



October 13, 2020

Will Phillips, State Director  
AARP Minnesota  
1919 University Avenue W #500  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Via email: [wphillips@aarp.org](mailto:wphillips@aarp.org)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

On behalf of the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota, I am proud to offer this letter of commitment to a livable, sustainable and age-friendly community, as evidenced by our enclosed application for membership in the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities. St. Cloud has a long history of service to our older citizens and we are excited to work with AARP and our partners to improve the community even more.

The City of St. Cloud's Comprehensive Plan clearly recognizes the significant growth in the number of senior citizens in our community and identifies the need to plan wisely for changing housing needs, access to health care and commercial services, mobility challenges, and the importance of a supportive social and cultural environment. We are proud of what we have accomplished already, and in what we offer; the age-friendly framework will help us focus and improve.

- **Involvement** The City has two active advisory boards that include significant numbers of members over the age of 55: the Whitney Senior Center Advisory Board and the RSVP Advisory Board; both have been active since the 1970s. Our age-friendly initiative will build on that solid base of meaningful involvement as outlined in the proposal. We have existing, strong relationships with community partners who represent, and involve, older people and we will leverage those partnerships to widen the base of involvement.
- **Assessment** The City has a long history of using regular community surveys to inform public policy and decision-making. That base will be augmented with focused surveying to identify current conditions in the community that impact people over age 55 and solicit ideas for future initiatives and policies.
- **Plan of Action** The St Cloud area is a dynamic and growing metropolitan community with an vibrant structure of public-private partnerships and inter-city collaboration. We intend to use those existing relationships to bring other organizations and institutions into the age-friendly initiative and help us construct a transformational plan of action.

- **Indicators of Success** A vital part of this process will be the development of measurable indicators of success. We will identify indicators to measure the social and physical environment as well as the effects of government and non-government sector interventions. Intentional information will be gathered by means of local data and surveys of older residents to monitor action plans and growth.

I look forward to partnering with AARP Minnesota and the members of our community to purposefully become a more Age-Friendly St Cloud.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Kleis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "K".

Dave Kleis  
Mayor, City of St. Cloud