

RESOLUTION NO. 19-R-04

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A Resolution Authorizing Application to
World Health Organization
Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

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 support 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 Americans; 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, *WHO* has noted that "making cities and communities age-friendly is one of the most effective policy approaches for responding to demographic aging;" and

WHEREAS, 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, and hospitable built environments
3. **Housing** - wide range of housing options for older residents, aging in place and other home modification programs, and housing that is accessible to transportation and community and health services
4. **Social participation** - access to leisure and cultural activities and 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, and programs to combat loneliness and isolation among older residents
6. **Civic participation and employment** - promotion of paid work and volunteer opportunities for older residents and opportunities for older residents to engage in formulation of 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
8. **Community support and health services** - access to homecare services, clinics, programs to promote active aging (physical exercise and healthy habits); and

WHEREAS, 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, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Woodstock, McHenry County, Illinois supports initiatives and opportunities to engage in the *Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network of the World Health Organization*; and

BE IT ADDITIONALLY RESOLVED, that in recognition of established planning priorities and active efforts to promote and expand *Safe Routes to Schools* and *Complete Streets* initiatives; age-friendly programming at the Woodstock Opera House, Stage Left Café, Woodstock Public Library and Woodstock Recreation Center; the *Woodstock GREENS Community Garden*; fund transportation improvements including construction of the *5-Points Round-About*, new *Warming Shelter* at the train station, *Relocation of the Union Pacific/METRA Railyard* to Woodstock resulting in an expanded METRA train schedule, and *Widening of Illinois Route 47* through Woodstock for enhanced safety and access, the City Council embraces the goals and precepts of age-friendly communities as established by the World Health Organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to 1) apply to the World Health Organization for designation as a member of the *Global Network of*

Age-Friendly Cities and Communities; 2) convene a *Woodstock Community Elders Advisory Board*, composed of a minimum of twenty-five percent age 65+ residents of the community and the remainder of diverse stake-holders; 3) evaluate opportunities to engage in the *WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities*; and 4) actively engage in initiatives to promote membership and the fulfillment of established programs and goals.

APPROVED and ADOPTED, by the City Council of the City of Woodstock, McHenry County, Illinois this 19th day of March, 2019.

AYES: Larson, Prindiville, Tebo, Turner, Mayor Sager

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENTEES: Hart, Saladin



Mayor Brian Sager, Ph.D.

Attest:



Cindy Smiley, City Clerk

By Chief Deputy City Clerk Jane Howie

(SEAL)