

RESOLUTION NO. 77-2019
(As Amended)

Expressing Support of the City's Application for
Membership to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly
Cities and Communities

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization defines an age-friendly community as one that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect regardless of their age; and,

WHEREAS, active aging is a life-long process whereby an age-friendly community is not just friendly for older people, but is intended to be friendly for all ages; and,

WHEREAS, people of all ages benefit from the adoption of policies and programs that make neighborhoods walkable, feature transportation options, enable access to key services, provide opportunities to participate in community activities, and support housing options that are affordable and adaptable; and,

WHEREAS, the global population and the population of the United States of people aged 65 and older is expected to grow from 12 percent in 2000 to 20 percent of the total population in 2050; and,

WHEREAS, 20 percent of Worthington's population is currently aged 65 and older, and that number is expected to grow as we live longer and healthier lives; 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, nutritious meals, socialization, transportation services, recreational services and long-term support services is essential for individuals to age in place 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,

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WHEREAS, a network of Age-Friendly cities and communities has been developed throughout the United States to encourage and promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older Americans; and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has developed eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life of older people and are reviewed in an Age-Friendly community plan:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings – accessibility to and availability of clean, safe community centers, parks, and other recreational facilities;
2. Transportation – safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation, “Complete Streets” types of initiatives, hospitable built environments;
3. Housing – wide range of housing options for older residents, aging in place and other home modification programs, housing that is accessible to transportation and community and health services;
4. Social participation – access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for older residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people;
5. Respect and social inclusion – programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity, programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue, programs to combat loneliness and social isolation among older residents;
6. Civic participation and employment – promotion of paid work and volunteer opportunities for older residents; opportunities for older residents to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives;
7. Communication and information – promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far; and
8. Community support and health services – access to home care services, clinics, and programs to promote active aging (physical exercise and healthy habits); and,

WHEREAS, Worthington City Council identified the Age-Friendly Worthington Initiative as a high priority for 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Worthington has recognized the importance of becoming an Age-Friendly community with the identification of existing initiatives that promote age-friendly policies and opportunities; and,

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WHEREAS, cities and communities have different needs, resources, and varying capacities to engage their resources to take action to facilitate active aging, and the Age Friendly Worthington plan will be unique to this community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Municipality of Worthington, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the City supports initiatives and opportunities to engage in the Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities that encourage and promote public policies supporting healthy aging.

SECTION 2. In order to use AARP as a resource, a staff designee of the City of Worthington is hereby directed to apply to AARP to join the Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

SECTION 3. That the City of Worthington shall hereby convene the Age Friendly Worthington Initiative to actively seek input from diverse stakeholders, including older residents, to evaluate current and potential age friendly initiatives, services, and programming in our community and to develop an action plan specific to Worthington.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of Council be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book.

Adopted December 9, 2019

President of Council

Attest

Clerk of Council