

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL



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Gerald Cohen
AARP
State Director, Oregon
9200 SE Sunnybrook Blvd.,
Suite 410
Clackamas, OR 97015

December 8, 2014

Dear Mr. Cohen:

On behalf of the community of Springfield, Oregon, I am writing to let you know of our city's interest in applying for the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities designation.

The city of Springfield is known throughout the state of Oregon being a progressive city while maintaining a special 'Hometown Feel' that our residents respect and enjoy. Along with our community's award winning park and recreation district, we provide a wealth of opportunities for young and old. We are a walkable and bike friendly community. Our downtown is going through a renaissance and we are finding seniors are especially pleased with the opportunities such as our 2nd Friday Artwalks and weekly Farmers' Markets that allow them to participate in the positive aspects of our community.


We are excited about this opportunity and feel that a partnership with AARP and the establishment of a Citizens Advisory Committee for active engagement of older adults will be a positive boost for our community.

AARP Oregon has done an assessment of Eugene Springfield and identified many of the strengths and weaknesses of the community in "The Road to Livability Study" from 2013 <http://www.aarp.org/home-family/livable-communities/info-11-2013/road-to-livability-survey-eugene-springfield-regis-voters-50plus.html> This will serve as the community's baseline research.

The AARP Lane County Volunteers (11 older adults) will engage with the City as they develop their action plan and see out the counsel of the Lane Senior & Disability Services advisory committee as well. This initial group will convene while a dedicated advisory committee is developed who can work with the county on the action plan.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to a long partnership.

Sincerely,


Christine L. Lundberg
Springfield Mayor