

**County of Orangeburg Resolution
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 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 ageing and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older Americans; and

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

WHEREAS, the WHO has developed eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life of older people: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community support and health services; 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 ageing;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Orangeburg County Council do hereby support initiatives and opportunities to engage in the WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network. In recognition of existing efforts to promote and expand age friendly communities in the County of Orangeburg, Orangeburg County Council do hereby support the efforts of the One Orangeburg County Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Orangeburg County Council direct the One Orangeburg County Initiative to convene a task force to evaluate opportunities to engage in the WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The task force shall actively seek input from diverse stakeholders. At least twenty five percent of the task force members shall be residents of the community and shall include older residents.

ADOPTED this 15th day of April, 2019.



ATTEST:

Connie N. Portee
Clerk to County Council

ORANGEBURG COUNTY COUNCIL

Johnnie Wright, Sr., Chairman
Council District Number