October 27, 2021

Ms. Kay Sibetta
AARP Georgia Associate State Director
999 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 1110
Atlanta, GA 30309

Dear Ms. Sibetta:

The River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency serving 16 counties and 35 municipalities in Southwest Georgia. The RVRC vision is to foster a region where current and future generations succeed at home, at work, and in their communities through our core values: Accountability, Collaboration, Community, Innovation, Diversity, Integrity, and Good Stewardship.

The RVRC works to implement our state-approved regional plan and annual work program by assisting our local governments with their planning initiatives. Through these processes we intend to promote successful aging and improve the quality of life for all residents. Our older adults are an important part of the regional population and it is our goal to ensure they have the resources needed to live healthy, independent lives with meaningful community connections.

The RVRC in partnership with the RVRC Area Agency on Aging intends to pursue designation as an Age Friendly region. RVRC staff will utilize the AARP Eight Domains of Livability to establish a more age-friendly region by ensuring outdoor spaces and buildings are accessible to seniors, increasing access to transportation and affordable housing, improving opportunities for social participation and inclusion, expanding access to communication and information, and supporting the ability of older individuals to age in place through community support and health services.

As a prospective participant in the national network of Age Friendly communities, the RVRC and the RVRC Area Agency on Aging will actively engage older adults in our planning processes and programs, establish needed resolutions to become age-friendly, and develop an action plan that responds to needs identified by older adults within River Valley communities. This plan will have measurable thresholds with quantifiable results, will be reviewed regularly, and will have outcomes reported publicly.

We look forward to joining AARP Georgia and its network of communities committed to allowing older residents to live rewarding, productive, and safe lives.

Sincerely,

Jerry “Pops” Barnes
City Councilor
Columbus Consolidated Government
And
Chairman
River Valley Regional Commission Council