



April 13, 2020

Dana Kennedy
Arizona State Director
AARP Arizona
7250 North 16th Street, Suite 302
Phoenix, AZ 85020

Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

On behalf of the City of Tempe, I offer this letter to ensure our commitment to creating an age-friendly environment. We are eager to join AARP's Age-Friendly Communities network and believe as a city we are well-positioned to advance our efforts to achieve a livable community. What we know is that our community is rapidly aging and that people of all ages will benefit from the adoption of policies and programs that make neighborhoods walkable, highlight our multi-modal transportation options, enable seamless access to key services, enhance participation in community activities, and support housing that is affordable and adaptable. Working toward an Age-Friendly Tempe designation will accelerate our successes by creating opportunities for collaborative discussions that align with City Council's strategic priorities to actualize safe & secure communities; strong community connections; enhance quality of life; create sustainable growth & development; and, maintain long-term financial stability and vitality.

As the City of Tempe moves toward the formation of an Age-Friendly Action Plan, we are interested in evaluating existing efforts in our community that support healthy aging, identifying gaps and barriers that prohibit residents from aging in place, while evaluating it from the perspective of the community's lived experience. We are interested in a sustainable community that is well-designed for healthy development of residents of all ages. It is tremendously helpful to gain access to the AARP's Eight Domains of Livability and the Age-Friendly Communities network to learn from the best practices of like-minded communities.

As a participant in the AARP and the World Health Organization Age-Friendly Community it is the intent of the City of Tempe to:

1. Pursue the active engagement of older adults in the planning process through outreach and inclusion by bringing the age-friendly conversation to older people where they live and recreate.
2. Coordinate inclusive conversations with internal and external stakeholders who are strategically in line with creating a livable community.
3. Establish a plan of action that responds to the needs identified by community members, specifically older adults.
4. Develop a means to measure our activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and plans to determine we are meeting our goals.
5. Create an awareness campaign to make sure our community is well informed throughout the process.

We look forward to working with AARP staff, members and volunteers to enhance the quality of life for all Tempe residents.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark W. Mitchell'.

Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor