

87679 Result: Adopted.

Mover: Kelly. Supporter: O'Connor.

WHEREAS:

1. The World Health Organization (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; and
2. Older adults (aged 50 and above) represent just over a quarter of the population of Grand Rapids; and
3. Research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age; and
4. The World Health Organization Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide identifies core characteristics of an age-friendly city in Eight Domains of Livability: 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; and
5. 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
6. The City of Grand Rapids has engaged older adults and others in the community through survey and community engagement events that have reached a significant number of residents and stakeholders within the City, resulting in the identification of priority age-friendly focus areas; and
7. Future master planning efforts desire to include the voices of older adults in all aspects of designing our community; becoming an Age-Friendly City helps us to learn how best to engage and involve them; and
8. The City of Grand Rapids wishes to encourage and promote public policies that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for our older residents.

RESOLVED:

1. The City of Grand Rapids supports initiatives and opportunities to engage in the WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities network of municipalities encouraging and promoting public policies supporting health aging; and

2. The Mayor is authorized to convene an Age-Friendly Advisory Council to actively seek input from diverse stakeholders and support the steps necessary to seek formal designation of the City of Grand Rapids as an Age-Friendly Community.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true transcript of the action of the City Commission of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in public session held May 1, 2018.



Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk