**Membership Application**

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org or call 202-434-2430
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE**: 3/1/2017

**Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS**

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY**: Village of Palmetto Bay

**STATE**: Florida

**POPULATION SIZE**: 24,000+

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60**: 12%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT**: Eugene Flinn, Mayor

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER**: 9705 East Hibiscus Street. Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

**Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

**NAME**: Edward Silva

**POSITION**: Town Manager

**EMAIL ADDRESS**: esilva@palmettobay-fl.gov

**TELEPHONE NUMBER**: 305-259-1234

Please describe the named person’s role in the city or community’s age-friendly initiative:

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Mr. Edward Silva was appointed Village Manager on June 1, 2015, following a unanimous vote by the Palmetto Bay Village Council. Mr. Silva was initially hired by the Village in 2007 to serve as the Director of Building and Capital Projects. In that position, he was responsible for the planning and management of all municipal construction projects, including our Platinum LEED-Certified Municipal Center. He also served as the Building Official, overseeing all aspects of the building and permitting process. During his tenure as a department director, Mr. Silva restructured the department to increase efficiency, lowered fees, significantly increased employee performance, and made customer service a priority. His expertise in the construction industry ensured that projects were completed on time and within budget. Prior to working for Palmetto Bay, Mr. Silva worked in the Village of Pinecrest’s Building Department. Mr. Silva is a registered architect and owner of a successful architectural firm. As Village Manager, Mr. Silva is the chief administrative officer for the Village. In this capacity, he oversees and manages all village personnel and departmental operations, including Community & Economic Development, Finance, Human Resources & Communications, Parks & Recreation, and the Policing Unit. Mr. Silva is accountable to the Village Council and is responsible for carrying out the policies and directives of the Council. Since becoming Village Manager, Mr. Silva has decreased overall expenditures while enhancing service delivery, doubled the number of community events, improved park facilities, increased collaboration and partnerships with other cities, led the multi-city effort to convert the express bus service to light rail transit, and increased outreach and communications to the residents of Palmetto Bay. Mr. Silva is a proud graduate of the University of Miami and has proudly called Palmetto Bay home for over a decade. On January 9, 2017, the Mayor and Village Council passed a resolution No. 2017-014 authorizing the Manager to take any and all steps necessary to complete the application process and become an active participant of the program.
Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

Incorporated on Sept. 10, 2002, the Village of Palmetto Bay is the 33rd municipality in Miami-Dade County. The Village of Palmetto Bay is a vibrant community of more than 24,000 residents who enjoy beautiful surroundings and a family-oriented atmosphere. Situated on the shores of Biscayne Bay, Palmetto Bay offers quick access to unique recreational opportunities and amazing bay vistas. The Village extends from the centerline of SW 136 Street, south to the centerline of SW 184 Street; expanding west to the centerline of South Dixie Highway, including the center "commercial island," and east to Biscayne Bay. Village residents enjoy the benefits of an extensive park system composed of five Village parks and two county facilities. Our parks offer recreational opportunities ranging from active to passive with an array of programs & activities, and even a neighborhood library. The Village has made great strides to improve the quality of life for all residents. In 2012 as a response to numerous requests for increase in park programming for Senior Citizens, the Parks department hosted a ten week summer program called, “Senior Sampler”. The “Senior Sampler” program ran for 10 weeks and included a variety of activities; Music Therapy, Arts & Crafts, Gold Zumba, Seminars and Lectures, Yoga, Tai Chi and Aerobics. The Village Council has formed several Committees and appointed members of the community to serve; giving them an opportunity to work in collaboration to determine priorities and recommend strategies to achieve a common goal. The Village partnered with Baptist Health in 2011 to offer exercise classes geared towards older adults at Coral Reef Park. Due to the overwhelming attendance we have since added more sessions and opened more classes at other park facilities. Other programs offered throughout the year are Gardening workshops, lectures and seminars in partnership with East Ridge (sessions on Aging and Eating to Avoiding the Fall), Bird Watching, Yoga by the Bay, and Photography Workshops.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

The Village is currently soliciting consulting services to conduct a needs assessment of programming, improvements and/or amenities desired by our citizenry. Based on this study, the Village will proceed with the updating of its Park Master Plan. Both processes primarily involve public input from individuals of all ages; including seniors. The Village continues to engage withholder adult community by scheduling monthly meeting sessions with the Village Manager where there is an open mic available to discuss any topics brought forth. Town hall meetings and workshops on traffic, canal, parks, etc. are also periodically held to hear directly from our citizens. Please note the Village of Palmetto Bay will simultaneously be applying for membership with the State of Florida Department Elderly Affairs, and designation as a Florida’s Communities for a Lifetime. In addition to the ongoing programs attractive to our mature population, we also provide six (6) outdoor fitness stations at Coral Reef Park – geared specifically towards the older adults. The Village utilized several methods of communication – social media, website, newspaper ads, and direct mail (Play by Play Guide) for parks and programs. We strive to distribute information where we reach all individuals and effectively inform residents of the services, programs and resources available to them.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.
The Village is in the process of completing/up-dating several significant studies; i.e., Needs Assessment of Programming, Improvements and/or Amenities, Parks Master Plan and Strategic Plan. All of these plans take into account how they will affect all residents regardless of age and physical ability. The Village is also working to obtain grants to help with some of the necessary improvements needed throughout the Village to allow for a design that provides safe and convenient access to all types of transportation. The Village will collaborate with new developers in the Downtown area to ensure proper planning and design that allows for an age friendly community.
Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The Village would like to join our two neighboring cities; Pinecrest and Cutler Bay, to collectively make an impact and contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. In 2002, the Village of Palmetto Bay incorporated because residents did not feel that their needs were being met. They wanted better services, representation and improved access to their local government. After fifteen (15) years the Village has successfully improved the quality of life for its residents with better/improved parks systems, programs, transit services, infrastructure, and economic development, while keeping our tax burden low. The Village hopes to be able to demonstrate how local government can work together with the region, County and State government to expand services, avoid duplication and enhance the level of services to all residents.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The Village of Palmetto Bay’s Mayor and Council realize that while we have made great strides in enhancing the services and quality of life for our residents, there are still many opportunities for improvements. This motivation lead to the application to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities in an effort to access valuable resources to assist in our ongoing planning and implementation of projects, services and policies that will further enhance our Village making it a great place to work, learn, live and play!

6) Please provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here’s ours >