



CITY OF HERNANDO  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 21, 2016

Ivory L. Craig  
Associate State Director Community Outreach  
AARP Mississippi State Office  
141 Township Ave.  
Suite 302  
Ridgeland, MS 39157

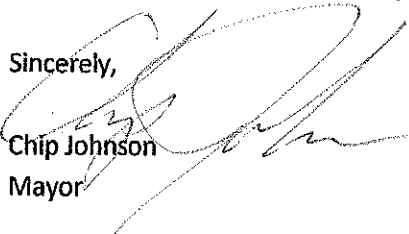
Ms. Craig,

On behalf of the City of Hernando we are delighted to have the opportunity to join the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP Mississippi to become an Age-Friendly Community. Hernando recognizes the importance of age friendly design standards and is committed to the continual improvement of active and healthy aging.

Meeting very similar goals of WHO's Age Friendly Cities and Communities Hernando is progressive about improving the quality of life for all its citizens. By helping the community get and stay healthy it was the first city in the state to be named the Healthiest Hometown (in 2010) by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. The award is given to the city in the state that is doing the most to promote a culture of health, especially via sustainable policy changes. Land developers are required to install sidewalks in all new development, including residential, commercial and industrial areas. The city has striped bike lanes and has installed signage promoting safe cycling. Other development policies, like a requirement for connected streets, makes the city more walkable and bikable. The city's design standards make the community safer and more attractive, further increasing the possibility that citizens will walk and bike.

To continue our efforts as an age friendly community we plan to collaborate with AARP and pull together members to serve on a task force focusing on seniors in our community. Potential members include AARP Mississippi, Shepherds Center, Sacred Heart Southern Missions, Hernando Parks and Recreation, Young at Heart, North Delta Area on Aging, Mississippi Department of Transportation, and other senior advocates. We look forward to working with AARP Mississippi, volunteers and stakeholders to create an action plan that meets the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

  
Chip Johnson  
Mayor

475 West Commerce Street, Hernando, MS 38632