

township of wayne

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Christopher P. Vergano
Mayor

March 9, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Hunsinger:

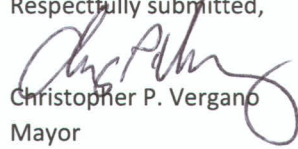
Please accept this letter in support of Wayne Township's application for admission to the World Health Organization's and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative.

Wayne Township is located in the heart of Passaic County, New Jersey, less than twenty miles from midtown New York City, and offers its citizens and guests a balanced suburban community. From lake communities loaded with recreational facilities and museums; an excellent modern free public library; exceptional public school system and William Paterson University; to shopping and business centers; Wayne has something for everyone. Accordingly, as almost 25 % of Township residents are over 60 years of age, our desire to keep these residents in our community has prompted us to not only provide Senior and Social Service Departments to assist seniors with questions and concerns, but also incorporate various municipal departments involvement in issues sensitive to senior needs as well. To that point, I personally host the "Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee" where seniors can express their concerns and are provided with information about upcoming Township events, improvements and senior sensitive issues.

Other senior centered programs offered to our residents include Health Department events such as the annual Senior Expo; Parks & Recreation Department activities including the annual Senior Picnic and the Senior Olympics; and the Tax Department's assistance with the Senior Tax Freeze forms. Additionally, Wayne Township provides two buses which drive senior residents throughout the Township and to weekly scheduled locations within the municipality. Likewise, the Senior Services and Parks and Recreation Departments partner to provide various innovative programs for our elderly population. With the inclusion of the aforementioned programs and partnerships, Wayne Township also provides 55 and older communities, senior housing, numerous senior organizations, as well as the Wayne Adult Community Center. Our goal is to enable Wayne Township to become collectively more age-friendly and a place for people of all ages to call "home". Through these initiatives, we are taking a proactive approach to fostering healthy aging. We have made a commitment to be responsive to the needs of our older residents; to combine resources to promote and support healthy, engaged and vibrant aging and to recognize their important contributions to the fabric of our community.

I believe that Wayne Township has developed a strong foundation to build upon in addressing the World Health Organization's eight domains of healthy aging. Equally, our focus on improving the lives of our residents makes us an exceptional candidate for the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities membership. Consequently, Wayne Township looks forward to joining this global network of communities that share our commitment to affording our senior residents the opportunity to mature as active, respected and engaged members of their communities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Vergano", written over the printed name.

Christopher P. Vergano

Mayor

CPV: bsr