

May 15, 2015

Mr. Will Phillips
AARP Minnesota State Director
30 E. 7th Street, Suite 1200
St. Paul MN 55101

Dear Mr. Phillips:

On behalf of the City of Minneapolis, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Minnesota and the World Health Organization (WHO) to be designated as an Age Friendly Community. Minneapolis is committed to promoting policies, allocating resources and fostering collaborative efforts that support the City of Minneapolis as an Age Friendly Community.

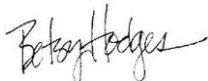
The City of Minneapolis is an ever growing community and over a quarter of the population is age 50 and older. Residents of the City of Minneapolis are living longer and healthier lives and as a result the desire for residents to remain in their communities is strong. The City of Minneapolis is committed to maintaining an aged-balanced population that can withstand the shift in demographics.

Minneapolis has already taken steps to create an Age Friendly Community and in October 2013, the Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution to adopt the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy. This strategy was developed with input from the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging, along with multiple jurisdictions and disciplines over a 10 month period. There was also input from over 11 community engagement sessions that honed the goals to ensure the plan captured the needs and desires of Minneapolis residents.

Minneapolis will continue to conduct research to identify best practices, community needs, gaps and opportunities. We will work with other city departments, local and state jurisdictions, and community stakeholders on implementation and evaluation of the plan. The Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging is a resident committee comprised of experienced adults, age 50 and older representing all 13 wards of the city and 4 members at large. This committee now oversees the implementation and evaluation of the Minneapolis for a Lifetime plan and the future action steps as they unfold as a result of the partnership with AARP and the World Health Organizations Age Friendly Communities model and resources.

We look forward to the partnership with Minnesota AARP, its members and volunteers to support the work of the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy and the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging.

Sincerely,



Mayor Betsy Hodges
City of Minneapolis

