



CITY OF HENDERSON
240 Water Street
P. O. Box 95050
Henderson, NV 89009-5050

July 21, 2015

Mrs. Maria Dent
AARP Nevada Associate State Director Community Outreach
5820 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 190
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Dear Mrs. Dent:

On behalf of the City of Henderson, we are excited to submit this letter of support for our city to be considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an age-friendly community through the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiatives. Henderson is committed to promoting policies to make our city friendly to aging populations.

The population of Henderson is older on average than that of the United States as a whole, with a median age of 41 compared with the national median age of 37. With 22.3% of our city's population over the age of 60, the City is committed to serving the seniors of our community and ensuring a high quality of life and self-sufficiency.

The City of Henderson has a history of providing quality recreational and housing services for its senior population. The City of Henderson currently has two senior recreation centers, The Downtown Senior Center, a 6,000 square foot facility with a fitness room, wellness area, dining room and activity room, and the Heritage Park Senior Facility, a 29,000 square-foot senior center, which offers a wide variety of programming, ranging from art and cooking classes to exercise and dance programs, in addition to social and wellness services designed to meet the needs of Henderson's active 50+ population. Additionally, senior nutrition services and help with insurance and prescription drug plans are offered and referrals are provided for programs addressing senior housing, utility assistance and senior food programs.

The Henderson Multigenerational Center and Aquatic Complex is the first of its kind in Southern Nevada. It is designed to bring people of all generations together to enjoy the benefits of recreation. From a demonstration kitchen and jogging track to an adult lounge and dance room, the facility accommodates a wide array of activities, interests and community services. Staff members enjoy working with people of all ages and help educate patrons about the importance of physical fitness. The 84,120-square-foot state-of-the-art facility also features an aquatic complex, including indoor and outdoor pools for casual and serious swimmers. Additionally, the City has many events and performances which are aimed at diverse audiences of all ages and includes three different venues: Henderson Pavilion, Henderson Events Plaza and the Henderson Convention Center.

The City also provides a well-versed mixture of housing options for our elderly and disabled population. The City has worked diligently with the private developers to offer our residents affordable active, disabled and senior communities as well as affordable long-term care facilities.

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The City of Henderson partners with the SNRHA to offer a senior public housing apartment complex and 12 affordable senior apartments and 2 affordable disabled apartment complexes. Over the next five years, the City has a goal of increasing its supply of affordable senior housing and ensuring quality housing products in desirable neighborhoods.

The City manages over \$1 million in CDBG funds and one of the goals has been to provide funding opportunities to assist seniors in maintaining self-sufficiency. In 2014 – 2015, through a partnership with Helping Hands of Henderson, 120 senior citizens were assisted with over 6,000 round-trip rides to help them maintain their independence. This community-based transportation program provides transportation assistance to seniors 60 years and older to and from medical appointments, shopping, and errands and provides assistance and deliveries to homebound clients. Another CDBG partner is Rebuilding Together, which provides year-round critical home repairs free of charge to low to moderate income homeowners who are senior, disabled or veterans including roofing repairs, HVAC, plumbing, accessibility modification, safety precautions and energy efficiency upgrades.

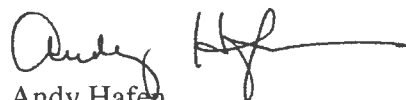
The City has recently led and managed the first-ever federally-recognized regional plan – the Southern Nevada Strong Regional Plan – which was adopted in January 2015 and offers outreach results as well as guidance for community collaboration. The City intends to utilize this guidance to ensure that the Age-Friendly Plan is a collaborative process between the City, our senior citizens, and the community agencies and departments that serve our senior community.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the City of Henderson to:

- Include the active engagement of older adults in the establishment of an Age-Friendly initiative advisory committee.
- Ensure that the World Health Organization's domains of influence are examined for local needs.
- Reach out to our aging population to develop a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of our community.
- Establish a Plan of Action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community.
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

We look forward to working with AARP in the state of Nevada, its members and volunteers, and other stakeholders to establish an advisory committee and create a plan of action that responds to the needs in the community. The City of Henderson is committed to continuing the vision of the age-friendly initiative.

Sincerely,



Andy Hafén
Mayor