

August 15, 2019

Kimberly Bishop
Associate State Director of AARP
309 N. Washington Square
Suite 110
Lansing, MI 48933

To whom it may concern;

The City of Jackson is committed to addressing the needs of our aging community and continuing to realize its vision of offering an age friendly community to all those who seek it. Senior populations are a community that is overlooked in the national political conversation. Local communities have a responsibility to ensure that residents who are a part of this community are properly served and provided for. Residents over the age of 60 make up over 15 percent of Jackson's population and during my time as Mayor for the City of Jackson, City Council and I have furthered our commitment to the health, wellness, and wellbeing of this growing community.

In 2017 Jackson City Council was able to successfully pass a nondiscrimination ordinance which bars businesses and service providers from discriminating on the basis of age. The City has consistently supported economic development that serves this underrepresented community. Recently developers have broken ground on two senior housing complexes in the heart of Jackson's urban core. This will ensure that our aging community is in close proximity to the essential services they might need such as healthcare centers or libraries and are able to enjoy full participation in downtown activities and events. The City of Jackson has also prioritized connecting its local trails and sidewalks making Jackson more accessible by increasing both pedestrian mobility and ADA accessibility.

Joining the network of Age Friendly Communities would allow Jackson to continue our work to support and implement strategies for this population. Jackson's resolve is clear. Not only do we offer valuable services and an accessible city, but we fight to ensure that no resident is discriminated by virtue of when they were born.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Dobies', written over a large, stylized, and somewhat illegible scribble.

Derek Dobies
Mayor

DD: JW