to remain independent and engaged in their communities. We look forward to your review of our membership application which, if approved, will allow the newly formed Knox County Livable Communities Coalition to proceed with an Age-Friendly survey of the towns and cities of the county and to engage in community conversations as we collectively plan for the future.

Knox County's population according to the 2010 U.S. Census was 39,736 with an estimated 2019 population of 39,869. This mid-coast county is a mix of sixteen communities stretching from the inland to coastal cities and towns. The percentage of people age 65 and over according to the last census was 25.3%. While our region is known as a vibrant vacation and retirement destination because of its natural beauty, events, and activities, there are a number of challenges faced by both our growing population of older residents, families, and people of all ages. Most communities or volunteer organizations within them have taken steps to begin to address some of the most pressing issues. We see the work of a designated Age-Friendly Knox County with the Knox County Livable Communities Coalition facilitating the efforts, as building upon and growing those plans and resources. We will ensure people of all ages, including Knox County's older residents have a voice and involvement in the planning and implementation of the efforts and action plan.

Sincerely,

  
Richard L. Parent, Jr.  
Chair, Knox County Commissioners