



# TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

66 MAIN STREET, WEST ORANGE, N.J. 07052

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**ROBERT D. PARISI**

*Mayor*

Tel: (973) 325-4100

Fax: (973) 669-0238

Email: [Mayor@westorange.org](mailto:Mayor@westorange.org)

[RParisi@westorange.org](mailto:RParisi@westorange.org)

June 16, 2020

Stephanie Hunsinger  
AARP New Jersey State Director  
303 George St., Suite 505  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Ms. Hunsinger,

Re: AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

I write you today as the highest-ranking elected official and Mayor of the Township of West Orange, New Jersey. I am pleased to inform you that my administration and I are in full support of the Township's desire to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

A primary focus of our municipal government has always been to develop, implement, and maintain excellent programs to create an age-friendly community for our population of over 47,000 residents. Similarly, we seek to create innovative programs and resources to assist our senior population to remain in their own homes and community, independently and safely, as they age. By joining the AARP Network, West Orange Township seeks to manifest our existing commitment to the AARP and WHO 8 Domains of Livability and to further promote health, inclusion and security in a quality environment for our older adult population.

West Orange Township enthusiastically looks ahead to moving forward with our senior livability initiatives and long-term goals. To formally launch and commemorate this initiative, the Township recently designed a new logo with the tag line, "*Aging Well West Orange*", which promotes West Orange as an age-friendly community. The logo is consistent with the township's other signage, yet it clearly symbolizes an easily recognizable to West Orange's commitment to the age-friendly movement.

During the last several years, with the increasing demographics of older adults in the Township, we have responded by enhancing the breadth of senior-related programs. This



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

[www.westorange.org](http://www.westorange.org)

move has been further advanced by focused efforts and collaboration by the Township's Senior Services Coordinator and Senior Livability Coordinator.

As a participant in the AARP and the World Health Organization Age-Friendly Community, West Orange Township is committed to further develop and expand the 8 Domains of Livability as follows, but not limited to:

- Continuous assessment of existing needs and resources to enhance outdoor spaces and buildings to become more senior friendly.
- Increase the accessibility and affordability of Township-provided senior transportation and housing.
- Enhanced opportunities for senior participation and inclusion with programming that promotes ethnic and cultural awareness, respect, and understanding within a diverse community.
- Provide enhanced and on-going communication and information related to community support and health services to assist older residents as they age in place.
- Pursue additional outreach through religious and civic organizations and other locations where older adults congregate and host events specifically designed for the senior population
- Further engagement of senior residents to assess and address programs that are responsive to their needs.
- Develop metrics to measure the success of Township programs and activities and subsequently refine them to achieve greater success.

The Township of West Orange enthusiastically looks forward to working with the AARP staff and network members to make our Township a place where *Aging Well West Orange* permeates all that we do. We are committed to furthering our age-friendly and aging-in-place initiatives, as we foster a tradition of a caring for all residents, which is deeply interwoven with the values of our diverse community.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Parisi  
Mayor

RDP/spq

