

MAR 20 2017



City of Pembroke Pines



Frank C. Ortis, Mayor
Carl Shechter, Vice-Mayor
Charles F. Dodge, City Manager

Angelo Castillo, Commissioner
Jay Schwartz, Commissioner
Iris A. Siple, Commissioner

March 6, 2017

Mr. Jeff Johnson, Florida State Director
AARP Tallahassee State Office
200 W. College Avenue, Suite #305
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Mr. Johnson,

On behalf of the City of Pembroke Pines, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP and the World Health Organization to become an Age-Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities in the nation, Pembroke Pines is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to aging populations.


Named "one of the best cities to live in America," Pembroke Pines is home to over 160,000 residents. Its 28 parks and lush landscaping throughout neighborhoods and public places enhance the City's natural beauty and south Florida charm and was ranked by *Money Magazine* as #32 in the top #50 "Best Places to Live 2014" being the only Florida city on the list.

Pembroke Pines, incorporated in 1960, is a safe and desirable community. The recipient of many awards including 2004 "All-America City," Pembroke Pines is known for its commitment to the arts and culture, its outstanding schools, exciting south Florida lifestyle for all ages, cultural diversity and forward thinking in an ever-changing world. Pembroke Pines was recognized for *Communities for a Lifetime Award* in 2010 by the Department of Elder Affairs' plan to define initiatives to benefit their senior residents. I feel, as Mayor of this city, we must do whatever we can for seniors to enjoy their golden years.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the City of Pembroke Pines to influence the health and quality of life of older persons. We look forward to joining this global network of communities to give our older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, productive and safe lives.

Thank you for your consideration of membership for the City of Pembroke Pines to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Cordially,



Frank C. Ortis, Mayor
City of Pembroke Pines

FCO/dls
Enclosure



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org or call 202-434-2430
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 2/17/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of Pembroke Pines/Southwest Focal Point Senior Center

STATE: Florida

POPULATION SIZE: 154,750 2016

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 14.9%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Frank C. Ortis, Mayor of the City of Pembroke Pines

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 10100 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

NAME: Jay Shechter

POSITION: Director of Community Services Department & Senior Housing

EMAIL ADDRESS: jshechter@ppines.com

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 954-450-6888

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Jay Shechter is currently the Division Director of Housing and manages 804 rental apartments built and owned by the City of Pembroke Pines. Currently, he is Project Director of the S.W. Focal Point Senior Center since May of 2009. Mr. Shechter has been instrumental in updating and modernizing the center by adding Wi-Fi for internet users, additional day & evening classes, an exercise room with work out machines for the members' use.

Also under his wing is the new project called R & R Village (Re-Connect and Re-Energize) consisting of five 5-bedroom homes that are rented exclusively to vets and various additional Veteran-related programs including career expos, memorials and a Commemorative Partner with the United States of America 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War Commemoration.

Awards:

2001 – Recipient of an award from Crime Watch for dedication to the Senior Community.

2002 – Recipient of an award presented by Barry University for commitment to the Community.

2002 – Recipient of an award from the EASE Foundation for dedication to the Community.

2003 – Awarded Employee of the Quarter from the City of Pembroke Pines.
2003 – Awarded Employee of the Year from the City of Pembroke Pines.
2003 – Recipient of an award from Pembroke Pines’ Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) for dedication to the community.
2003 – Recipient of The Heart of Gold Award presented by the City of Pembroke Pines – Community Services for 10 years of continuous service.
2004 – Recipient of an award presented by Prestige Club of Broward for dedication in the community.
2006- Present – Currently Serves as Chairman for the Broward County Board of Rules & Appeals (Consumer Advocate)
2011 – Recipient of the Illuminaire Award by the Hispanic Unity of Florida.
2011 – Recipient of the Hero Award by Easter Seals South Florida.
2011-2016-Annual Host for the Broward Aging Network Conference
2012 – Certification in the Community Emergency Response Team-Basic Training Course by Federal Emergency Management Agency
2012 – Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County’s Project Personality of the Year

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

The City of Pembroke Pines has several departments and opportunities throughout the city that are open to volunteers. Parks & Recreation, Police and Fire, City Hall and the Community Services Department all have areas where volunteers are utilized. These are just the departments among the municipality. Also available City-wide are libraries, hospitals, schools and church organizations.

The Southwest Focal Point Community Center offers many events, activities, classes which volunteers have opportunities to be active on a daily basis. The Adult Day Care facility, run by Easter Seals South Florida, provides daily care to those frail & elderly adults with dementia and also utilizes volunteers.

2) How will the community engage & involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

The City will provide areas that interest older adults who want to get involved actively such as encouraging them to serve on City boards, volunteering in schools' reading programs, participate in many of the City events like annual Pines Day celebration & holiday events. Town Hall meetings can be held to see what the elder community's interests are. Have lists accessible that offer volunteer opportunities available in the City and County. The HOA committees in the area can also appoint a resident to interview other residents for suggestions, ideas and comments on what they can be involved in the City. Also for the churches, schools and community organizations in the City.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

Set up committees to include:

1. Aging & Disability Resource Center of Broward County
2. Various senior centers in Broward County and outskirts
3. City Charter Schools in Pembroke Pines
4. Miramar Pembroke Chamber of Commerce
5. Knights of Columbus
6. Local hospitals in Pembroke Pines
7. City Officials, Mayor and Commissioners

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

1. Continue to research & advocate the best practices in senior housing, planning, design & construction to meet needs of elders.
2. Mobility & accessibility are essential for independent living. Safe sidewalks, bike lanes and crosswalks are vital to the safety of residents of all ages.
3. By promoting active living through programs & physical infrastructures throughout the City.
4. By encouraging businesses to offer employment to those willing and able to remain independent in their community.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

South Florida is a large retirement area. Pembroke Pines will strive to make our community safe and healthy. It is important to continue to improve areas that are being populated by our elder adults & everyone for their safety, well-being and quality of life.

6) Please provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here is ours >

