



**SARASOTA COUNTY**  
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236  
phone 941-861-5344 fax 941-861-5987

February 24, 2015

Mr. Jeff Johnson  
State Director  
Florida AARP  
400 Carillon Parkway, Suite 100  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33716

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of Sarasota County Government, I am pleased to submit our request to join with AARP and the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee to become a Global Age-friendly Community (AFC) in the World Health Organization's Network of AFC's.

Sarasota County is home to one of the nation's largest proportions of older adults; one-third of our residents are age 65 and older, 40% age 60 and older, and 50% of our county is age 53 or older. Therefore, we recognize the importance of supporting healthy and active aging in the latter ages of life and the need to enhance aging well throughout our community.

The Sarasota AFC effort will be led by gerontologist Dr. Kathy Black, from the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee in partnership with staff and volunteers from AARP Florida. In addition, Sarasota County will provide administrative and logistical assistance to support this county-wide effort. The planned work has already received extensive and enthusiastic support throughout the community of stakeholders in aging, including the preeminent organizations serving seniors as well as the greater lay community.

The planning and assessment phase will:

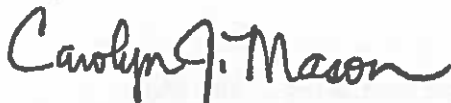
- include active involvement of older adults throughout the process;
- collect extant data to obtain perspectives from the older (age 65+) and near older adult (age 50+) populations about the following domains of livability: transportation, housing, outdoor spaces and buildings, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community supportive services; and,
- culminate in an action plan based on the synthesis and consensus of the community regarding next steps.

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Dr. Black will monitor the progress towards identified goals and provide a report regarding the outcomes at the conclusion of the 5 year cycle. Dr. Black can be reached at 941-359-4584 or [kblack@sar.usf.edu](mailto:kblack@sar.usf.edu).

We are pleased to achieve the distinction of the first Florida Global AFC and look forward to sharing our successes throughout the state. Thank you for your consideration of our membership into the WHO Global AFC Network.

Sincerely,



*(signed in her absence to avoid delay)*

Carolyn J. Mason  
Chair

C: Sarasota County Commission  
Thomas A. Harmer, County Administrator  
Charles Henry, Director, Health and Human Services, Sarasota County