



The **BOROUGH of HIGHLAND PARK**

County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey

Gayle Brill Mittler, Mayor

221 South 5th Avenue

HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY 08904

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September 23, 2020

Stephanie Hunsinger
AARP NJ State Director
303 George Street Suite 505
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Ms. Hunsinger,

As the Mayor of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, I am honored to endorse Highland Park's application for admission into the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. I'm very pleased to share my enthusiastic support for this initiative.

Our Department of Community Services/Office of Aging and Senior Services is a major hub of activity in the Borough and serves as the welcoming 'home away from home' for many of our seniors. I visit the Highland Park Community Center regularly and I am amazed at the volume of programs they run and the enthusiasm of the participants. In the spring I presented certificates to seniors who attended a 12 week "A Matter of Balance" class, spoke with a large group at a weekly luncheon, learned about their free tax assistance program for eligible lower-income seniors, and participated in a well-attended meeting of staff and volunteers to plan future activities for our senior population. Our Office of Aging and Senior Services is an extraordinarily active engine of our community.

Because I believe so strongly in the work and the mission of our Office of Aging and Senior Services, I am a strong advocate for this application because I witness the tremendous impact that the programs and services offer to our senior citizens has on improving their overall quality of life on a daily basis. I also know that they could do so much more with greater resources and strategic partners like AARP and the World Health Organization. Becoming a part of the Network of Age Friendly Cities Initiative will benefit our community by improving available resources to our Office of Aging. This will not just change lives, it will transform the nature of our town, so that so many more seniors can live more fulfilled, healthier, and engaged lives. That is a prospect I wholeheartedly endorse.

The government and staff of the Borough of Highland Park look forward to working with the Office of Aging and Senior Services, AARP of NJ, and the World Health Organization to make Highland Park a role model as an Age-Friendly City. *Thank you.*

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle Brill Mittler".

Gayle Brill Mittler, Mayor
Borough of Highland Park