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June 15, 2020

Kay Sibetta  
Associate State Director, Community Outreach  
AARP Georgia  
999 Peachtree Street, NW #1110  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Ms. Sibetta,

On behalf of the City of Decatur, we are excited to have this opportunity to apply for membership as a World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP Age-Friendly City. The City of Decatur is a historic city of homes, schools, and places of worship located east of downtown Atlanta. It prides itself on being a community that is inclusive of our older residents with supports, recreation and policies designed specifically to enrich their quality of life. We hope that in achieving this designation we can increase this quality work. The City of Decatur has a proven history of being proactive when it comes to support and inclusion of all its residents - especially its seniors. In 2013, it created a Lifelong Community Advisory Board which is charged with making every aspect of the community conducive to residents staying for a lifetime and being able to age in place. Their work includes:

- Providing recommendations in all subject areas of Lifelong Community, including housing, transportation, and mobility.
- Assisting city staff in working with stakeholder groups to implement program objectives and activities.
- Supporting programs and resources for senior citizens in nonprofit organizations, community organizations, and other organizations.

In addition to the work of the Lifelong Community Advisory Board, the city is home to an annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project that does free home repairs and yard work for Decatur's senior citizens. The Decatur Active Living department oversees two recreation centers and provides numerous health, wellness and social activities that specifically target older residents.

A united effort has been made by residents to retain Decatur seniors who have been negatively impacted by tax increases. In 2016, a senior homestead tax exemption overwhelmingly won the public vote and was implemented. It alleviated school property taxes for all residents age 65 and over. Along with tackling the tax burden, an Affordable Housing Task Force was established to increase the number of affordable housing options for older residents and those throughout the age spectrum.

City of Decatur

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We know that our work in creating policies and opportunities that create lives well lived for our seniors will be even more impactful with the AARP-WHO designation. Thank you for your consideration of membership for the City of Decatur to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

*Patricia M. Garrett*

Patti Garrett  
Mayor  
City of Decatur, Georgia

cc: Andrea Arnold, City Manager  
Angela Threadgill, Planning and Economic Development Director  
Lee Ann Harvey, Lifelong Community Manager