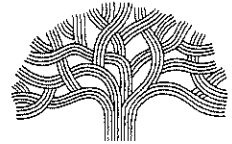


CITY OF OAKLAND



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Office of the Mayor
Honorable Libby Schaaf

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September 4, 2018

Rafi Nazarians
Associate State Director
AARP California
200 S Los Robles Avenue, #400
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Rafi,

I am pleased to express the City of Oakland's interest in pursuing admission into the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP's Network of Livable Communities. Focusing on an age-friendly community is a sensible and economical way for Oakland to plan for tomorrow, while also addressing the present well-being of our current residents.

While aging is the focus of a livable Oakland effort, services and improvements which address the needs of older citizens will also benefit everyone, including families, youth, and individuals with disabilities, whether it's curb ramps for wheelchairs or strollers, affordable housing for multigenerational families, or automatic doors for people with limited mobility or an armful of groceries. Oakland is the largest city in Alameda County, and it is projected that in a few short years over 25% of our population will be over the age of 60; and 100,000 individuals will be over the age of 85. So, focusing on an age-friendly community is a sensible and economical way for Oakland to plan for tomorrow, while also addressing the present well-being of our current residents.

Our initiative is a groundswell movement led by our Mayor's Commission on Aging. Working with city and community based organizations; the Commission is gathering information for a grass-roots effort to work in person with communities. We will be inviting Oaklanders face to face to share what they love, what is challenging, and what would make their lives better. Thus, our process will include taking an inventory of our assets and gaps, thereby identify specific challenges and opportunities, and prioritizing tangible steps and actions that will contribute to making Oakland a Livable Community for Every Age. Finally, we will assess the results every 3-5 years, with all members intending to stay involved in the process.

I see great value in joining the AARP Livable Communities Network and I look forward to working with the AARP, our administration and volunteers and a great many stakeholders to create a plan of action that responds to the needs of Oakland residents. With our diverse neighborhoods and population. I have no doubt that Oakland will stand out and help inspire other cities to follow suit.

Thank you,

Libby Schaaf, Mayor

