February 27, 2013

Farmingville, NY - At the February 26 Town Board meeting, Supervisor Romaine's Sense Resolution supporting the World Health Organization (WHO) and American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network was unanimously adopted by the Town Board. The initiatives of the network encourage and promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy aging.

"As our population ages and people live longer, we need to help them lead comfortable, active and healthy lives in the community," said Supervisor Romaine, "Independent living and a high quality of life are important to the elderly, and I am happy to throw my full support behind the WHO and AARP initiatives."

The WHO and AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly Communities will focus on improving the elements of communities that enhance independent living with a goal of having older citizens take a more active role in their communities. The eight categories that the program covers include:

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Communication and Information
- Community Support and Health Services

According to AARP’s 2011-2012 Policy Book, "a 'livable community' is defined as one that is: safe and secure, and provides affordable, appropriate housing; has adequate transportation; and has supportive community features and services. Once in place, these resources enhance personal independence, allow residents to age in place, and foster residents' engagement in the community's civic, economic, and social life. An Age-Friendly Community would also meet these livability goals."

"AARP is thrilled to welcome Brookhaven Town into the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities," said William Stoner, AARP Associate State Director for Livable Communities and a town resident. "Brookhaven is a leader in many respects on making communities more livable and we look forward to the contribution the town will make in exchanging best practices on livability with other members of the network," added Stoner.

"I have been a town resident for 30 years and plan on spending the rest of my years here, and I for one, want to thank Supervisor Romaine for his leadership in working to make Brookhaven a great place to live and grow older," said Elizabeth Horan, AARP volunteer Brookhaven Town Coordinator.

The benefits of participating in the Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network include a connection to all global network communities, access to program information, partnership opportunities with communities in the network, mentoring and peer review evaluation by other cities and international recognition by the WHO and AARP as a more age friendly community.

To find out more about the WHO and AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, visit www.who.int or www.aarpinternational.org.

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