



Office of the Mayor
Mayor Tom Bates

August 23, 2016

Nancy McPherson, State Director
AARP California
1415 L Street, Suite 960
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. McPherson:

As Mayor of the city of Berkeley, I am writing to endorse Berkeley becoming a member in AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities. I welcome AARP's partnership and support as we move Berkeley into the World Health Organizations Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.


I have been involved for many years in Berkeley's efforts to create improved conditions for aging in place, and in working across our community to create a stronger network of support. While previously serving in the Assembly, I championed turning Redwood Gardens into senior living after the School of the Deaf closed. My efforts to secure funding for affordable housing developments for seniors continued once I became Mayor of Berkeley. One such example is the Mabel Howard Apartments, which were designed to have a health clinic on the ground level with senior housing on top.

Berkeley is already moving on multiple fronts toward becoming Age-Friendly. We have designed and gained initial funding to create and implement what we call the Berkeley Age-Friendly Continuum. The Continuum is a collaboration across aging resources and services and health plans that will provide an integrated and comprehensive approach to aging in community, with the goal of maximizing older adults' independence and quality of life. We have secured \$150,000 - of which the city of Berkeley contributed \$25,000 to supply a local match, to conduct a 9-month research study, which includes an environmental scan and assessment of senior services. We are hoping to create a replicable city-wide model of linkages across all the types of resources and supports that older adults can connect to when needed. The Continuum will leverage existing resources and address key gaps as they become evident, such as transportation, housing and geriatric case management. The City of Berkeley also has a successful Aging Services Division, which supports the quality of life for seniors in Berkeley through meals on wheels, transportation services, senior center program offerings and overall compressive case management services.

In addition to being a community leader, I am an aging adult and I see the importance of this work on multiple levels. I am committed to Berkeley being an innovative leader in the field of aging with the help of the civically engaged older adults within our community. This city has a history of rallying together diverse cultures, communities and generations, along with nonprofits and businesses to fight for the common good of the citizens. Our rich and diverse population makes Berkeley a unique laboratory to move the needle of aging standards forward.

Our current efforts, and those of the past years, are timely and vital to me and my team as we create a healthier and flourishing city. We are excited to have this opportunity to join in AARP's efforts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Bates
Mayor, City of Berkeley