



City of La Junta
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July 16, 2019

Mr. Roberto Rey, Associate State Director
AARP Colorado
303 E. 17th Ave, Suite 510
Denver Colorado 80206

Dear Mr. Rey,

On behalf of the Leadership Team at City of La Junta, Colorado, please accept our appreciation at the opportunity to join with AARP Colorado, the World Health Organization, and Colorado's own Lifelong Colorado initiative. As a member city in the region of Rural Southeast Colorado, we are excited about the opportunity to begin the processes in our own city as well as the neighboring communities to make our region a truly outstanding place to create opportunities to be more Age Friendly and Livable for our increasing number of older Coloradans.

Through the use of AARPs livability index, and the 7 domains of livability, the City of La Junta received a livability score of 49. There is significant work to be done in the domains of opportunity, health and environment. While the other 4 domains are above average in category scores, there is still work to be done. By using the livability index tool kits, this work is clearly defined and work is already being accomplished to make our community more livable and age friendly.

One of the first processes that have already been accomplished is the appointment to the City Council of a Senior Aging Advisor. This outstanding leader, Dawn Block, is part of an already engaged team of leaders that will participate in multiple levels of engagement throughout the community including the AAA Regional Advisory Council, La Junta Housing Authority Board, the La Junta Health Service District, senior centers, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

Through the participation with the Regional Area Agency on Aging, the next 4 year plan is being completed and includes regional guidance to implement measures through collaborative efforts to increase livability in all 7 domains of the livability index. The collaborative efforts of leadership at all levels will ensure the focus is specific and directed towards the elements identified as needing engagement. In La Junta specifically, our continued efforts at the La Junta Senior Center will create

opportunities for civic and social multicultural engagement, access to life, work and play, and planning for health care structures.

Through the use of intake, referral, engagement and follow-up with appropriate software programming and printed product feedback mechanisms, the reality of progress will be easily measured and adjusted in a timely fashion to ensure the appropriateness of the strategic plan and its goals. The placement of strategic partners on specific boards will ensure the desires and needs of our aging population are heard and attended to in a highly effective manner.

Please feel free to contact me directly at my cell at (719) 980-1816 for any future opportunity in which I can offer my support to these outstanding programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffri Pruyne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffri Pruyne, Mayor
City of La Junta