

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2016-083  
SUPPORTING APPLICATION INTO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)  
AND AARP'S NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES  
INITIATIVE

- WHEREAS, the global population of people aged 60 and over is expected to grow from 600 million in 2000 to almost 2 billion by 2050; and
- WHEREAS, in the United States, the population of people aged 65 and over is expected to grow from 35 million in 2000 to 88.5 million by 2050, taking the total share of the 65 and over population from 12 percent to 20 percent of the total population; and
- WHEREAS, the rapid aging of Minnesota's population is not only going to impact our economy and communities, it will touch the lives of virtually every person in our state; and
- WHEREAS, by 2030 in Minnesota 1 in 4 residents are projected to be age 65+; and
- WHEREAS, in 2015, 9,732 people in Rice County were age 65+; and
- WHEREAS, the number of people age 65+ in Rice County is projected to almost double by 2035 to 18,092.
- WHEREAS, the City of Northfield has been recognized as one of the Best Places to Retire in *Money Magazine* and by other organizations; and
- WHEREAS, research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age; and
- WHEREAS, access to quality health care and long-term services and supports is essential for individuals to live in their homes and communities; and
- WHEREAS, of the 80 percent of adults 65 and older living in metropolitan areas, 64 percent live outside principal cities of these areas in suburban locations that tend to be auto-dependent, creating challenges for residents who do not drive; and
- WHEREAS, 21 percent of adults age 65 and older do not drive, and more than half of these non-drivers do not leave home on a given day, in part because they lack transportation options; and
- WHEREAS, reduced mobility for older non-drivers leads to 15 percent fewer trips to the doctor, 59 percent fewer shopping trips and visits to restaurants, and 65 percent fewer trips for social, family and religious activities; and
- WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities to encourage and promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older Americans; and

WHEREAS, active aging is a life-long process, whereby an age-friendly community is not just “elder friendly” but also intended to be friendly for all ages; and

WHEREAS, the WHO has developed eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life of older people:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings - accessibility to and availability of clean, safe community centers, parks, and other recreational facilities;
2. Transportation - safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation, “Complete Streets” types of initiatives, hospitable built environments;
3. Housing - wide range of housing options for older residents, aging in place and other home modification programs, housing that is accessible to transportation and community and health services;
4. Social participation - access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for older residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people;
5. Respect and social inclusion - programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity, programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue, programs to combat loneliness and isolation among older residents; and
6. Civic participation and employment - promotion of paid work and volunteer opportunities for older residents; opportunities for older residents to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives; 3
7. Communication and information - promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far; and
8. Community support and health services - access to homecare services, clinics, programs to promote active aging (physical exercise and healthy habits), and

WHEREAS, numerous community stakeholders have committed to join as partners of *Age Friendly Northfield* such as Northfield Hospital and Clinics, Northfield Senior Center, Northfield Retirement Community, Three Links, Northfield Chamber of Commerce and likely many more; and


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The City of Northfield hereby supports initiatives and opportunities to engage in the WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network including formal membership application.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2016.

Attest:

  
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City Clerk

  
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Mayor

VOTE:     Y GRAHAM   Y DELONG   Y LUESCHER   Y NAKASIAN  
              Y PETERSON   Y WHITE   Y POWNELL   Y ZWEIFEL