April 11, 2022

Mr. Jeff Johnson  
State Director – AARP Florida  
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP/AARP Florida)  
360 Central Ave.  
Suite 1750  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On behalf of the City of Jacksonville Government, I am pleased to submit our letter of commitment and membership request to join with AARP to become Global Age-Friendly Community in The World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

On February 23, 2021, I proclaimed Jacksonville an Age-Friendly City. The City of Jacksonville is home to almost one million residents with 19.4% percent of the population being seniors aged 60 and older who enhance and support our community by serving as mentors, leaders, volunteers, and vital members of our community.

On April 23, 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis designated the State of Florida Age-Friendly, and Jacksonville recognizes the importance of being an age-friendly community and supports the senior population through social and physical inclusion. By 2030, one of every five people in the U.S. will be 65 or older, and by 2035, the number of adults older than 65 will be greater than the number of children under 18, and Jacksonville is committed to taking action to become an Age-Friendly city which enables Jacksonville residents to have an improved quality of life as they age.

Organizations and individuals such as AARP, The World Health Organization, local elected officials, stakeholders, and engaged residents work every day to ensure Jacksonville is prepared for rapid population aging and the parallel trend of urbanization. The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities serves as a catalyst to educate community leaders and encourage them to implement the types of changes that make communities such as Jacksonville more livable for people of all ages, especially older adults.
Jacksonville is a prime example of a community who recognizes the importance of being an Age-Friendly city and by joining the AARP's network of Age-Friendly Communities Jacksonville will continue to pave the way for our senior population to thrive as they age. The City of Jacksonville will continue to encourage all citizens to recognize the essential role of our senior population and support the community efforts to join the ever-growing list of AARP's Age-Friendly Communities. 

As a member in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the City of Jacksonville:

- Include the active engagement of older adults in our planning processes and committees;
- Conduct a baseline assessment of age-friendliness and community,
- Develop a community-wide action plan based on the findings of the assessment; and
- Identify indicators so progress in the plan can be monitored.

Thank you for your consideration of our membership into the WHO Global AFC Network. We look forward to working with the AARP Florida Office, its members and volunteers, our Council on Elder Affairs, and our stakeholders to create a plan of action that responds to the needs in our community a One City One Jacksonville for all ages.

Sincerely,

Lenny Curry
Mayor

C. Parks, Recreation, and Community Services
   Senior Services
   Council on Elder Affairs