October 29, 2020

Rafi Nazarians  
AARP California  
Associate State Director  
200 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 400  
Pasadena, CA 91101-2422

Dear Mr. Nazarians,

I am pleased to express the City of San Leandro’s interest in pursuing admission into the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP’s Network of Livable Communities. Focusing on an age-friendly community is a sensible and economical way for San Leandro to plan for tomorrow while also addressing the present well-being of our current residents in all stages of life.

With aging as a focus of a livable San Leandro and as we consider our efforts towards a Comprehensive Plan, we are committed in providing services and improvements which address the needs of older citizens and that in turn would benefit everyone; families, youth, and individuals with disabilities. San Leandro is one of the most diverse cities in the nation with a population of 90,000 citizens; 15 percent of which are persons 65 years and over. As part of Alameda County, we strive to meet the expectations of our aging community by delivering a safe environment to age in place; to be able for our community members to live in dignity; to create and be a part of community, to maintain a healthy lifestyle and mobility; and to be able to exercise choice. Focusing on an age-friendly community supports our City’s Mission Statement of communicating a vision of the future and to enhance the quality of life for every citizen.

Our initiative is a collaborative movement led by the City’s Recreation and Human Services Department supported by the Senior Commission; the Commission will be gathering information for a grass roots effort to work in person with the community. Community engagement and outreach will be key factors in the planning process, assessment, and development of a coordinated effort to get city departments, civic organizations, faith-based communities, and the public genuinely involved.

We look forward to joining and working with the AARP Livable Communities Network. This partnership to create a plan of action in response to the rapidly growing older adult population will provide much needed preventive and supportive services to the City of San Leandro.

Sincerely,

Pauline Russo Cutter  
Mayor, City of San Leandro