



Office of the Mayor and City Council
Date: October 15, 2019



Ms. Charlene Hunter-James
AARP
Texas State President
8140 Walnut Hill Ln., Ste 108
Dallas, Tx 752321

Dear Ms. James,

On behalf of the City of Lancaster, I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly community; and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities, and Communities. Lancaster recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address our changing demographics; as well as enhancing independent living, and committing to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging residents. Along with other selected communities in the nation, Lancaster is committed to promoting policies to make American cities friendly to the aging population. One example of this, is the collaboration with Dallas Area Agency on Aging for the implementation of the Congregate Meals Program for the Senior Life Center.

The City of Lancaster is the Shining Star of Texas; located in what I like to call the "golden box". With Interstate 35E to the west, Interstate 20 to the north, Interstate 45 to the east, and the proposed Loop 9 to the south. There are plenty of opportunities for residents from all walks of life to come and join our community. Lancaster embraces civic engagement, and encourages its residents to get involved with the community they live in. In June of 2019, Lancaster was awarded the great distinction of "All-America City". This award is a testament to the collaboration, and community involvement the City displays.

During a 2019 strategic planning session, City Council placed senior care initiatives on our goals and objectives. We believe in creating healthy places to live, work and play, promoted by community empowerment; while actively pursuing sustainable policy systems and environmental changes that make Lancaster a healthier place to live.

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

Sincerely,

Clyde C. Hairston
Mayor



RESOLUTION NO. 2019-10-73

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS (AARP) AGE FRIENDLY LIVABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM AND TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES NETWORK.

WHEREAS, the global population of people aged 60 and over is expected to grow from 600 million in 2000 to almost 2 billion by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the population of people aged 65 and over is expected to grow from 35 million in 2000 to 88.5 million by 2050, taking the total share of the 65 and over population from 12 percent to 20 percent of the total population; and

WHEREAS, research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age; and

WHEREAS, access to quality health care and long-term services and support is essential for individuals to live in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, of the 80 percent of adults 65 and older living in metropolitan areas, 64 percent live outside the principal cities of these areas in suburban locations that tend to be auto-dependent, creating challenges for residents who do not drive; and

WHEREAS, 21 percent of adults age 65 and older do not drive, and more than half of these non-drivers do not leave home on a given day, in part because they lack transportation options; and

WHEREAS, reduced mobility for older non-drivers leads to 15 percent fewer trips to the doctor, 59 percent fewer shopping trips and visits to restaurants, and 65 percent fewer trips for social, family and religious activities; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities to encourage and promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health, well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older Americans; and

WHEREAS, active aging is a life-long process, whereby an age-friendly community is not just "elder-friendly" but also intended to be friendly for all ages; and

WHEREAS, the WHO has noted that "making cities and communities age-friendly is one of the most effective policy approaches for responding to demographic ageing."


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. that the City of Lancaster supports initiatives and opportunities to engage in the WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network of municipalities encouraging and promoting public policies supporting healthy aging.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately from and after its passage, and it is dully resolved.

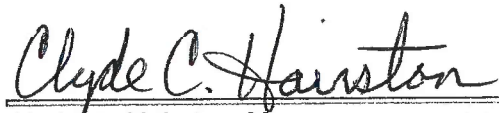
DULY PASSED and approved by the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Texas, on this the 14th day of October, 2019.

ATTEST:



Sorangel O. Arenas, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Clyde C. Hairston, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



David T. Ritter, City Attorney

