



January 6, 2016

SARA CARLSON, Mayor

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

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704 Broadway
Alexandria, MN 56308
(320) 763-6678
Fax (320) 763-3511
Internet Website:
ci.alexandria.mn.us

Dear Mr. Phillips:

As Mayor of the City of Alexandria, I am honored to submit this letter of support and commitment to both AARP and the World Health Organization. The City's long-standing engagement with and dedication to our aging population will be enhanced by recognition as an Age-Friendly Community, if such membership might be granted.

Alexandria is a rapidly growing micropolitan (the fastest growing such community in Minnesota in 2013, and the sixth fastest growing in the nation that year) located in the lakes area of West Central Minnesota. Our population of 13,182 persons includes a cohort of 32.5% aged 55 and older, which is expected to grow by 2.2% between 2015 and 2020. To serve this significant demographic, which the City has been planning for since the mid-1990's, we have created and implemented City policies to support public transportation, services for the elderly such as Meals on Wheels and home health care, and the continued maintenance of available housing of both independent and housing-with-services types. The City provides direct funding to the Alexandria Senior Center, and offers delayed or deferred assessments to seniors for the costs of public improvement projects, which allows many seniors to stay in their homes and still benefit from new water, storm drainage and other public improvements.

City elected officials and staff have been happily engaged in the local volunteer Task Force which is leading the effort to gain status as an Age-Friendly Community. It is our intention and commitment to continue to foster and implement plans and policies which serve the many and varied needs of our older residents in order that they may continue to contribute to the vitality and diversity of our community.

Thank you for your consideration of membership of the City of Alexandria to AARP's and the World Health Organization's network of Age-Friendly Communities. We will be proud to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Sara Carlson
Mayor