

RALPH BECKER
Mayor



October 20, 2015

Mr. Alan K. Ormsby
AARP Utah State Director
6975 Union Park Center
Suite 320
Midvale, UT 84047

Dear Mr. Ormsby,

On behalf of Salt Lake City, I am pleased to apply for membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. I welcome the opportunity for our city to become part of a network promoting healthy, active lifestyles for our mature residents. Salt Lake City is committed to the values and practices of making a community livable for all. Consequently, Salt Lake City is focused on providing viable services and an engaging environment to meet the need of providing a high quality of life for our older adult population.

As the population of mature adults continues to increase, Salt Lake City recognizes the importance of providing the services and infrastructure allowing older adults to adapt to the changes of aging with dignity and independence. Many of our older residents have expressed the desire to continue living inside the familiar comfort of their own homes; others have a desire to live in the heart of an urban environment where cultural activity is easily accessible.

Salt Lake City established an interdepartmental committee to identify the needs of mature adults and carry out a work plan that coordinated with already existing resources. This led us to the launch of our Aging in Place initiative, a critical lynchpin in our overall Livability Agenda. The initiative focuses on eliminating barriers and supporting the potential challenges that may arise as our residents age. This includes accessible transportation and infrastructure, affordable housing, participation in cultural events, and an environment that supports the overall health and well-being of mature adults.

Page -2-

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In addition to ensuring the necessary services and programs, I am committed to recognizing the important role older adults play in our communities. Subsequently, a main tenet of our Aging in Place initiative focuses on the emotional and social aspect of our mature residents.

In Salt Lake City, many older adults engage in our University's Lifelong Learning Institute, safely lead children across streets through our Crossing Guard Program, and work as foster grandparents for at-risk children; programs which foster critical social bonds essential for a healthy and robust community.

I look forward to working with you to learn from others on strengthening our commitment to making our community more inclusive and supportive for all ages. Thank you for your consideration of Salt Lake City's membership in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ralph" and last name "Becker" clearly distinguishable.

Ralph Becker
Mayor
Salt Lake City