



January 27, 2014

Mr. Bob Jackson
AARP Texas
93 San Jacinto #750
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Jackson:

On behalf of the City of Brownsville, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Texas and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities in the nation, Brownsville has over 9.9 % of the city's population that are 65 years and older based on the last U.S. Census compared to the state's average of 10.9%. Brownsville is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to aging populations. The City of Brownsville is committed to fostering a livable community that promotes health and sustain economic growth for people of all ages.

To address our changing demographics, our community has recently convened a diverse group called the Community Action Board (CAB) including executives from non-profit providers, funding agencies, policy makers, and academia. CAB has added a committee on Aging and one on Safety to have a platform to discuss issues relevant to our 50+ community. Our goal is to ensure our aging neighbors, as well as our youngest members, have the resources to be healthy, independent and integrated into community life.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the City of Brownsville to:

- Include the active engagement of older adults.
- Secure a council resolution to work toward becoming age-friendly.
- Establish a Plan of Action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community.
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

We look forward to working with AARP Texas Staff and volunteers to ensure our community has the appropriate infrastructure in place so we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,

Antonio (Tony) Martinez
Mayor

City of Brownsville

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