



Proclamation

Be It Known That: I, Daniel Rivera, Mayor of the City of Lawrence and on behalf of the residents of the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts by and through this **PROCLAMATION**, hereby support initiatives and opportunities to engage in the World Health Organization Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network and hereby state as follows:

Whereas: The global population of people aged 60 and over is expected to grow from 600 million 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 to 88.5 million by 2050, taking the total share of the 65+ population from 12 percent to 20 percent of the total population. In Lawrence, Massachusetts, 12.8% of the population is 60 years of age or older; **and**

Whereas: Research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. Access to quality health care and long-term services and support 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 the principal cities of these areas in suburban locations that tend to be auto-dependent, creating challenges for residents who do not drive. 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 WHO has developed a Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and 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 by developing these eight domains of community life; Outdoor spaces and buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social participation, Respect and social inclusion, Civic participation and employment, Communication and information, and Community support and health services.

Now Therefore: I, Daniel Rivera, Mayor of the City of Lawrence and on behalf of the residents of the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts recognize the existing efforts to promote and expand age-friendly communities in the City of Lawrence, and do hereby support the Complete Streets Policy adopted in 2015 and the Healthy Active Living Resolution adopted in 2014. Further, I will, through the City of Lawrence Mayor's Health Task Force and the City of Lawrence Council on Aging, convene a multi-stakeholder group that includes elders, to actively plan and assess the eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life of older people and develop strategies to facilitate active aging in Lawrence.

Furthermore: I set my hand and affix the Seal of the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts this 15th day of June, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Daniel Rivera
Mayor

