

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-35

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WHO AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES NETWORK OF MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, the global population of people aged 60 and over is expected to grow from 600 million in 2000 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 in 2000 to 88.5 million by 2050, taking the total share of the 65+ population from 12 percent to 20 percent of the total population; and

WHEREAS, research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age; and

WHEREAS, access to quality health care and long-term services and supports 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 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 residents; and

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, the City of Laramie has been recognized as a retirement destination (cite source) and currently 20% (????) of its residents are older than 60; and

WHEREAS, the WHO has noted that “making cities and communities age-friendly is one of the most effective policy approaches for responding to demographic for responding to demographic aging,” and

WHEREAS, the WHO has developed eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life of older people:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings- accessibility to and availability of clean, safe community centers, parks and other recreational facilities;

2. Transportation- safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation, "Complete Streets" types of initiatives, hospitable built environments;
3. Housing- wide range of housing options for older residents, aging in place and other home modifications programs, housing that is accessible to transportation and community and health services;
4. Social participation- access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for older residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people;
5. Respect and social inclusion- programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity. Programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue, programs to combat loneliness and isolation amount older residents;
6. Civic participation and employment- promotion of paid work and volunteer opportunities for older residents; opportunities for older residents to engage in formulation 9of policies relevant to their lives;
7. Communication and information- promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far; and
8. Community support and health services- access to home care services, clinics, programs to promote active aging (physical exercise and health habits); and

WHEREAS, the WHO recognizes that cities and communities have different needs, resources and varying capacities to engage their resources to take action to facilitate active aging:

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF LARAMIE RESOLVES:

- 1) City of Laramie 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.
- 2) Laramie City Council encourages participation from all interested communistic organizations and community members, ensuring a diverse and inclusive collaboration representative of the Laramie community.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ day of April 2018.

Andi Summerville, Mayor and President of the
Laramie City Council

Attest:

Angie Johnson, City Clerk