

CITY OF LAS ANIMAS

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Las Animas, Colorado 81054
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Director of Public Works (719) 456-2571
Municipal Utilities (719) 456-1621

City of Las Animas
P O Box 468
532 Carson Ave
Las Animas, Colorado 81054

Mr. Roberto Rey
Associate State Director,
AARP Colorado
303 E. 17th Ave, Suite 510
Denver Colorado 80206

Dear Mr. Rey,

On behalf of the Leadership Team at City of Las Animas, Colorado, please accept our appreciation at the opportunity to join with AARP Colorado, the World Health Organization, and Colorado's own Lifelong Colorado initiative. As a member city in the region of Rural Southeast Colorado, we are excited about the opportunity to begin the processes in our own city as well as the neighboring communities to make our region a truly outstanding place to create opportunities to be more Age Friendly and Livable for our increasing number of older Coloradans.

Through the use of AARPs livability index, and the 8 domains of livability, the City of Las Animas received a livability score of 45. There is significant work to be done in the domains of engagement, health and neighborhood. While the other 5 domains are above average in category scores, there is still work to be done. By using the livability index tool kits, this work is clearly defined and work is already being accomplished to make our community more livable and age friendly.

One of the first processes that have already been accomplished is the appointment to the City Council of a Senior Aging Advisor. This outstanding leader will join an already engaged team of leaders including a Youth Advisor who was appointed over 3 years ago. The Senior Advisor is in the process of creating an advisory board that will participate in multiple levels of engagement throughout the community including the AAA Regional Advisory Council, Las Animas Housing Authority Board, senior centers, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

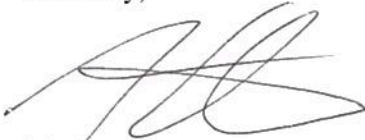
Through the participation with the Regional Area Agency on Aging, the current next 4 year plan is being completed and includes regional guidance to implement measures through collaborative efforts to increase livability in all 8 domains of the livability index. The collaborative efforts of leadership at all levels will ensure the focus is specific and directed towards the elements identified as needing

engagement. In Las Animas specifically, the creation of the new Community Action Center will create opportunities for civic and social multicultural engagement, access to life, work and play, and planning for health care structures.

Through the use of intake, referral, engagement and follow-up with appropriate software programming and printed product feedback mechanisms, the reality of progress will be easily measured and adjusted in a timely fashion to ensure the appropriateness of the strategic plan and its goals. The placement of strategic partners on specific boards will ensure the desires and needs of our aging population are heard and attended to in a highly effective manner.

Please feel free to contact me at (719) 456-0422 or directly at my cell at (719) 468-9434 for any future opportunity in which I can offer my support to these outstanding programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the typed name.

Mayor,
City of Las Animas