



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 24, 2022*

DATE: Thursday, May 19, 2022
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Amber Howell, Human Services Director
(775) 337-4488; ahowell@washoecounty.gov
THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a Resolution R22-58 in support of Washoe County joining the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Network of Age Friendly States and Communities; and if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute the Letter of Commitment. (All Commission Districts).

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve a Resolution in support of Washoe County joining the AARP Network of Age Friendly Livable Communities. An age-friendly livable community allows people of all ages to participate in activities that keep the community healthy and encourage economic stability. It is a place where older persons can easily stay connected with others and remain independent. Age-friendly and livable communities have walkable streets, affordable housing and transportation options, access to key services and opportunities for residents at all life stages to participate in community activities.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 6, 2022, Washoe County Human Services Agency Senior Advisory Board voted unanimously to recommend the Board of County Commissioners to take the necessary steps for Washoe County to join the AARP network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The City of Reno adopted a resolution to join on June 6, 2018 and received designation on July 11, 2018 and City of Sparks adopted a resolution to join on October 25, 2021 and received designation on January 25, 2022.

BACKGROUND

What is an Age-Friendly Livable Community? An age-friendly livable community allows people of all ages to participate in activities that keep the community healthy and encourage economic stability. It is a place where older persons can easily stay connected with others and remain independent. Age-friendly and livable communities have walkable streets,

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affordable housing and transportation options, access to key services and opportunities for residents at all life stages to participate in community activities.

What community features make a community more livable and age-friendly?

The eight “domains of livability” framework, used by the World Health Organization and AARP Age-Friendly programs, identifies community features that especially impact the well-being of older adults. They are:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Work and civic engagement
- Housing
- Social participation
- Communication and information
- Community and health service

What is the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities?

It is a global network of communities, affiliated with the World Health Organization, which are committed to collaborating with residents to provide an age-friendly community that is not just “elder friendly” but is intended to provide quality of life for people of all ages.

What are the benefits of joining the Network? Washoe County leaders would gain global recognition via the World Health Organization and AARP for committing to become an age-friendly county, would have access to AARP’s national network resources for identifying and assessing community needs, and would get access to AARP technical assistance, expertise, program support and best practice materials.

What is needed for Washoe County to apply for Network membership?

- Approval of a resolution stating the County’s desire to join the Network. (draft attached)
- A Letter of Commitment signed by the Commission Chair (draft attached)
- Completion of the membership application (see link); staff will complete with assistance of the Senior Advisory Board members <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/online-application.html>

What is the role of the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board?

- Once approved by AARP, the age-friendly planning and implementation process will be done by the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board, including activities such as:
- Conducting a community needs assessment with assistance from AARP
- Developing an action plan and submitting it to AARP for review.
- implementing and working toward the goals of the plan.
- Assessing the plan’s impact and providing progress reports and recommendations to the County Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

No Fiscal Impact

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve a Resolution R22-58 in support of the County joining the AARP Network of Age Friendly Livable Communities; and if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute the Letter of Commitment.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation a possible motion would be, "Move to approve a Resolution R22-58 in support of Washoe County joining the AARP Network of Age Friendly Livable Communities; and if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute the Letter of Commitment."