



January 8, 2019

Mr. Doug Dickerson
AARP North Carolina State Director
5511 Capital Center Drive, STE # 400
Raleigh, NC 27506

Dear Mr. Dickerson,

On behalf of the County and City of Durham, we are pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly community and respectfully request membership to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Like the rest of North Carolina, Durham is experiencing a significant growth in the number and proportion of older adults. We recognize this increase will have a significant social and economic impact in Durham while also providing Durham with the opportunity to continue to embrace older adults as a vital asset in community in which they contribute their experience and leadership. Durham looks forward to becoming an age-friendly community and acknowledges this will help Durham better prepare for its impending demographic change, enhance its inter-generational solidarity, and ultimately create a community that will benefit residents of all ages and abilities.

Durham is committed to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities process and has recently conducted a livability self-assessment through a tool developed by the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG). This TJCOG Livability Self-Assessment Tool for Local Governments considers many factors that contribute to a better quality of life including housing, transportation, safety, health care, supportive services, general retail, social integration and maps well to the World Health Organization's Eight Domains of Livability. The data from this self-assessment are one piece of the many data sources Durham has collected to inform the development of its community action plan, which will serve as Durham's Aging Plan. Additionally, Durham has decided to mirror the Master Aging Plan process developed by the Orange County Department on Aging and will engage five distinct working groups to develop goals, objectives, strategies, and indicators, including who or which agency is responsible for implementation and monitoring. The members of these working groups will include older adults and representatives from city and county government agencies, local health care providers, Duke University/Duke University Health System, and community-based organizations. We are confident that Durham's Aging Plan will be grounded in the voice of Durham's seniors and will work to ensure that Durham is a livable community that will be a "great place to grow up and grow old."

Durham is celebrating its 150th year of incorporation this year and as we celebrate Durham aging well, we look forward to working with AARP North Carolina staff, members, and volunteers to ensure Durham continues to support its residents as they age in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Jacobs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "J".

Wendy Jacobs
Chair, Durham Board of County Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Schewel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" and "S".

Steve Schewel
Mayor