



April 2, 2019

Mr. Jeff Johnson, AARP Florida State Director  
400 Carillon Parkway, Suite 100  
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am pleased to submit our request for the City of Orlando to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. We look forward to joining progressive communities throughout the country, who are committed to making our cities inviting to aging populations. Our goal of ensuring that Orlando, The City Beautiful, is diverse, inclusive and welcoming to all is definitely compatible with AARP's age friendly initiative.

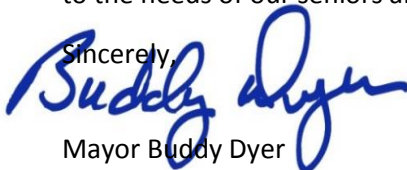
According to the American Communities Survey 2017 (5-year estimate), 20% of Orlando's population is age 50+. Not only does this age group make up a significant portion of our population, they also play an essential role in our city as a pool of untapped talent and resources, and a driving force behind economic and social innovation.

When I began my administration 16 years ago, we established the Mayor's Committee on Aging, which focuses on the needs of our senior citizens. In addition to establishing this senior advisory committee, our city has a proven track record of working to address the livability needs of these residents:

- The City's Land Development Code was modified to allow accessory dwelling units of up to 500 square feet. A few months ago, developers broke ground on a \$23.5 million affordable senior apartment community. Over 75% of Orlando Housing Authority's 6,141 rental units are located in the city.
- We have three fully equipped senior centers and seven community centers offering a wide range of lifelong recreational activities and specialty programming for seniors to socialize, exercise and learn.
- Our commuter rail and free downtown bus systems provide reliable transportation to visitors and residents, including seniors, allowing easy access to a wide range of services.
- The city has a 50-acre botanical garden, 111 parks, 43 miles of urban trails and 134 miles of bicycle lanes providing additional healthy transportation alternatives.
- The University of Central Florida and Valencia State College will open their downtown campuses in August, providing seniors the ability to obtain new skills or update old ones.
- Several downtown world-class sports and entertainment venues, including the Dr. Phillip Performing Arts Centers, provide unique cultural opportunities for seniors.

As a member of AARP's Network of Age Friendly Cities Initiative, we will engage city staff, seniors and community partners—guided by our Committee on Aging—to assess our city's age-friendliness, develop an action plan based on its findings and implement age-friendly initiatives.

I believe that Orlando is well on its way to implementing best practices to ensure that we remain a vibrant, livable and safe community for resident of all ages. We welcome this opportunity to create a plan that responds to the needs of our seniors and builds upon our work to continue to be a "Community for a Lifetime."

Sincerely,  
  
Mayor Buddy Dyer