



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

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CITY MANAGER

May 4, 2016

Lori Parham
AARP Maine State Director
53 Baxter Blvd
Portland ME 04101

Dear Ms. Parham,

On behalf of the City of Augusta, I am pleased to submit this letter of interest and commitment in the AARP/World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities. The City of Augusta recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address changing demographics and to enhance independent living, and is committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging.

To this end I have recently announced the formation of an Age Friendly Community Advisory Committee. I have appointed Bob MacDougall to serve as chair of this group.

As part of our involvement and commitment we will conduct a base assessment of the community's age-friendliness and develop a community action plan based on the findings of the assessment. We will involve older residents deeply in the planning process and we commit to monitoring progress toward implementing the action plan.

Sincerely,

David M. Rollins

DMR/ljl

Copy: William Bridgeo, City Manager

Enclosure: Membership Application



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email me@aarps.org or call 866-554-5380
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 5/4/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Augusta

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 19,136 (Census 2010)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 25%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor David Rollins

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Augusta City Center, 16 Cony Street, Augusta, Maine 04330

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

NAME: Robert MacDougall

POSITION: retired senior citizen, age friendly volunteer advocate

EMAIL ADDRESS: rmacdougall54@hotmail.com

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 207-430-8250

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

A stakeholder committee chaired by Robert MacDougall will lead a volunteer effort to make the City of Augusta a more Age-Friendly Community.

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

Augusta is a full-service city. It currently has senior programming through the Department of Community Services. Spectrum Generations provides many services in the community, including meals on wheels. Kennebec Valley CAP provides transportation services. The city has several senior housing complexes and a compact walkable downtown together with a 4 community collaboraion for a Kennebec River Rail Trail system. The 2007 Augusta Comprehensive Plan sets out a vision to be attractive to young and old alike by setting goals to improve our compact walkable neighborhoods, enhance our recreation opportunities, continue to be a hub for health care and medical services, work with the University of Maine at Augusta to continue to be a leader in serving the state's non-traditional students, provide a top quality library and services to library patrons, access to all levels of government, and many others. That commitment has been repeated and acted on numerous occations by the City Council through policies and actions ranging from long term leases and financial assistance to convert two former schools to senior housing to constructing a new state of the art library to improving trails, sidewalks, and recreational oportunitites important to Augusta's seniors.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

This effort includes an inventory and assessment of available resources for seniors in the community. We will include and seek input from the various older Augusta residents and community stakeholders who serve our senior population. AARP will conduct a survey of Augusta residents over 50, which will provide additional information. The volunteers will conduct a community conversation to see how the community can more fully and effectively meet the needs of an aging population. The results of the community discussions/inventory/community survey will be discussed with members of the public and reviewed by a steering committee dedicated to the goal of developing an action plan to make Augusta a more Age-Friendly Community. From this information a draft action plan will be drafted identifying opportunities for improvement, with identification of short term as well as long range goals. Additionally the media outreach efforts through our local access cable channel, email lists, web site, and many points of contact with local officials will focus efforts on getting additional feedback from seniors on their wants and needs to make Augusta the best place in the region for seniors to live.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

We plan to develop through our inventory process, focus groups, and community survey a compendium of available community resources and services. We will share this information with the City and service providers who are already providing many services, and we will consider whether new volunteer initiatives are needed. We hope to be able to put community resources in place through a coordination of current resources, implementing the services currently not available and mobilization of volunteers eager to make a difference in their community to improve the functional status of older adults.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

We believe that by addressing the eight guidelines for what constitutes an Age-Friendly Community, we will identify the needs within Augusta and address those needs through our proposed process. We will join the ranks of other cities identified by the AARP as Age Friendly Communities and participate in the Maine age-friendly learning community and share information with others pursuing the program. . We hope to be an example of a successful program, as well as being a resource for other communities who are also looking to become Age-Friendly.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

We believe it is the perfect time to implement age-friendly policies at a time Maine is aging rapidly. The needs of this growing segment of our population could outstrip current resources if our approach is not optimized. We plan to exploit this opportunity as we all move forward together in making Augusta a more Age-Friendly Community.

6) Please provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >



Click here to paste the JPEG image or the link to one.