Mr. Jeff Johnson, AARP Florida State Director
AARP - Florida
360 Central Ave, Suite 1750
St. Petersburg FL 33701

June 18, 2020

RE: AARP Network of AGE Friendly Communities

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of Collier County FL, I am pleased to submit our request to join the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities. Collier County recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address changing demographics, to enhance independent living and is committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging and sustain economic and social vitality.

Collier County is pleased to partner with the Leadership Coalition on Aging (LCA), an inter-agency coalition made up of 90 independent advocates specializing in senior issues. LCA is providing services in more than 50 local organizations daily including charities, corporate entities and governmental agencies. LCA will manage the overall coordination of this effort.

As a member of AARP’s Network of Age Friendly Cities Initiative, Collier County will engage county staff, seniors and community partners—guided by the LCA—to assess our county’s age-friendliness, develop an action plan based on its findings, and implement age-friendly initiatives.

We have developed a strong foundation to build upon in addressing the World Health Organization’s eight domains that help influence the health and quality of life of older people. We look forward to joining this global network of communities committed to giving their older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, productive and safe lives.

Sincerely,

Burt L. Saunders
Board of Collier County Commissioners, Chair
District 3 Commissioner
May 30, 2020

To: Collier County Board of County Commissioners

As the Community Liaison at Avow Hospice, and a member of the Leadership Coalition on Aging’s Steering Committee, I would like to offer my support for establishing Collier County as an Age Friendly County in conjunction with the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. This initiative has helped many communities throughout Florida and the nation collaborate to ensure assistance to seniors who live in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

In my roles at Avow Hospice and the Leadership Coalition on Aging, I work with professionals and volunteers to enhance quality of life for seniors. Both agencies develop programs to meet the needs of our seniors, who comprise approximately a third of our population. We also are ‘connectors,’ helping seniors to learn about the many resources available to them in our community. Being involved with the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities could help many of the groups in our community focus more fully on supporting seniors. It could also increase the number of professionals and volunteers working towards the common goal of improving the quality of life of our growing elder population.

The AARP Age Friendly Network addresses many areas that affect seniors’ quality of life such as community and health services, housing, transportation, and social participation. Although this initiative is identified as “Age Friendly” it also focuses on improving the quality of life for “All Ages.” Please join me in supporting the application to establish Collier County as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

Sincerely,

Mark Beland
Mark Beland
Avow Hospice Community Liaison

(239) 261-4404
(888) 484-AVOW

www.avowcares.org

1095 Whippoorwill Lane
Naples, FL 34105
5-22-2020

On behalf of Barrington Terrace of Naples, we are pleased to offer this letter of support to the ongoing effort towards creating an inclusive livable community. Barrington Terrace recognizes the importance of encouraging and implementing age-friendly planning and policies that will promote independent and purposeful living, support active, healthy lifestyles and sustain economic and social vitality.

Barrington Terrace sees great value in the AARP Age Friendly Network and is excited to begin establishing Collier County as an Age Friendly County alongside the State and other Florida communities. In preparing for the rapidly growing aging population, Barrington Terrace is committed to fostering partnerships among organizations to offer support systems and services that will allow all ages and abilities to live full productive lives by improving accessibility to transportation and housing; ensuring adequate medical services and preventive services to allow older adults to remain healthy and age in place successfully; providing activities that address all dimensions of wellness, as well as ensuring social participation and inclusion within the community.

We are committed to providing the necessary support to allow our residents to age with dignity. We look forward to working with local partners, the AARP of Florida representative, volunteers and stakeholders to create a plan of action that reflects the needs of our community. The plan will include improvements to the ways the Collier County recognizes and meets the needs of older adults. Well-designed, livable communities help sustain economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages.

Barrington Terrace has been the leader in providing First Responder dementia education and virtual dementia experiences to over 800 of Collier County's Fire and EMS professionals. This training has helped the First Responders recognize signs of dementia in older adults that they encounter in the community. In addition, specialized approaches were taught to attendees to ensure that the older adults who have cognitive impairment are treated with understanding and dignity. We are committed to doubling our education efforts among First Responders and other healthcare providers by the end of 2020. These efforts help support the county-wide initiative to pursue the AARP Age Friendly designation.

Sincerely,

Tammy DeCaro
Executive Director
June 10, 2020

Dear Collier County Board of County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Florida Department of Health in Collier County (DOH-Collier), we are pleased to offer this letter of support for Collier County to join the AARP Age-Friendly Network. In preparation for the rapidly growing aging population in Collier County, DOH-Collier sees great value in Collier County joining the AARP Age Friendly Network and is excited to be a part of establishing Collier County as an Age Friendly County. DOH-Collier is committed to fostering partnerships among organizations to offer support systems and services that will ensure the places where we live, work, and play are accessible to all ages and abilities. We take pride in the current initiatives already established in our county, and will use this designation to further support older adults to live full, productive lives.

DOH-Collier supports promoting successful aging and improving the quality of life for all residents. There is great value in utilizing the AARP’s Eight Domains of Livability in establishing a more age-friendly county; making outdoor spaces and buildings more older adult friendly, increasing accessibility and affordability of transportation and housing, increasing access and opportunities for social participation and inclusion through programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, supporting work and volunteer opportunities, access to communication and information and supporting the ability of older adults to age in place through community support and health services.

We look forward to working with local partners, the AARP of Florida representative, volunteers, and stakeholders, to create a plan of action that reflects the needs of our community. The plan will include improvements to the ways that Collier County recognizes and meets the needs of older adults, and we commit to monitoring the progress made toward implementing and evaluating the action plan. Well-designed livable communities help sustain economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Vick, M.S. B.S.N, RN
Administrator, Florida Department of Health in Collier County
June 15, 2020

On behalf of Naples Senior Center, we are pleased to offer this letter of support to the ongoing effort toward creating an inclusive livable community. Naples Senior Center recognizes the importance of encouraging and implementing age-friendly planning and policies that will promote independent and purposeful living, support active, healthy lifestyles and sustain economic and social vitality.

Naples Senior Center sees great value in the AARP Age Friendly Network and is excited to begin establishing Collier County as an Age Friendly County alongside the State and other Florida communities. In preparing for the rapidly growing aging population, Naples Senior Center is committed to fostering partnerships among organizations to offer support systems and services that will allow all ages and abilities to live full productive lives by improving accessibility to transportation and housing; ensuring adequate medical services and preventive services to allow older adults to remain healthy and age in place successfully; providing activities that address all dimensions of wellness, as well as ensuring social participation and inclusion within the community.

We are committed to providing the necessary support to allow our residents to age with dignity. We look forward to working with local partners, the AARP of Florida representative, volunteers and stakeholders to create a plan of action that reflects the needs of our community. The plan will include improvements to the ways the Collier County recognizes and meets the needs of older adults. Well-designed, livable communities help sustain economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages.

Naples Senior Center is proud to be thought of as the “central address for senior services” in a community that values its older adults.

Thank you

Dr. Jaclynn Faffer
President / CEO
June 15, 2020

To: Collier County Board of County Commissioners

As the owner of Shifting Sands Adult Day Center and Homecare, and chair of the Leadership Coalition on Aging, I would like to offer my support for establishing Collier County as an Age Friendly County in conjunction with the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. This initiative has helped many communities throughout Florida and the nation collaborate to ensure assistance to seniors who live in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

In my role at Shifting Sands and the Leadership Coalition on Aging, I work with professionals and volunteers to enhance quality of life for seniors. Both agencies develop programs to meet the needs of our seniors, who comprise approximately a third of our population. We also are ‘connectors,’ helping seniors to learn about the many resources available to them in our community. Being involved with the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities could help many of the groups in our community focus more fully on supporting seniors. It could also increase the number of professionals and volunteers working towards the common goal of improving the quality of life of our growing elder population.

The AARP Age Friendly Network addresses many areas that affect seniors’ quality of life such as community and health services, housing, transportation, and social participation. Although this initiative is identified as “Age Friendly” it also focuses on improving the quality of life for “All Ages.” Please join me in supporting the application to establish Collier County as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

Sincerely,
Tammy Wilkinson
Tammy Wilkinson
Shifting Sands Senior Services

28410 Bonita Crossings Blvd, Suite 7
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
Phone: 239-405-7009
Fax: 239-494-1588
shiftingsandsdaycenter.com
January 3, 2020

Commissioner Dorna Fiala
Collier County
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 303
Naples, Florida 324112

Dear Commissioner Fiala:

Last April, Governor Ron DeSantis, Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom, and AARP’s CEO JoAnn Jenkins announced Florida as the fourth state in the nation to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Through this age-friendly initiative, now called Livable Florida, we are working to create Livable Communities statewide where all residents may live well and age well.

The State of Florida and the 34 member-communities comprising the Age-Friendly Network – Livable Florida, have made a commitment to improve the lives of all residents. We write today to ask you to consider joining the Age-Friendly Network and become a part of Livable Florida.

At the April announcement, Governor DeSantis said, “In Florida, we are taking tangible steps to make our state more livable for residents of all ages – especially our senior population. As our state continues to grow, we must ensure that we do all that we can to meet the needs of our residents. I am proud that Florida is leading by becoming the largest state to commit to this important effort.”

The Age-Friendly Network is a sustainable effort providing cities, towns, counties, and states with the resources to become more age-friendly by sharing national and global research, planning models, and best practices. As Florida’s population ages and people live healthier, more active, and longer lives, communities must adapt in order to meet the needs of their residents.

Ensuring Florida is a place where people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to thrive – making Florida a place all people want to call home – promotes health, sustains economic growth, and makes for happier and healthier residents.

Again, we would like for Collier County to consider joining the Age-Friendly Network and become a part of Livable Florida. If you would like to learn more about Livable Florida and our

4040 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, FL 32399-7000
Phone: (850) 414-2000 | Fax: (850) 414-2004 | TDD: (850) 414-2001
visit us at: elderaffairs.org
partnership with AARP, please visit http://www.elderaffairs.org/doca/livable_communities.php
or contact Jeanne Curtin, Director of Livable Florida, at curtini@elderaffairs.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Richard Prudom
Secretary

[Signature]
Jeanne Curtin, Esq.
Director of Livable Communities

PS — Our goal is to ensure Florida is a place where people of all ages and abilities can thrive —
making the Sunshine State a national model of where people want to call home, raise a family,
and retire. Please expect to hear from someone on the Livable Florida staff in the coming weeks.
We hope to welcome Collier County to the Age-Friendly Network and Livable Florida efforts
shortly.