



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 17, 2017

Ms. Teresa Arnold  
AARP South Carolina State Director  
1201 Main Street Suite 1720  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Arnold,

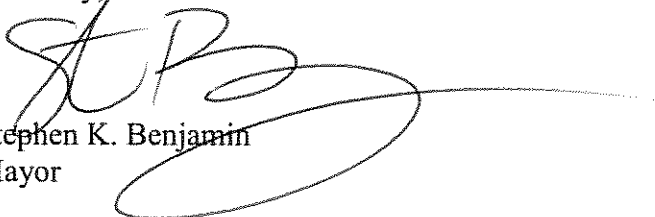
On behalf of the City of Columbia, we are excited for the opportunity to join AARP South Carolina and the World Health Organization to become an Age-Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities in the nation, Columbia is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to aging populations.

With one out of every ten residents over the age of 65, it is the City of Columbia's goal to promote affordable housing, pedestrian friendly complete streets and a city center where you can live, work and play within a multi-generational community. As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the City of Columbia to:

- Secure a City Council proclamation to work toward becoming age-friendly
- Identify stakeholders among City staff and educate them on the areas where Columbia can improve our essential features of an age-friendly city
- Commit to publicly reporting our target areas and progress towards age-friendly goals

We look forward to working with AARP South Carolina staff and volunteers to ensure our community has the appropriate infrastructure in place so we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,



Stephen K. Benjamin  
Mayor



City of Columbia  
A Proclamation of a Community for All Ages

*WHEREAS, A significant portion of Columbia's population is aging, and aging population affects all – as individuals and as a civil society; and*

*WHEREAS, As Columbia residents stay healthier and active longer, Columbia is committed to adapting to the needs of changing demographics to serve the interests of South Carolinians and sustain economic and social vitality; and*

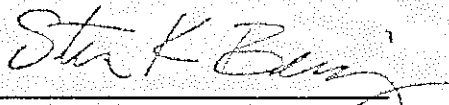
*WHEREAS, An age-friendly Columbia commitment encourages active aging by optimizing opportunities for health for residents of all ages; and*

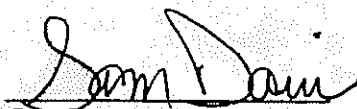
*WHEREAS, Where we choose to live and our physical, social and cultural environments greatly impact how we live, and all South Carolina communities play a critical role in helping residents live longer and better; and*


*WHEREAS, Columbia is taking a lead on addressing the question for all South Carolina communities on how businesses, governments, nonprofits and individuals will respond to changing needs for health care, housing, transportation, food and other essentials; and*

*WHEREAS, On March 24, 2017, Governing Magazine and AARP are convening in Columbia, one of the first of four communities in the nation to host a statewide roundtable discussion on the kinds of policies and programs needed to foster innovation to create communities for all ages across the state.*

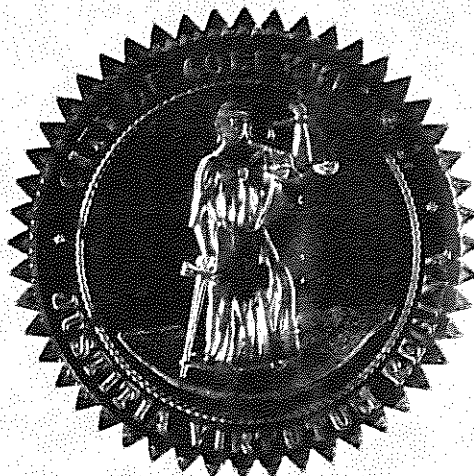
*NOW THEREFORE, I, Stephen K. Benjamin, Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim the City of Columbia as a city committed to promoting, creating and sustaining communities for all ages.*

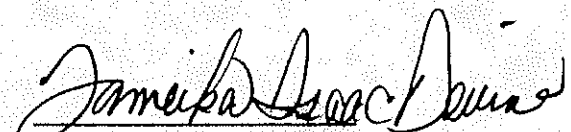
  
Stephen K. Benjamin  
Mayor


  
Sam Davis  
District I, Council Member

  
Howard E. Duvall, Jr.  
At-Large, Council Member

  
Daniel Rickenmann  
District IV, Council Member



  
Tameika Isaac Devine  
At-Large, Council Member

  
Edward H. McDowell, Jr.  
District II, Council Member