

**JEFFREY LUNDE**

Mayor  
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October 26, 2020

Will Phillips  
AARP MN State Director  
1919 University Ave W, Suite 500  
St Paul, MN 55104

Dear Mr. Phillips:

As Mayor of the City of Brooklyn Park, this letter represents my personal commitment—as well as that of Brooklyn Park’s City Council, staff, and residents—to creating an age-friendly city through enrollment in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Brooklyn Park has been advancing age-friendly work for several years, and we are very pleased to formalize our commitment by becoming a network member.

We recognize the many contributions that older adults make to our community, and that cities play a highly influential role in residents’ experience of aging. Enrolling in the network will strengthen our efforts to ensure that older residents can live with dignity and autonomy, which will benefit residents of *all* ages and make our community stronger and more resilient.

Brooklyn Park has already invested significant time and energy into the learning and planning stages of this work, and in doing so has completed some of the initial steps of the network process. As a Council, we will work with staff and are committed to completing the additional phases of work. The following demonstrates our prior commitment:

- In 2014-2015, a resident-led Task Force on Aging developed a set of recommendations for City leaders on how to become a better place to grow older. In 2017-18, the City went deeper into resident engagement, conducting an extensive community needs assessment related to older residents. This also included an internal assessment of City departments’ work.
- We used learnings from our assessment to inform the creation of a recommendations report titled, [\*Becoming Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park\*](#), which was approved by the City Council.
- The Council with guidance from the recommendations within the report, asked the City Manager to work with each City department to create an initial age-friendly workplan. These will be adapted to develop a three-year action plan in accordance with network requirements and will include progress indicators that can be monitored.

We have deliberately engaged older adults in this process and will continue to do so as we work to identify the best mechanism for continued engagement as we shift into implementation. We will also continue to engage our partner organizations to ensure that this is a community-wide effort.

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We are excited to become the next Minnesota community to join the network and to contribute our own learnings to the field of age-friendly communities. We look forward to partnering with AARP on this work.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jeffrey Lunde  
Brooklyn Park, MN