



## City of Akron, Ohio

DANIEL HORRIGAN, MAYOR

February 25, 2019

Mrs. Barbara Sykes  
State Director, AARP Ohio  
17 S. High St. Ste. 800  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mrs. Sykes

*Barb,*

I am pleased to announce the City of Akron's intentions to pursue admission into AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Under this initiative, the work that will be done to educate, encourage and promote improvements to make Akron more age-friendly will align perfectly with some of the great changes already taking place in our City. Since I entered office in 2016, my administration has placed increased emphasis on safer mobility, quality housing and the importance of vibrant public spaces.

Older adults make up a significant and essential portion of Akron's community, and they are increasingly communicating that they want to remain in their neighborhoods, and age-in-place. This is why I appointed dedicated and energetic volunteers to populate our Senior Citizen's Commission, a formerly vacant commission that could give specific attention to the issues and projects that matter most to Akron's seniors.

The Commission, in partnership with Direction Home, an area agency focused on Aging and Disabilities, is ready and more than willing to take on this important endeavor.

The City of Akron, and its partners, are committed to:

- Building a team to lead the process, which includes an Advisory Council
- Conducting community surveys to inform our decisions
- Creating an Action Plan
- Taking steps to implement plan recommendations
- Evaluating our work and progress

Together, the City of Akron, the Senior Citizen's Commission and Direction Home will work to ensure our seniors can safely navigate aspects of civic life and enjoy our public spaces. We know that working towards this goal is something that communities across the globe are achieving, and it's the least we can do for those citizens who have helped build this community for generations.

Sincerely,

Dan Horrigan  
Mayor