



June 23, 2020

Holly A. Holtzen
AARP Ohio State Director
17 S. High Street, Suite 800
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ms. Holtzen,

On behalf of the City of Athens and Athens County, Ohio, we are pleased to submit this letter outlining our commitment to making the city and county an AARP Age-Friendly Community. We look forward to engaging with the AARP Age-Friendly Community network as we embark on this journey. The City of Athens and Athens County are committed to making our community more welcoming and livable for people of all ages. We will utilize collaborative efforts to identify needs, implement projects, and establish places and programs where all people can grow gracefully, actively, and comfortably in a supportive and inclusive community.

As the City of Athens and Athens County work towards developing a Comprehensive Plan to guide our work, we are mindful of the Eight Domains of Livability identified by AARP, and have added a domain on sustainability. Our intention is to thoughtfully consider how we can improve in each area and how we can collaboratively engage the organizations already doing work in each domain to maximize our efforts. Our community has a proud history of coming together to serve our residents and we expect we will receive enthusiastic support.

The City of Athens and Athens County intend to take the following actions in our pursuit of becoming an AARP Age-Friendly Community:

- Form a City of Athens and Athens County Age-Friendly Advisory Council.
- Engage as many older adults as possible in the development of the Comprehensive Plan through targeted outreach.
- Collect baseline data to assess the current age-friendliness of the county.
- Use baseline data to create a community-wide action plan that will guide Age-Friendly work.
- Identify measurable goals and objectives to be used to assess progress.

We appreciate AARP's support as we embark on this important endeavor and look forward to working with your team to become an AARP Age-Friendly Community.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Patterson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Patterson
Mayor, City of Athens

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Chmiel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Chmiel
Commissioner, Athens County