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CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

RICK KRISEMAN, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

June 15, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As the Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg, I am pleased to submit our request to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Along with other progressive communities in the country, we are committed to promoting policies to make American cities inviting to aging populations. This Age-Friendly initiative is certainly consistent with our vision of St. Petersburg as a "city of opportunity where the sun shines on all who come to live, work and play."

In addition to AARP staff, we are pleased to partner with St. Petersburg College's Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions which will provide the overall coordination of this effort. Specifically, Mr. David Klement, who is the Executive Director for this Institute, will serve as the community convener and will manage the facilitation of this process. We are also extremely fortunate to have secured the support and commitment from our city's Commission on Aging, a 15-member advisory committee chaired by Mr. Jason Martino and focused on addressing issues concerning the welfare of our senior residents. The Commission on Aging has a long-standing mission that is consistent with the AARP Age-Friendly initiative, and they have a strong history of engaging our community and assessing the needs of our aging citizens in order to perfect our services. We will be relying on their knowledge and professional expertise to provide the city's leadership for this project.

Older adults play vital roles in all aspects of our community, and we have received many accolades for attracting both millennials and boomers. As one of the most populated cities in Florida, we recognize that approximately 30% of our citizens are age 55 and over and that there are clearly social and economic benefits to attracting this population to our area. It is evident that well-planned and livable cities help sustain economic growth and make for healthier and happier residents of all ages.

As the various domains of livability (outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community support and health services) are assessed and reviewed, I look forward to making desired improvements in our community. I believe that you will find several current City endeavors, including ongoing ADA assessments, a robust Complete Streets program, and our exciting Healthy St. Pete

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initiative, will directly tie in to many of these identified domains. In addition, we are extremely proud of both our nationally accredited, award-winning Parks and Recreation Department, which provides extensive support, programs, and services for all ages in our community, and the Sunshine Senior Center, accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers, which specifically accommodates our aging population.

Thank you and your staff for providing assistance as we welcome this opportunity to continue to enhance the quality of life for our citizens of all ages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Kriseman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Kriseman
Mayor

cc: Mike Jefferis, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
David Klement, Executive Director, Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions
Jason Martino, Chair, Commission on Aging
Sherry McBee, Administrator, Leisure Services